



Clinician alert #52 – all clinicians

Effective from 02 April 2021

New information

- The TGA has received one report of a case of thrombosis and thrombocytopenia 7 days following COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in Australia. The clinical details of this case are currently under review by the TGA and causality should not be inferred at this stage.
- Rare cases of thrombosis associated with thrombocytopenia have been reported following administration of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca overseas.
- The onset of reported cases was between 4 to 20 days after vaccination.
- Clinicians should be aware of warning signs of a severe condition associated with thrombosis and thrombocytopenia. This has presented as either central venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) or thrombosis in other sites, such as intra-abdominal venous systems. CVST may present as a new onset persistent headache not settling with analgesia, features of raised intracranial pressure (including acute severe headache, vomiting, confusion), focal neurological deficits, and/or seizures.
- If CVST or another severe thrombotic complication with thrombocytopenia is suspected in a patient who has recently received COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, refer them to an emergency department for further assessment and haematology consultation.
- Clinical investigations should include a full blood count (to look for thrombocytopenia), a D-dimer test, fibrinogen and radiological imaging, as indicated.
- Patients suspected to have this condition should NOT receive any heparin or platelet transfusions.

Background

Vaccination against COVID-19 continues to be important in populations at high risk of COVID. It is emphasised that no cause-and-effect relationship between COVID-19 vaccination and this case (or those reported internationally) has been established at this stage. This case, together with the overseas reports, are under active review by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) and expert haematologists.

ATAGI has today published a statement for healthcare providers:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-statement-healthcare-providers-specific-clotting-condition-reported-after-covid-19-vaccination>

The TGA statement can be found at: <https://www.tga.gov.au/media-release/specific-clotting-condition-reported-after-covid-19-vaccination>

Action

We ask that this information is distributed and brought to the attention of clinical colleagues. WA Health will provide updated information as it becomes available.

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VACCINE OPERATIONS - LEAD CHIEF EXECUTIVE