

AstraZeneca Vaccine: What you should know

Information updated as of May 12, 2021



How does it work?

The Oxford - AstraZeneca vaccine is a viral vector vaccine. It uses a harmless virus that carries information to teach your cells how to make the spike protein found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus. The vaccine is given in 2 doses.

The AstraZeneca vaccine is **very effective** at preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

SAFETY



The vaccine has been linked to an **extremely rare** blood clot complication in a small percentage of people. This complication has included instances of blood clots in the brain (cerebral venous thrombosis).

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) in Canada **had** recommended pausing the use of the vaccine in individuals under 55. They wanted to **confirm** the safety and benefits of the vaccine for younger people, who are less at risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19.

After careful review, Health Canada has stated that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks in all adult age groups.

The risk of severe outcomes is MUCH HIGHER in those who develop COVID-19 compared to recipients of the AstraZeneca vaccine.



Out of 100,000 people with COVID-19 (between ages 40 and 60)

- 2,900-5,500 will be hospitalized
- 100-400 people will die from COVID-19 infection



Out of 100,000 people vaccinated with the AstraZeneca shot, 1 person may develop serious blood clotting with low platelets

EFFECTIVENESS

The AstraZeneca vaccine was tested in multiple areas where case numbers were high and variants were circulating.

The vaccine is 85-95% effective against severe disease and hospitalization.

Real world data: In regions where lots of people have received this vaccine, there have been **decreases in hospitalization and death** and **decreases in transmission of the virus among those who are vaccinated.**

Some provinces will stop offering first doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine based on decreasing supply and increased availability of mRNA vaccines.

For more information about COVID-19, visit: canada.ca/covid19

For more information about opportunities to support 19toZero, please contact: info@19tozero.ca

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