

Langen, 19 March 2021

INFORMATION FOR MEDICAL DOCTORS

COVID-19 VACCINE ASTRAZENECA

A combination of thrombosis and thrombocytopenia, in some cases accompanied by bleeding, was very rarely observed after vaccination with AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine. The majority of these cases occurred within the first seven to fourteen days after vaccination and were seen in women under 55 years of age, but this may reflect the increased use of the vaccine in this population. Some cases had a fatal outcome.

Medical doctors should be alert for clinical symptoms in vaccinated individuals that may indicate a low platelet count in the blood or thrombosis.

Vaccinated individuals should seek immediate medical attention if they develop symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest pain, arm or leg swelling in the weeks following vaccination. Also, individuals who have small pinpoint hemorrhages (petechiae) or bruising of the skin beyond the vaccination site in the days following vaccination should seek medical attention immediately. A coagulation diagnosis with blood count and determination of the platelet count should be performed during the work-up.

The leading symptoms of sinus vein thrombosis (CSVT) are persistent headache and other neurological symptoms. However, because transient headache may occur as a vaccination reaction in many individuals, it is not necessary to perform further neurologic diagnosis with imaging in everyone who complains of headache after vaccination. This should be reserved for individuals who notice severe or persistent headaches over a period of several days in the first two to three weeks after vaccination that do not respond, or respond inadequately, to the usual over-the-counter analgesics. In such cases, and especially if additional neurological symptoms such as hemiplegia and/or sensory disturbances, speech disorders, or epileptic seizures develop, further diagnostic testing should be performed immediately.



Further Information

- Position of the GTH on COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca (German)
https://gth-online.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/GTH_Stellungnahme_AstraZeneca_3_22_2021.pdf
- Position of the DGN on SARS-CoV-2 vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca (German)
<https://dgn.org/neuronews/neuronews/stellungnahme-der-dgn-zur-sarscov2-impfung-mit-dem-impfstoff-von-astrazeneca/>
- AWMF online: Guidelines on Cerebral Sinus and Venous Thrombosis (German)
<https://www.awmf.org/leitlinien/detail/II/030-098.html>