

## Covid: Doctors urged to be vigilant after three AstraZeneca jab patients suffer stroke

HEALTH CORONAVIRUS CORONAVIRUS VACCINE ASTRAZENECA

🕒 Wednesday 26 May 2021, 7:32am



Credit: PA

Three young people have suffered strokes and one has died soon after receiving the Oxford/**AstraZeneca** vaccine, prompting a call for doctors to be vigilant.

Two women in their 30s and a man in his 40s suffered clots in their large arteries, leading to ischaemic stroke, but experts have stressed the chances were still extremely small.

A team of experts from the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery at University College London (UCL) Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and other medical organisations said the **NHS** must look out for patients with ischaemic stroke within about one month of vaccination.



*The chance of having a stroke caused by Covid-19 is far higher*  
*Credit: PA*

The experts said any patient who suffers from a stroke should be “urgently evaluated” for a very rare syndrome called vaccine-induced thrombosis and thrombocytopenia (VITT).

This condition needs to be rapidly diagnosed and managed by a team with a range of expertise, who have quick access to a range of drugs, they said.

The experts stressed that the cases of stroke are very rare and that stroke is more common in people who catch Covid-19.

There have been 309 cases of major thrombosis with low platelet count suggesting VITT from more than 30 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine administered, they said.

The number of people who experience blood clots from VITT after a Covid-19 vaccine is therefore extremely low at about one per 100,000 doses.

The **UK restricted the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine in people aged under 30 in April and raised this to people under 40 on May 7**, over fears the jab can cause blood clots.



Sign In

## Will lockdown's legacy help or harm LGBT+ people?

00:00 19:49

**CORONAVIRUS:  
WHAT YOU NEED  
TO KNOW**

**itvNEWS**

127 episodes
40 hours, 28 minutes

		Will lockdown's legacy help or harm LGBT+ people?		19:49
		WFH - is it ending or is hybrid working here to stay?		23:47
		Your questions answered on the Indian variant as cases rise		20:00

Lead author of the report, David Werring, professor of clinical neurology at UCL, said: “Although cerebral venous thrombosis – an uncommon stroke type in clinical practice – is now recognised as being the most frequent presentation of VITT, our study shows that the much more common ischaemic stroke, due to arterial thrombosis blocking blood flow to part of the brain, may also be a presenting feature of vaccine-induced thrombosis.

“Of course, both types of thrombosis remain extremely rare, but doctors need to be vigilant if patients present with typical stroke symptoms (eg face, arm or leg weakness, or impaired speech) due to a blocked artery any time between days four and 28 post-vaccination.”

The first patient, a 35-year-old Asian woman who later died, experienced an intermittent headache on the right side and around her eyes six days after having her vaccine.

Five days later, she awoke feeling drowsy and with weakness to her face, arm and leg. She underwent brain surgery to reduce pressure in her skull alongside other treatments, but these could not save her life.

The second patient, a white woman aged 37, suffered headache, confusion, weakness in her left arm and loss of vision on the left side 12 days after her vaccine. She had several treatments and survived.



*The vaccines remain the best way to get rid of Covid*  
*Credit: PA*

The third patient, an Asian man aged 43, was admitted to hospital three weeks after receiving his vaccination with problems speaking and understanding language.

He received a platelet and plasma transfusion plus other treatment and remains stable.

Professor Hugh Markus, from the department of clinical neurosciences, at the University of Cambridge, said: "During the current period of Covid vaccination, a high index of suspicion is required to identify thrombotic episodes following vaccination.

"However, it is important to remember that these side-effects are rare, and much less common than both cerebral venous thrombosis and ischaemic stroke associated with Covid-19 infection itself."

Professor Beverley Hunt, medical director of Thrombosis UK and from King's College London, said VITT occurs rarely after Covid-19 vaccination.

"This case report gives details of three patients who presented with stroke due to arterial occlusion," he said.

- **Confusion grows as local officials in Indian variant hotspots dispute 'do not travel' advice**
- **Drop in school attendance amid concerns over Indian variant transmission**
- **Bill Shakespeare, first man in world to get approved jab, dies aged 81**

[Sign In](#)

haematology Panel and from the College of Emergency Medicine recognise this too.

Dr June Raine, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency chief executive said: “As with any serious suspected adverse reaction, we will evaluate the reports of these extremely rare blood clots occurring together with low levels of platelets and will conduct full follow-up.

“We continually monitor the safety of Covid-19 vaccines and publish weekly an up-to-date summary of all the Yellow Card reports we have received.

“No effective medicine or vaccine is without risk.

“These specific kinds of blood clots with low platelets reported following Covid-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca remain extremely rare and unlikely to occur.

“Our advice remains that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks in the majority of people.”

