



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Michael Ring

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

15/07/2021

PQ 22384-21 - Deputy Michael Ring: To ask the Minister for Health if he will make a statement on the following matter; if NIAC recommendations overrule general practitioner recommendations e.g. when GPs advise a client not to take the AstraZeneca vaccine due to family history of clots, etc. is the NIAC overruling this advice with their recommendation of the vaccine? What vaccine options are available for people in this situation particularly as GP would be familiar with their specific medical history?

Dear Deputy Ring,

Thank you for your representation. On the 26th April the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) issued revised recommendations to the Department of Health on the use of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and the Janssen Vaccine.

NIAC on the 12th of April advised that the EMA has added unusual clotting events with low platelet counts as very rare side effects to the vaccine product information. These rare events are estimated to occur between 4 and 10 in every 1 million people, one of whom may die. The benefits versus the risks of this vaccine may vary by age and as alternative COVID-19 vaccines are available in Ireland, NIAC has revised the following recommendations for the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The AstraZeneca vaccine is recommended for people aged 60 and older. The risk of this very rare side effect is very low for this age group. The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine can still be administered if a person has recently had a blood clot (not vaccine-related), are on blood-thinning treatment, have a condition that makes you more likely to get a blood clot, have a family history of blood clots. The blood clots associated with these very rare side effects are unusual blood clots with low platelets. There is no reason a person should delay a vaccination if they are offered this vaccine.

The link below includes information and advice for people who previously have had blood clots and outlines that there is no reason to delay vaccination. It is important for all vaccine recipients to be aware of signs of side effects.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19vaccineinfo4hps/astrazeneca/azqnda.pdf>

p.t.o.....

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Hayden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'S'.

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO