



Taunton Road Medical Centre

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You will have seen in the news about issues relating to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. The events are VERY rare but action has been taken by the MHRA and JCVI to try to minimise risk to patients.

These issues only relate to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and there have been no reported issues with the Pfizer vaccine.

- 1) If you have received a first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine you should continue with a second dose of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, irrespective of age
- 2) If you are pregnant – please ask to have discussion with a clinician on about the risks and benefits of vaccination in pregnancy
- 3) A history of blood clot (thromboses) on its own is not in itself a contraindication to the vaccine
- 4) If you are aged 18-29 and not received any vaccine yet you will be offered another vaccine for your 1st dose if available e.g. Pfizer. You still can AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine if you would prefer
- 5) There is a very small risk of a condition called Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis (CVST), 4 per million in those patients having received the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine
- 6) You should not have the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine if you have had in the past major clots (thrombosis) with low platelets (thrombocytopenia). This includes those having had this after the first dose of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine or those who have previously had heparin induced thrombocytopenia.
- 7) If you have a history of Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis (CVST), acquired or genetic thrombophilia or anti-phospholipid syndrome you should have an alternative vaccine. We will be carrying out searches of all patients' medical records to check for the above conditions and contact these patients separately.

Please click on the following links for more information

PHE Covid-19 vaccination and blood clotting:

information: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/976880/PHE_COVID-19_AZ_vaccination_guide.pdf

Benefit vs harms of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/976880/PHE_COVID-19_AZ_vaccination_guide.pdf