

COVID - 19 Bulletin Number 31

**Update - Vaccination Associated Thrombocytopenia and
Thrombosis**

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate

09 April 2021

Message from OTDT Medical Director Professor John Forsythe

Many of you know from previous correspondence that NHSBT is aware and very closely monitoring instances of Vaccination Associated Thrombocytopenia and Thrombosis (VATTs) and any implications for organ donation and transplantation. Thank you to those of you who cascaded information to colleagues circulated before the bank holiday weekend.

As expected the situation with regards to Vaccination Associated Thrombocytopenia and Thrombosis (VATTs) has evolved over the past week. Please see below to update you with regards to resources currently available and ongoing actions pertaining to VATTS.

The COVID – 19 area of the website is also being updated to provide a central point for these resources and I would encourage you to access documents and guidance via the website to ensure you are reading the most current version.

I am sure that you would agree that a continued co-ordinated national approach to this new syndrome will strengthen our understanding of VATTs.

With kind regards,

John Forsythe

Recommendation maintained to continue with AZ vaccine as offered:

JCVI has weighed the relative balance of benefits and risks and advise that the benefits of prompt vaccination with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine far outweigh the risk of adverse events for individuals 30 years of age and over and those who have underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease. JCVI currently advises that it is preferable for adults aged <30 years without underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease, to be offered an alternative COVID-19 vaccine, if available. People may make an informed choice to receive the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to receive earlier protection.

Green book chapter being modified.

Further information is available here and in the attached PDFs:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-the-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-jcvi-statement/jcvi-statement-on-use-of-the-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-7-april-2021>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-issues-new-advice-concluding-a-possible-link-between-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca-and-extremely-rare-unlikely-to-occur-blood-clots>

Data collection – possible or probable deceased organ donors with VATTS and early outcomes of transplanted recipients

To provide accurate and timely early outcome data from patients transplanted with organs from donors with possible or probable VATTs we would very much welcome your help to ensure we get this important clinical information. We will be in touch (and likely have already been in touch) with centres who have transplanted organs to get day 3, 7 and 28 day follow up. We intend to share the collective experience to aid decision making across centres.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

INF1569 - Organ Donation and Transplantation from Patients with Thrombosis and Thrombocytopenia Occurring after Coronavirus Vaccination

INF1569 has been produced to provide further guidance on surrounding organ donation and transplantation and thrombosis and thrombocytopenia. This document will be reviewed on a regular basis - the document can be accessed here: <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/>

INF1559/4 – COVID-19 Vaccine – Q&As for Clinicians and Patients

INF1559 has been updated to help answer questions on COVID-19 vaccination particularly to cover questions relating to VATTS. The document can be accessed here: <https://nhsbtdbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/22862/inf1559.pdf>

Letter on VATTS sent to all UK Transplant Unit Clinical Leads and Clinical Directors

The attached letter has been to all transplant units and clinical directors to provide an update.

COVID – 19 Activity Summary

Finally, on a very positive note, the Clinical Team reviewed the latest activity data. Donor and transplant numbers have been rising, much as they did in July/August last year – with a further 4/5 transplants to be added once centres report on transplants – clearly this is very good news and a further example of the superb team work across the process and the altruism of donors and their families.

Figure 1 Effect CoVID-19 has on Deceased Donation and Transplantation
Number of deceased donors and transplants by week since 1 April 2019

