COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Technical (VaST) Work Group

Safety Assessments

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Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
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Topics

- VaST objectives and activities
- Brief overview of selected Moderna and Janssen COVID-19 vaccination safety data
- VaST assessments
  - Moderna COVID-19 vaccination
  - Janssen COVID-19 vaccination
  - Heterologous boosting
- VaST future plans
COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Technical (VaST) Work Group

**Objectives**

- Review, evaluate, and interpret post-authorization/approval COVID-19 vaccination safety data
- Serve as the central hub for technical subject matter expertise from federal agencies conducting post-authorization/approval safety monitoring
- Advise on analyses, interpretation, and data presentation
- Provide updates to the ACIP COVID-19 Vaccines Work Group and the ACIP on COVID-19 vaccine safety
VaST continues to review COVID-19 vaccination safety data from passive and active surveillance systems

- U.S. safety monitoring systems including Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), FDA BEST System,¹ VA, IHS, DoD
- Israel, Canada, Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety
- Special evaluations underway, such as follow-up studies of myocarditis cases

VA, Veterans Affairs; IHS, Indian Health Service; DoD, Department of Defense
**VaST activities**

**December 21, 2020 – present**

38 independent meetings to review vaccine safety data
10 joint meetings with COVID-19 Vaccines Work Group focused on safety

### Dec 12
- Pfizer (16+)

### Dec 19
- Moderna (18+)

### Feb 28
- Janssen (18+)

### May 12
- Pfizer (12-15)

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**ACIP votes**

**Dec**
- Jan 27: Anaphylaxis following mRNA vaccination

**Jan**
- Mar 1: Anaphylaxis updates; Pregnancy vaccine safety data

**Feb**
- Apr 14: CVST following Janssen
- Apr 23: TTS updates; Janssen resumed

**March**
- May 12: TTS updates

**April**
- May 17 & 24: Myocarditis

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CVST, cerebral venous sinus thrombosis; TTS, thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome; GBS, Guillain-Barré syndrome
**VaST activities**

**December 21, 2020 – present (continued)**

38 independent meetings to review vaccine safety data
10 joint meetings with COVID-19 Vaccines Work Group focused on safety

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<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>ACIP votes: Myocarditis updates</td>
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<td>July 22</td>
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**Timeline:**
- **June:** ACIP votes: Myocarditis updates
- **July:** ACIP votes: Pfizer 3rd dose, Myocarditis updates, GBS following Janssen
- **Aug:** ACIP votes: Additional mRNA vaccine doses for immunocompromised, Pfizer BLA (16+)
- **Sept:** ACIP votes: Pfizer 3rd dose, Safety overview
- **Oct:** ACIP votes: Moderna 3rd dose, Janssen 2nd dose

CVST, cerebral venous sinus thrombosis; TTS, thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome; GBS, Guillain-Barré syndrome
Modern 

**Moderna COVID-19 vaccination: Overview of post-authorization safety – myocarditis/pericarditis**

- Myocarditis following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination identified, May 2021
- CDC issued clinical guidance for myocarditis/pericarditis following mRNA vaccination, May 2021
- Data presented at the VRBPAC meeting, June 10
- Data and VaST assessment presented to ACIP June 23 and MMWR published
- EUA fact sheets revised with warning added, June 25
- FDA approval of Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, August 23
  - Information on myocarditis/pericarditis in package insert

VRBPAC, Vaccines and Related Biologics Products Advisory Committee

1https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/work-groups-vast/index.html; 2https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/slides-2021-06.htm; 3https://www.fda.gov/media/151707/download
**Moderna COVID-19 vaccination: Overview of post-authorization safety – myocarditis/pericarditis**

- Data available to date show association of myocarditis with both mRNA vaccines in adolescents and young adults, males > females
  - Some systems show greater risk after Moderna than Pfizer vaccination
    - United States (VSD), Canada, Scandinavian countries
  - Other U.S. safety monitoring systems do not show a difference between the two mRNA vaccines
    - VAERS, FDA BEST Systems, VA
- Further data are being compiled to understand
  - Differences between safety systems
  - Optimal management strategies
  - Long-term outcomes
Modern 

COVID-19 vaccination safety data, dose 3

- Clinical trial data – 50 µg dose in 171 participants*
  - No evidence of increased reactogenicity following a booster dose relative to dose 2, with exception of increased axillary swelling/tenderness of the vaccination arm¹

