

Prognosis

Israel Examines Heart Inflammation Cases After Pfizer Shot

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Israel is examining dozens of cases where people experienced heart inflammation after receiving [Pfizer Inc.](#) and [BioNTech SE's](#) coronavirus vaccine.

Health officials are investigating whether the cases are connected with the shot which has been administered to more than 5 million people, Corona Commissioner Nachman Ash [said](#) Sunday in an interview with Radio 103FM. The government identified 62 incidents of inflammation of the heart muscle, or heart-muscle membrane, Channel 12 reported last week, citing a health ministry study.

The condition developed in one out of 100,000 people who received the shot, while the incidence rate for men of 18 to 30 years was one in 20,000. Two people died and the rest

recovered.

The study doesn't show with certainty that there's a higher rate in mortality or an increase in heart muscle inflammation cases, the Health Ministry said in an emailed response to questions.

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“It looks like the benefit of the vaccine is so great that even if we do find a connection between some of the cases and the vaccine, it won't be justified to take any action regarding the vaccine,” Ash said in the interview. The information has been communicated with [Pfizer](#), he said.

Pfizer is aware of the Israeli cases of myocarditis, the company said in a statement.

“We have not observed a higher rate of myocarditis than what would be expected in the general population,” it said. “A causal link to the vaccine has not been established. There is no evidence at this time to conclude that myocarditis is a risk associated” with the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine, the company said.

– *With assistance by Naomi Kresge*

(Updates with Pfizer's comment from sixth paragraph.)