

COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots

Information about your vaccination

The UK vaccination programme has been very successful with more than 34 million people vaccinated and more than 10,000 lives already saved. The rapid rollout has meant that we have been able to protect more people and we are starting to lift the restrictions on our population. This leaflet is designed to help you make an informed decision about vaccination.

What is the concern?

Recently there have been reports of an extremely rare but serious condition involving blood clots and unusual bleeding after AstraZeneca (AZ) vaccination. Some people with this condition have suffered life-changing effects and some have died. These cases are being carefully reviewed but the risk factors for this condition are not yet clear.

Although this condition remains extremely rare, there is a higher risk in people after the first dose of the AZ vaccine. To date and overall, just over 10 people develop this condition for every million doses of AZ vaccine given. This is seen more often in younger people and tends to occur more than 4 days and within 28 days (4 weeks) following vaccination.

Similar conditions can also occur naturally, and clotting problems are a common complication of COVID-19 infection. An increased risk has not yet been seen after other COVID-19 vaccines in the UK.

Which vaccine will I be offered?

Until recently we have relied upon all our vaccines being offered without preference to the whole population. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has considered the balance of risks and benefits and has now made the following recommendations (see further detail over the page).

40 years or older or with underlying medical conditions

Older adults (including health and social care workers aged 40 years or older¹), care home residents, and adults of any age with certain medical conditions are at high risk of the complications of COVID-19. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the JCVI advises that you should still receive any of the available COVID-19 vaccines². The benefits of vaccination in protecting you against the serious consequences of COVID-19 outweigh any risk of this extremely rare condition.

If you are a healthy person aged 30 to 39

In the current situation, the JCVI has advised that it is preferable for people in this age group to have a vaccine other than AZ where possible. You are more at risk of the serious consequences of COVID-19 and will have the most benefit from being vaccinated if you are older, male, from certain minority ethnic backgrounds, in some occupations, or are obese. It is important that you have the vaccination as soon as possible to protect you and to reduce the chance of passing on the virus. If the situation changes and you are offered the AZ vaccination you may go ahead after you have considered all the risks and benefits. Please carefully consider the risk of COVID-19 to both you and your family and friends before making your decision. Please see the table on the next page.

If you are a healthy younger person aged 18 to 29

Currently JCVI has advised that it is preferable for people under 30 to have a vaccine other than AZ because the risk from COVID-19 infections is so low. If you are offered the AZ vaccination you may wish to go ahead after you have considered all the risks and benefits for you.

What about the second dose?

Everybody who has already had a first dose of AZ vaccine without suffering this rare side effect should complete the course. It is expected that the first dose of the vaccine will have given you some protection, particularly against severe disease. Having the second dose will give you higher and longer lasting protection and tends to cause less of the common side effects (including short lived headache).

1. This includes unpaid carers and family members of those who are immunosuppressed.

2. If you have certain rare blood clotting disorders then you should discuss whether you can have the AZ vaccine with your specialist.

COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots and translations

This updated factsheet contains important information on the risks and benefits of the COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine following reports of a very rare side effect more than 4 days and within 28 days after vaccination. Over the age of 40, the benefits of this vaccine outweigh any potential risk associated with this rare condition. It is important that if you have had one dose of this vaccine with no serious side effects, that you continue to get the second dose with the same vaccine.

COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots is available in BSL and ISL:

- [BSL](#)
- [ISL](#)

A large print accessible version of this leaflet is available below as a Word document. Braille versions of this leaflet are available from Trust vaccination centres or by contacting Michelle.McKibbin@HSCNI.net. An [audio version](#) of the leaflet is also available.

Published

02 June 2021

Last reviewed

01 July 2021

Details

Format

A4 2 sides

Target group

Adults receiving the COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine

Downloads

Attachment	Size
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clotting factsheet	534.07 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clotting factsheet - large print accessible version	21.73 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Arabic 0521.pdf	1.25 MB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Bulgarian 0521.pdf	208.38 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Chinese complex 0521.pdf	682.35 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Chinese simplified 0521.pdf	667.65 KB

Attachment	Size
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Farsi 0521.pdf	284.91 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Hungarian 0521.pdf	200.31 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Irish 0521.pdf	162.65 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Latvian 0521.pdf	502.75 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Lithuanian 0521.pdf	227.77 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Polish 0521.pdf	203.34 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Portuguese 0521.pdf	195.65 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Russian 0521.pdf	518.38 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Slovak 0521.pdf	202.88 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Somali 0521.pdf	167.38 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Tetum 0521.pdf	496.11 KB
COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine and extremely rare blood clots Tigrinya 0521.pdf	1.21 MB

Tags

- [covid-19 vaccine](#)
- [Vaccination](#)
- [immunisation](#)
- [AZ](#)
- [AstraZeneca](#)
- [blood clots](#)

Share this page

- [Share by email](#)
- [Share on X](#)
- [Share on Facebook](#)
- [Share on LinkedIn](#)
- [Share on WhatsApp](#)
- [Download as PDF](#)

Was this page useful?

Yes No

Thank you for your feedback.

Sorry to hear that. [Tell us what went wrong.](#)