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SCIENCE

Stroke Risk: COVID Shots 200 Times More Likely to Cause Blood Clots in Brain

The COVID-19 vaccines had an over 1,000-fold increased risk of blood clots in the brain compared to the flu vaccine and more than a 200-fold increased risk compared to all other vaccines, according to a study by Dr. Peter McCullough and colleagues.

by **Suzanne Burdick, Ph.D.**

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The COVID-19 vaccines carry a much higher risk of blood clots in the brain compared with other vaccines, according to a new **study** by Dr. Peter McCullough and colleagues.

The researchers looked at reports in the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)** from January 1990 through December 2023.

They counted the number of cerebral thromboembolism events — as in, blood clots of the brain's veins or arteries — reported in people who received a **COVID-19** shot compared with those who received a flu shot or other **vaccines**.

Blood clots that block blood flow to the brain account for roughly **87% of all strokes**, according to the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association.

McCullough — a cardiologist with over 1,000 publications and over 685 citations in the National Library of Medicine — told **The Defender** the study showed “an unacceptable risk of catastrophic thrombotic injuries to the brain” in individuals who took one or more COVID-19 shots.

McCullough summarized the study's results on **Substack**:

“Compared to influenza vaccines given over 34 years, COVID-19 vaccines in 36 months of use had over 1000-fold increased risk of most blood clot events, and compared to all vaccines combined administered over 34 years, this risk remained at over 200-times greater with COVID-19 vaccination.”

Prior research has suggested that the spike protein in both the **SARS-CoV-2 virus** and the COVID-19 vaccine can cause serious **blood clotting**, McCullough and his co-authors noted in their report.

Blood clots in the brain are difficult to treat, McCullough told The Defender, and “oftentimes leave patients with devastating disabilities.”

“This and **other sources of data**,” he added, “support calls to **remove all COVID-19 vaccines** from public use.”

The study — co-authored with Claire Rogers, **Dr. James Thorp** and Kirstin Cosgrove — is under peer review and available online as a **preprint**.

The Vaccine Safety Project

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Women especially at risk

For the study, McCullough and his co-authors used 12 search terms to find VAERS reports of adverse events related to blood clots in the brain: **cavernous sinus thrombosis, cerebral artery thrombosis, cerebral infarction**, cerebral thrombosis, **cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, cerebral venous thrombosis**, embolic cerebral infarction, ischaemic cerebral infarction, sigmoid sinus thrombosis, superior sagittal sinus thrombosis, thrombotic cerebral infarction and **transverse sinus thrombosis**.

In the three years since the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, they found 5,137 reports of a brain blood clot event in those who received one or more COVID-19 shots.

Meanwhile, VAERS data showed only 52 reports since 1990 of a brain blood clot event following a flu vaccine and 282 since 1990 following all other vaccinations, they said.

The actual number of events may be higher due to **underreporting in VAERS**, they said, for several reasons.

First, CDC staff may have “tremendous difficulty” in processing the reports due to an **overwhelming increase in VAERS reports** since the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

Also, clinicians may not have the necessary awareness and knowledge to recognize injuries as being vaccine-related and thus may not report them in VAERS.

Moreover, they added, “The VAERS database is well known for its difficulty in entering events, making it even more challenging for **healthcare** workers to submit each event with limited time in a hospital or clinic setting.”

The authors said their findings are especially concerning for women of reproductive age — who are particularly at risk for certain blood clotting events in the brain, such as cerebral venous thrombosis.

The **American Heart Association** said in a Jan. 29 review article that roughly two-thirds of all cerebral venous thrombosis cases occurred in women of reproductive age.

Given this reality, the study's authors called for "an immediate global **moratorium on the use of COVID-19 vaccines** ... with an absolute contraindication in women of reproductive age."

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CDC: no plan to change COVID vaccine recommendations

The Defender asked the CDC if it planned to alter its COVID-19 vaccination recommendations in light of McCullough and his co-authors' findings.

A CDC spokesperson told The Defender, the "CDC does not comment on findings or claims by individuals or organizations outside of CDC. Current CDC recommendations can be found **here.**"

The CDC has found the COVID-19 vaccines to be safe and effective, the spokesperson said. "The CDC continues to encourage Americans to get vaccinated, as the COVID-19 vaccination continues to be the best way to protect against serious illness."

When asked specifically about the risks of COVID-19 vaccination for women of reproductive age, the CDC spokesperson directed The Defender to the CDC's webpage **COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding**, which states that the vaccines are safe and effective.



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