



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: April 15, 2021

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory Update #31: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Adverse Events and Update

Key Messages

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided clinical information on Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis (CVST) following vaccination with the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine.
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to continue a [pause in the use of the Janssen vaccine](#).
- A Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) is [scheduled for April 15, 2021](#), 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm (ET).

Situation

Six patients developed symptomatic cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) within two weeks (median of nine days) after receiving the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine. All six had thrombocytopenia (<150,000 platelets/ μ L). A seventh case that occurred in a male during clinical trials was also identified. This syndrome was first described following heparin administration (heparin-induced thrombocytopenia or HIT). Similar thrombotic events followed use of the [AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in other countries](#) associated with antibodies against platelet factor 4 (PF4). Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia has not been reported with either of the mRNA vaccines approved for use in the U.S. [Additional clinical information is available here](#). On April 14, 2021, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to continue [pausing use of the Janssen vaccine](#) pending further investigation of these CVST cases and additional review of available safety data. A CDC sponsored Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) on this topic is scheduled for April 15, 2021, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm (ET): [Call details \(and later, the recording\) are here](#).

Actions Requested

1. Pause vaccination using the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. Follow CDC guidance on [vaccine maintenance](#).
2. Inquire about recent (within 30 days) vaccination for COVID-19 in patients who present with signs and symptoms consistent with CVST or other thrombotic events. These cases should be tested for SARS-CoV-2.
3. In persons vaccinated with the Janssen vaccine in the past three weeks and experiencing [symptoms consistent with serious thrombotic events or thrombocytopenia](#):
 - Obtain platelet counts and screen for evidence of thrombotic thrombocytopenia.
 - Screen for heparin-induced thrombocytopenia using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent (ELISA) assay for PF4 antibodies (HIT test) and consider consultation with a hematologist.
4. Do not treat thrombotic thrombocytopenia with heparin, unless HIT testing is negative. Instead, consider non-heparin anticoagulants and high-dose intravenous immune globulin.
5. Report vaccine-related adverse events and deaths and vaccine administration errors to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#), and to the County Immunization Program at IZINFO.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov or Fax: (619) 692-5677.

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

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