

	<p align="center"><b>Health Alert Network Message 21-35: Johnson &amp; Johnson (J&amp;J) COVID-19 Vaccine Pause Update, ASH &amp; CDC Resources &amp; Webinars, &amp; Clinician Recommendations</b></p>
<p><b>Origination Date:</b> <i>April 21, 2021</i></p>	<p><b>Revision Dates (List All Revision Dates):</b></p>

**Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 Vaccine Pause Information, Resources from the American Society of Hematology (ASH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) including Webinar Information, and Recommendations for Clinicians Regarding the J&J Vaccine**

On April 13, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggested pausing administration of the AD26.COV2.S Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine to allow investigation of several cases of a severe clotting and thrombocytopenia syndrome being termed “vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT)” occurring post-vaccination. This announcement comes on the heels of the initial reports of VITT in individuals receiving the CHaDOx1 nCov-19 AstraZeneca (AZ) vaccine outside the United States. Clinical and laboratory characteristics of VITT have recently been reported. The incidence of this constellation of findings appears extremely low following either vaccine, with causality not established.

Please see links from the American Society of Hematology (ASH) that reviews available resources and the background, diagnosis, and clinical management of VITT.

**American Society of Hematology (ASH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Resources:**

[Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

**TREATMENTS AND PREVENTION**

- [General Principles of COVID-19 Vaccines for Immunocompromised Patients](#) (UPDATED)
- [COVID-19 and Vaccination for HCT and CAR T-Cell Recipients](#) (UPDATED)
- [COVID-19 and Convalescent Plasma and Antibody Therapies](#) (UPDATED)
- [COVID-19 and Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia](#) (NEW)

**1. ASH and the CDC cohosted a webinar on the diagnosis and management of vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT):**

The American Society of Hematology (ASH) and the CDC hosted a webinar on vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT) following Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccination. ***Please see the link below to view a recording of this webinar.***

<https://www.zoomgov.com/rec/play/oR5HKnBH4gcbSXrqLVQ2n2Kn5OeF6MHbtC2Xlgzrqyf7XtRRQfrmL7L4vPqUVDPeKeFI-J0QixaDtDpv.Qlyo2rdJ91viNR40?continueMode=true>

**2. Archived Presentation of the [COCA Call: April 15, 2021: Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine and Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia – Update for Clinicians on Early Detection and Treatment](#)**

**3. An [Emergency ACIP meeting](#) will be held to discuss Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine on April 23, 2021, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.**

**4. Additionally, CDC will be hosting a partners' call immediately following the ACIP meeting where CDC leadership will report out on the outcomes of the meeting and will be available for questions:**

Date: Friday, April 23, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 6:30 PM EDT

Connection details:

<https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1600174735?pwd=MzU4YUpBL01NTCtTdDhSCszamZDZz09>

Passcode: NvBw8&9P

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +16692545252,,1600174735#,,,,\*47955157# or

+16468287666,,1600174735#,,,,\*47955157#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 or +1 669 216 1590 or +1 551 285 1373

Webinar ID: 160 017 4735

Passcode: 47955157

## **Recommendations For Clinicians**

1. Pause the use of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine until further notice.
2. Maintain a high index of suspicion for symptoms that might represent serious thrombotic events or thrombocytopenia in patients who have recently received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine, including severe headache, backache, new neurologic symptoms, severe abdominal pain, shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, petechiae (tiny red spots on the skin), or new or easy bruising. Obtain platelet counts and screen for evidence of immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia.
3. In patients with a thrombotic event or thrombocytopenia after the J&J COVID-19 vaccine, evaluate initially with a screening PF4 enzyme-linked immunosorbent (ELISA) assay as would be performed for autoimmune HIT. Consultation with a hematologist is strongly recommended.
4. Do not treat patients with thrombotic events and thrombocytopenia following receipt of J&J COVID-19 vaccine with heparin, unless HIT testing is negative.

5. If HIT testing is positive or unable to be performed in patient with thrombotic events and thrombocytopenia following receipt of J&J COVID-19 vaccine, non-heparin anticoagulants and high-dose intravenous immune globulin should be strongly considered.
6. Report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), including serious and life-threatening adverse events and deaths in patients following receipt of COVID-19 vaccines as required under the Emergency Use Authorizations for COVID-19 vaccines.
7. **Please report any clinical significant thrombotic event or thrombocytopenia in an individual who received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine within the past 6 weeks to the Louisiana Department of Health, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Clinician Hotline: 800-256-2748.**
8. Serious and life-threatening adverse events and deaths in patients following receipt of COVID-19 vaccines should also be reported to the Louisiana Department of Health, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Clinician Hotline: 800-256-2748.