

## **Astra Zeneca Vaccine and Clotting problems 19 Beaumont Street 12<sup>th</sup> April Update**

Please see [here](#) for the latest government information on this evolving topic. This [BBC article](#) gives a clear explanation. The University of Cambridge has produced [this detailed information](#) about the risks and benefits of covid vaccination

At 31 March 2021 in the UK that had been 79 clotting related complications of the AZ vaccine, of which sadly 19 people had died. During this time 20 million doses of the vaccine had been given. Therefore, the overall risk of a clotting complication due to the vaccine is around 4 in a million. At present it appears that younger patients might be at higher risk of developing these problems than older patients.

### **SECOND DOSES:**

To date, there are no reports of the extremely rare thrombosis/thrombocytopenia events following receipt of the second dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. All those who have received a first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine should continue to be offered a second dose of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, irrespective of age. The second dose will be important for longer lasting protection against COVID-19. The only people who should not proceed with a second dose of Astra Zeneca vaccine are those who had an allergic, or clot related, side effect of their first dose of the vaccine

### **FIRST DOSES:**

#### **Patients under 30 without underlying health conditions**

For patients under the age of 30 without underlying health conditions the risks of a clotting related side effect due to the astra zeneca vaccine may mean that the risks of the AZ vaccine outweigh the benefits. For this reason, patients under 30 will be offered an alternative to the AZ vaccine. However, in practical terms this is likely to mean a wait whilst systems are put in place to provide these vaccines. At present our vaccine clinic, like many others, only has access to AZ vaccine.

The only people aged under 30 currently eligible for vaccination are those who are health/social care workers or those who have an immunocompromised household member – if you are in this category, please email [practicemanager.nbs@nhs.net](mailto:practicemanager.nbs@nhs.net) to be added to our list of people to contact once vaccine is available.

If you are in this category, and having understood the current information on this issue, decide you would like to proceed with AZ vaccine rather than wait for an alternative brand, please contact us and we will arrange an appointment.

#### **Patients under 30 with underlying health conditions and patients over 30 (with or without underlying health conditions)**

The benefits of vaccination with any brand of vaccine, including AZ, are likely to outweigh the risks. Please contact us to arrange an appointment which will be with AZ vaccine.

Dr Jayne Haynes, GP 19 Beaumont Street

12<sup>th</sup> April 2021