

## **Some thoughts on the AstraZeneca Vaccine:**

Up to and including 31 March 2021, the MHRA had received 79 UK reports of blood clotting cases alongside low levels of platelets (thrombosis associated with thrombocytopenia) following the use of the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca

- 44 of the 79 cases were of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) with thrombocytopenia
- 35 of the 79 cases were of thrombosis in other major veins (e.g. splanchnic) with thrombocytopenia
- ALL 79 cases occurred after a FIRST dose of the vaccine

Sadly, 19 people have died out of the 79 cases

- 11 out of the 19 people who died were under the age of 50
- 3 out of the 19 people who died were under the age of 30

The overall risk of such an event, thrombosis associated with thrombocytopenia following a first dose of AZ vaccine, is:

- 4 in a million
- that's 0.0004 %

The overall risk of death due to that event is:

- 1 in a million
- that's 0.0001 %

If you're under 50, the risk of death drops to:

- 1 in 2 million
- that's 0.00005 %

If you're under 30, the risk of death drops even further, to:

- 1 in 8 million
- that's 0.00001 %

To put that into perspective.

The risk of developing a blood clot on an aeroplane flight lasting more than 4hrs is:

- 1 in 6000
- that's a 167 in a million risk
- or 0.0167%

The risk of developing a blood clot whilst taking the combined oral contraceptive pill is:

- 1 in 2000
- that's a 500 in a million risk
- or 0.05%

The risk of a DVT or PE developing during pregnancy is:

- 2 in 1000
- that's a 2000 in a million risk
- or 0.2%

What happens if you develop COVID-19?

- Pulmonary embolism, or clotting on the lungs, occurs in 7.8% of people who have COVID-19
- Deep vein thrombosis (DVT), or clotting in the legs, occurs in 11.2% of people who have COVID-19
- Of those who have COVID-19 and end up in an intensive therapy unit (ITU), 23% will have some form of clot

- COVID-19 causes strokes in 1.6% of people
- Up to 30% of people who have COVID-19 will get thrombocytopenia (a lowering of the platelet count)

The risk of clots and lower platelets, and of course death, is much higher with COVID-19 than these extremely rare events which are occurring with the vaccine.

At the current time (see picture), the risk-benefit ratio for anyone aged 30+ remains overwhelmingly in favour of having the AZ vaccine, as soon as it is offered to you, rather than delaying vaccination (until an alternative one is available AND offered to you) and so running the risk of developing COVID-19 in the meantime - a situation that carries a far, far greater risk of illness and death.

A history of previous venous (DVT/PE) or arterial thrombosis, unless associated with receiving a vaccine, is NOT a contraindication to receiving the AZ vaccine. There are no known (or apparent) risk factors for this very rare event, it appears to be an idiosyncratic immune phenomenon.

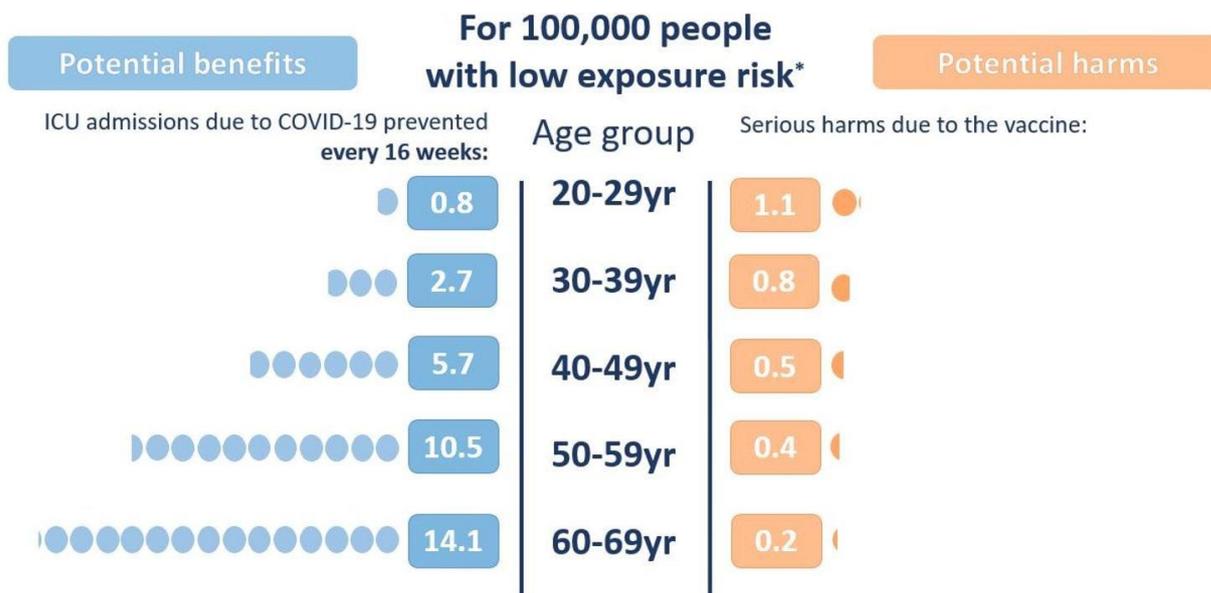
Addendum: Administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in patients with a history of:

- cerebral venous sinus thrombosis
- acquired or hereditary thrombophilia
- heparin-induced thrombocytopenia
- antiphospholipid syndrome

should only be considered when the potential benefit outweighs any potential risks.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/976880/PHE\\_COVID-19\\_AZ\\_vaccination\\_guide.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/976880/PHE_COVID-19_AZ_vaccination_guide.pdf)

## Weighing up the potential benefits and harms of the Astra-Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine



Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication

\* Based on coronavirus incidence of 2 per 10,000: roughly UK in March

## How does the risk of serious side-effects from the AstraZeneca vaccine compare with other risks?

Chance in a million of...	25-year-old	55-year-old
serious harm due to vaccine side-effects 	11 in a million	4 in a million
dying with coronavirus 	23 in a million	800 in a million
dying due to an accident or injury 	110 in a million	180 in a million
dying in a road accident 	38 in a million	23 in a million
being hit by lightning this year 	1 in a million	1 in a million

Figures show the chance of dying with coronavirus since the start of the pandemic. Figures for accidents and car crash fatalities are for 2018

## Risk of Blood Clots

### AstraZeneca Vaccine



4 cases in  
1,000,000  
Vaccines

**0.0004%**

### Birth Control Pill



500 - 1200 cases in  
1,000,000  
women

**0.05% to 0.12%**

### Smoking

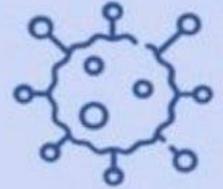


1,763 cases in  
1,000,000  
Smokers

**0.18%**

### COVID Infection

for patients admitted to hospital



165,000 cases in  
1,000,000  
Cases

**16.5%**

Maria Leonor Ramos | Médica Interna de Medicina Geral e Familiar

Fontes: Agência Europeia de Medicamentos; Suh YJ, Hong H, Ohana H et al. Pulmonary Embolism and Deep Vein Thrombosis in COVID-19: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. Radiology 2021.; Cheng, Yun-Jiu & Liu, Zhi-Hao & Yao, et al. (2013). Current and Former Smoking and Risk for Venous Thromboembolism: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.