

PHAC INFOBULLETIN ON VITT FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Update on vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT)

Tuesday, 2021-04-13

FEATURED PRODUCTS

COVID-19 Webinars

Live and recorded webinar events and presentations are available on the [National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases webpage](#) and linked on [Canada.ca](#) including:

Webinars on the foundations of vaccine systems in Canada (Health Canada regulatory authorization, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, Vaccine Technologies and Vaccine Clinic Planning)

Product-Specific Webinars for Vaccines Authorized in Canada (Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna)

Monthly Emerging Issues

Webinars (Allergies, Low Dead Volume Syringes and Delayed Injection Site Reactions)

COVID-19 Vaccination Tool Kit for Health Care Providers

Brings together evidence-based vaccine resources on COVID-19, authorized COVID-19 vaccines, vaccine safety and more.



Contact for more information:
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There have been a number of developments globally in recent weeks on the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, including concerns related to vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT).

VITT (also known as vaccine-induced prothrombotic immune thrombocytopenia/VIPIT) is a rare adverse event characterized by serious blood clots, including cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, associated with thrombocytopenia. Numerous countries have reported cases of VITT following post-licensure use of the AstraZeneca vaccine. The exact mechanism by which the vaccine may trigger VITT is still under investigation.

Several federal and provincial public health organizations in Canada have developed statements on the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and VITT:

Health Canada - Safety Information for Health Care Providers

EN: <https://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2021/75211a-eng.php>

FR: <https://canadiensensante.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2021/75211a-fra.php>

Health Canada - Regulatory Statement

EN: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/03/health-canada-taking-further-action-to-confirm-the-benefit-risk-profile-of-the-astrazeneca-vaccine.html>

FR: <https://www.canada.ca/fr/sante-canada/nouvelles/2021/03/sante-canada-prend-des-mesures-supplementaires-pour-confirmer-le-profil-avantages-risques-du-vaccin-dastrazeneca.html>

National Advisory Committee on Immunization Statement:

EN: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/rapid-response-recommended-use-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-younger-adults.html>

FR: <https://www.canada.ca/fr/sante-publique/services/immunisation/comite-consultatif-national-immunisation-ccni/reponse-rapide-recommandation-utilisation-vaccin-astrazeneca-covid-19-jeunes-adultes.html>

Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health Statement:

EN: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/03/use-of-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine.html>

FR: <https://www.canada.ca/fr/sante-publique/nouvelles/2021/03/utilisation-du-vaccin-astra-zeneca-contre-la-covid-19.html>

Clinical Guidance from Provincial Partners

Ontario Science Table

EN: <https://covid19-sciencetable.ca/sciencebrief/vaccine-induced-prothrombotic-immune-thrombocytopenia-vipit-following-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccination/>

FR: Coming Soon

Government of Quebec

EN: Coming soon

FR: <https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/document-002983/>