- Post-authorization safety data for Moderna dose 3, original 100 µg dose²
  - v-safe: ~14,000 persons who reported dose 3
    • Local reactions were reported slightly more frequently and systemic reactions slightly less frequently following dose 3 than dose 2
  - VAERS: 1,440 reports after dose 3
    • Over 92% of reports were non-serious

¹https://www.fda.gov/media/153087/download ²Hause A, ACIP October 21, 2021
*participants who received 100 µg primary series; total 344 received 50 µg booster
Janssen COVID-19 vaccination: Overview of post-authorization safety, TTS and GBS

- **TTS**
  - Surveillance in VAERS identified reports of CVST and TTS
  - Use of vaccine in the United States was paused April 13
  - EUA fact sheets updated with warning about TTS, pause was lifted April 23
  - Through October 13, 47 cases of TTS confirmed (15.3 M doses administered)
    - Most cases in women, aged 18-49 years; evaluation ongoing

- **GBS**
  - Surveillance in VAERS identified reports of GBS
  - Higher than expected reporting, males > females; EUA fact sheets updated with information about observed risk, July 12
  - Through July 24, 130 reports of GBS identified
    - Observed reports > expected across multiple age groups

CVST: cerebral venous sinus thrombosis; TTS; thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome; GBS, Guillain Barre Syndrome;  
1 Shimabukuro T, ACIP October 21, 2021; 2https://www.fda.gov/media/153132/download
Janssen COVID-19 vaccination safety data – dose 2

- Clinical trial data\(^1\)
  - Approximately 9,000 participants received 2 doses at least 2 months apart; approximately 2,700 have had at least 2 months of safety follow-up
  - No new safety signals identified following a second dose.
  - Interpretation of the data is limited by small sample size, particularly for 6-month interval post dose 1

- Post-authorization safety data\(^2\)
  - v-safe
    - 83 participants recorded dose 2
  - VAERS
    - 39 reports after dose 2
    - All reports were non-serious

\(^1\)https://www.fda.gov/media/153130/download and https://www.fda.gov/media/153129/download; \(^2\)Hause A, ACIP October 21, 2021
VaST assessment summary – primary series

- **Moderna COVID-19 vaccination**
  - There appears to be a slightly increased risk of myocarditis among 18–39 year-olds after Moderna compared with Pfizer vaccination
  - Preliminary data from follow-up study, based on data from patients/parents, suggest that cases are generally mild, with prompt resolution of symptoms

- **Janssen COVID-19 vaccination**
  - Risks for TTS and GBS appear to be unchanged from earlier assessments – serious but rare

- **Important to communicate to public and patients the balance of benefits and risks**

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1 Follow-up being conducted for confirmed myocarditis cases after COVID-19 vaccination reported to VAERS
VaST assessment summary – booster doses

- Moderna COVID-19 vaccination
  - Limited data on risk of myocarditis after dose 3 (original 100 µg dose) from safety monitoring systems
  - Data on safety of the reduced 50 µg booster dose only available from small clinical trial
  - Risk of myocarditis observed following the reduced dose Moderna booster might be lower than risk following the original dose vaccination

- Janssen COVID-19 vaccination
  - Limited trial data and data from safety monitoring systems for dose 2
  - Risks after booster dose are unlikely to be greater than with primary vaccination

- Important to communicate to public and patients the balance of benefits and risks
VaST assessment summary – heterologous booster

- Preliminary data from NIH mix and match study\(^1\) and limited data from post authorization safety data suggest that boosting of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine recipients with an mRNA vaccine, or of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine recipients with Janssen COVID-19 vaccine poses no additional safety risk compared with homologous boosting.

- No evidence to date of safety concerns with respect to any of the prespecified VSD surveillance outcomes for Janssen COVID-19 vaccine recipients who received an additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

\(^1\) Atmar R, ACIP October 21, 2021
Safety monitoring and VaST next steps

- VaST will continue to:
  - Review safety regarding additional and booster doses as data become available
  - Collaborate with global vaccine safety colleagues on key issues that impact benefit-risk balance
  - Provide updates to the ACIP COVID-19 Vaccines Work Group and the ACIP at future meetings
VaST Members

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