

New Warning for J&J and AZ COVID Vaccines: GBS

Medical regulators from European Medicines Agency (EMA) advised health care professionals to be on the lookout for cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) with Johnson & Johnson's and AstraZenca's COVID vaccines.

GBS is a rare but serious condition in which the immune system starts attacking the body's healthy nerve cells, resulting in pain, numbness and muscle weakness in extremities that can also spread to the chest and face. While the EMA stops short of saying there is a causal relationship, they are advising people to seek immediate medical attention if they develop weakness and paralysis following a COVID vaccine.

According to the report, most adults in the U.K. are already vaccinated, which is why early recognition of post-vaccine autoimmune conditions like GBS are important for developing early therapeutic interventions.

Of the 335 million doses of the J&J single dose vaccine administered globally, only 13 million were administered in the U.S. Those 13 million doses were followed by 100 reports of Guillain-Barré syndrome, according to the FDA, in which one person died and 95 were hospitalized. "Men aged over 50 showed the greatest risk, and cases typically appeared about two weeks after vaccination," according to the BMJ.

SOURCES:

[The BMJ July 14, 2021](#)

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