---

[HEALTH](#)   [CORONAVIRUS](#)   [CORONAVIRUS VACCINE](#)   [ASTRAZENECA](#)

---

## Related News

**NHS chief warns of hospital pressures as PM faces decision on lockdown ending**



Sign In

## Government considers compulsory Covid jabs for NHS staff

🕒 Yesterday

## Half of people in their 30s in England given coronavirus jabs

🕒 Yesterday



[Sign In](#)

## Anti-lockdown protesters storm Westfield shopping centre in London

 Yesterday

## Check coronavirus cases in your area with our interactive map

 Yesterday



Sign In

## People should be 'concerned' about spike in Indian variant cases, expert warns

🕒 Yesterday

## How many people in the UK have been vaccinated so far?

🕒 Yesterday





Sign In

## Another 3,398 people test positive for Covid-19 in the UK

🕒 29 May

## 'Comedy of errors': Argentinian TV accidentally announces death of Shakespeare

🕒 29 May



Sign In

## **Brits can use NHS app as vaccine passport when travelling to these countries**

🕒 3 days ago

## **EU sues AstraZeneca in Brussels court for millions over vaccine deliveries**

🕒 4 days ago



Sign In

## **Covid-19 vaccination programme extended to anyone aged 30 and over in England**

🕒 4 days ago

## **Bill Shakespeare: First man in world to get approved Covid vaccine dies aged 81**

🕒 5 days ago

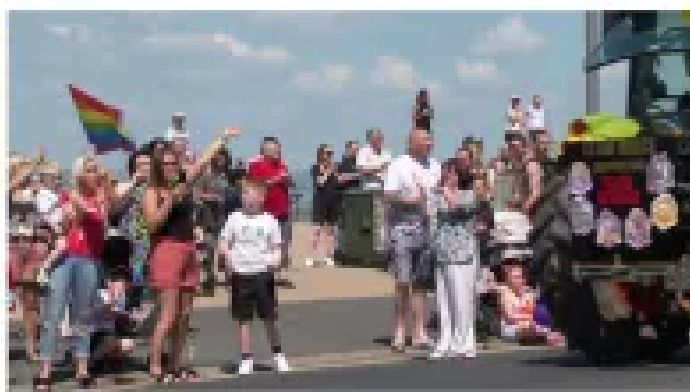
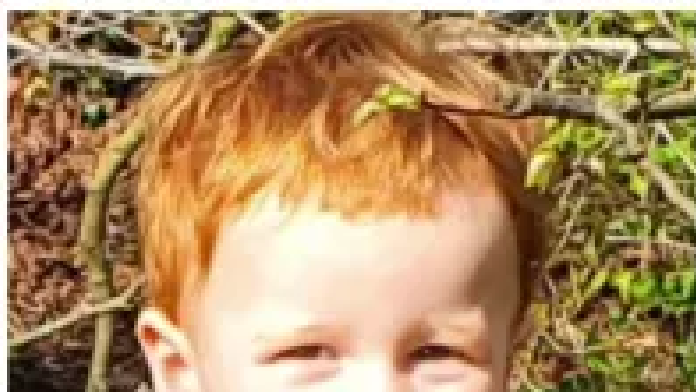
## Covid: Restricting AZ jab to over-40s does not mean risk of vaccine has gone up

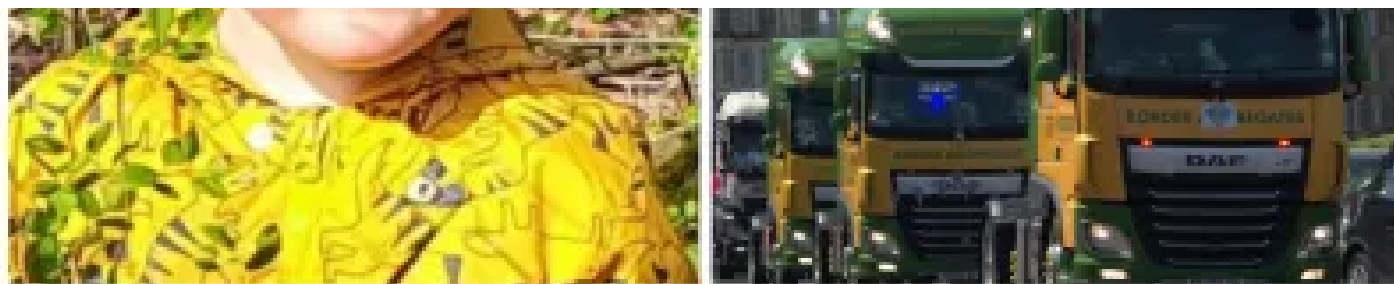
🕒 8 May

## Risk of rare blood clots 'far higher from Covid than if you take vaccine'

🕒 15 Apr

## Most popular





### Toddler killed in gas explosion remembered with Paw Patrol themed convoy



### 'Kind' flower seller stabbed near his stall 'leaves behind devastated family'



Sign In

## South Western Ambulance Service declares critical incident

### Top stories

Prime Minister Boris Johnson marries Carrie Symonds in secret ceremony

'Kind' flower seller stabbed near his stall 'leaves behind devastated family'

Sunshine to continue through bank holiday weekend

NHS chief warns of hospital pressures as PM faces decision on lockdown ending

Toddler killed in gas explosion remembered with Paw Patrol themed convoy

Government considers compulsory Covid jabs for NHS staff

South Western Ambulance Service declares critical incident



[Sign In](#)

#### ITV Presents

[ITV Hub](#)

[ITV Hub+](#)

[Be on TV](#)

[Competitions](#)

[Signed Stories](#)

[BritBox Free Trial](#)

[Shop](#)

#### Corporate

[ITV Plc](#)

[ITV Responsibility](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Press Centre](#)

[ITV Media](#)

[Commissioning](#)

#### Information

[TV sign-in code](#)

[Help](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

By using this site, you agree we can set and use cookies. For more details of these cookies and how to disable them, see our [cookie policy](#).

© Copyright ITV Consumer Limited 2021