CRICKETFIELD surgery

Patient Update

Friday 9th April 2021

National change in guidance for Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine

Due to the national announcement yesterday (7 April) about changes to the guidance for the delivery of the Oxford AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination, this special bulletin is highlighting the key messages and latest guidance we have received to ensure you are fully up to date

MHRA issues new advice, concluding a possible link between COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca and extremely rare blood clots.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA's) scientific review of UK reports of extremely rare and unlikely to occur specific blood clots with lowered platelets has concluded that the evidence of a link with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is stronger but more work is still needed.

The data suggest there is a slightly higher incidence reported in the younger adult age groups and the MHRA advises that this evolving evidence should be taken into account when considering the use of the vaccine.

The Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) has said: "Safety remains our number one priority. Based on the available data and evidence, JCVI has advised that it is preferable for adults aged under 30 with no underlying conditions to be offered an alternative to the AstraZeneca vaccine where available. This weighs up the risks of being seriously ill or dying from COVID-19 against the extremely small risk of a serious adverse event."

Due to the national announcement yesterday (7 April) about changes to the guidance for the delivery of the Oxford AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination, this special bulletin is highlighting the key messages and latest guidance we have received to ensure you are fully up to date.

JCVI statement on use of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

The updated guidance from the JCVI has been published and can be found here.

In summary:

- It is preferable for people under 30 years old to have an alternative vaccine to AstraZeneca
- For people over 30 years old, the balance of risk is still very much in favour of vaccination with AstraZeneca
- Irrespective of age, if someone has had a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine without suffering any serious side effects, they should complete the course.
- The only people who should not have a second dose of AstraZeneca are those who had any clot in their brain, or other major clot with low level of platelets, following their first dose.
- People in cohorts 1-9 aged 30 years and above who are scheduled to receive a first dose of AstraZeneca vaccination should continue with this.

Please do not contact the Practice in regard to this information, this is the guidance we have to work with at this stage.