



# Clinician alert #61 – all clinicians

Effective from 6 July 2021

## New information

Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) also called Vaccine Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT)

- A 6th confirmed case of TTS following a first dose of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination in WA was reported by the TGA on July 1.
- TTS after AstraZeneca vaccination is a rare adverse event, with much lower frequency following 2nd dose than 1<sup>st</sup> dose
- All clinicians should assess patients presenting with symptoms of a thromboembolic event or symptoms of thrombocytopenia occurring within 42 days after AstraZeneca vaccination for possible TTS.

## Background

Symptoms of thrombocytopenia include:

- Petechiae or unexplained bruising
- Unexplained bleeding

Symptoms of a possible TTS related thromboembolic event include new onset:

- Persistent or progressive headache +/- vision change, other focal neurology (cerebral venous sinus thrombosis)
- Persistent abdominal pain (splanchnic vein thrombosis)
- Leg swelling or pain +/- colour change (deep vein thrombosis)
- Chest pain and/or shortness of breath without a clear alternative cause (pulmonary embolism)
- Limb coldness or pallor, or symptoms of myocardial ischaemia. (Arterial ischaemia)

Initial symptoms may be mild and progressive.

## Action

- If TTS is suspected, do not give heparin or Clexane
- Arrange urgent FBE and D-Dimer if the patient is stable with mild symptoms
- Reassess the following day if the patient has persisting symptoms and repeat FBE and D-dimer (TTS may have normal initial blood tests)
- Arrange emergency assessment in any of the following circumstances:
  - the patient is acutely unwell
  - Platelet count is <150 (note – may be normal in first 24hrs of TTS)
  - D-dimer > 5 times upper limit normal
  - Symptoms are progressing or there are new clinical features

## Reporting

All significant adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) should be reported to the Western Australian Vaccine Safety Surveillance (WAVSS) system, online through SAFEVAC <https://www.safevac.org.au>.

This includes any suspected cases of TTS, as well as any admission to hospital, or serious outcome, which has occurred contemporaneous to vaccine administration, even if it is not clear if the vaccine has contributed to the clinical event.

## Further information

Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

[Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome Following COVID-9 Vaccination](#)

WA Health advice regarding Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI)

[https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Adverse-event-following-immunisation-AEFI](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Adverse-event-following-immunisation-AEFI)

Dr Paul Effler, MD, MPH, FAFPHM

**Senior Medical Advisor, WA Department of Health**

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