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**CPII**

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**Core Patient Information Leaflet**  
**COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, solution for injection**

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This Core Patient Information Leaflet (CPII) is based on the Core Data Sheet dated 19 April 2021.

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## COVID-19 VACCINE ASTRAZENECA, SOLUTION FOR INJECTION

COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant])

### **Read all of this leaflet carefully before you receive the vaccine**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have further questions, please ask your healthcare provider.

### **What is in this leaflet**

1. What COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you receive COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca
3. How COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is given
4. Possible side effects
5. Storing COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca
6. Further information

## **1 WHAT COVID-19 VACCINE ASTRAZENECA IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR**

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is a vaccine used to protect people aged 18 years and older against COVID-19.

COVID-19 is caused by a virus called coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca stimulates the body's natural defences (immune system). It causes the body to produce its own protection (antibodies) against the virus. This will help to protect you against COVID-19 in the future. None of the ingredients in this vaccine can cause COVID-19.

## **2 WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU RECEIVE COVID-19 VACCINE ASTRAZENECA**

### **Do not have the vaccine:**

- If you have ever had a severe allergic reaction to any of the active substances or any of the other ingredients listed in section 6.
- If you have had a major blood clot occurring at the same time as having low levels of platelets (thrombocytopenia) after receiving any COVID-19 vaccine.

If you are not sure, talk to your healthcare provider.

## Warnings and precautions

Tell your healthcare provider before vaccination:

- If you have ever had a severe allergic reaction after any other vaccine injection or after you were given COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in the past;
- If you currently have a severe infection with a high temperature (over 38°C);
- If you have ever had a blood clot or low blood platelets (thrombocytopenia) in the past;
- If you have a problem with bleeding or bruising, or if you are taking a blood thinning medicine (anticoagulant);
- If your immune system does not work properly (immunodeficiency) or are taking medicines that weaken the immune system (such as high-dose corticosteroids, immunosuppressants or cancer medicines).

If you are not sure if any of the above applies to you, talk to your healthcare provider before you are given the vaccine.

Very rare cases of blood clots with low levels of blood platelets have been observed following vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. The majority of these cases occurred within the first 14 days following vaccination and some cases had a fatal outcome. Seek urgent medical attention if from a few days following vaccination you:

- experience a severe or persistent headache, blurred vision, confusion or seizures (fits)
- develop shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, leg pain or persistent abdominal pain
- notice unusual skin bruising or pinpoint round spots beyond the site of vaccination

As with any vaccine, COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca may not protect everyone who is vaccinated from COVID-19. It is not yet known how long people who receive the vaccine will be protected.

## Children and adolescents

No data are currently available on the use of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in children and adolescents younger than 18 years of age.

## Other medicines and COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca

Tell your healthcare provider if you are taking, have recently taken or might take, any other medicines or vaccines.

## Pregnancy and breastfeeding

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant, or are planning to have a baby, **tell your healthcare provider**. There are limited data on the use of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in

pregnant or breastfeeding women. Your healthcare provider will discuss with you whether you can be given the vaccine.

### **Driving and using machines**

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca has no known effect on the ability to drive and use machines. However, side effects listed in section 4 may impact your ability to drive and use machines. If you feel unwell, do not drive or use machines.

## **3 HOW COVID-19 VACCINE ASTRAZENECA IS GIVEN**

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is injected into a muscle (usually in the upper arm).

**You will receive 2 injections. You will be told when you need to return for your second injection of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.**

The second injection can be given between 4 and 12 weeks after the first injection.

When COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is given for the first injection, COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca (and not another vaccine against COVID-19) should be given for the second injection to complete vaccination course.

### **If you miss an injection**

If you forget to go back at the scheduled time, ask your healthcare provider for advice. It is important that you return for your second injection of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.

## **4 POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**

Like all medicines, this vaccine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Major blood clots in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia) have been observed very rarely (with a frequency less than 1 in 100,000 vaccinated individuals).

**Get medical attention immediately** if from a few days following vaccination you get any of the following symptoms:

- experience a severe or persistent headache, blurred vision, confusion or seizures (fits)
- develop shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, leg pain or persistent abdominal pain
- notice unusual skin bruising or pinpoint round spots beyond the site of vaccination

**Get urgent medical attention** if you get symptoms of a severe allergic reaction. Such reactions may include a combination of any of the following symptoms:

- feeling faint or light-headed
- changes in your heartbeat
- shortness of breath or wheezing

- swelling of your lips, face, or throat

In clinical studies, most side effects were mild to moderate in nature and resolved within a few days. Fewer side effects were reported after the second dose.

Medicines containing paracetamol can be taken if you need relief from side effects such as pain and/or fever.

After vaccination, you may have more than one side effect at the same time (for example, muscle/joint aches, headaches, chills and generally feeling unwell). If any of your symptoms are persistent, please seek advice from your healthcare provider.

**The following side effects may occur with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca:**

**Very Common** (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

- tenderness, pain, warmth or itching where the injection is given
- generally feeling unwell
- feeling tired (fatigue)
- chills or feeling feverish
- headache
- feeling sick (nausea)
- joint pain or muscle ache

**Common** (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- swelling or redness where the injection is given
- fever
- being sick (vomiting) or diarrhoea
- pain in legs or arms
- flu-like symptoms, such as high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, cough and chills

**Uncommon** (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- sleepiness or feeling dizzy
- abdominal pain
- enlarged lymph nodes
- excessive sweating, itchy skin, rash or hives

**Very rare**

- major blood clots in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia) have been observed with a frequency of less than 1 in 100,000 vaccinated individuals

**Not known** (the frequency cannot be determined from the available data)

- severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)

- severe swelling of the lips, mouth, throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing)

If you notice any side effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please inform your healthcare provider.

## 5 STORING COVID-19 VACCINE ASTRAZENECA

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

Your healthcare provider is responsible for storing this vaccine and disposing of any unused product correctly.

## 6 FURTHER INFORMATION

### What COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca contains

The **active substance** is COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant]).

One dose (0.5 ml) contains:

COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1-S\* recombinant)  $5 \times 10^{10}$  viral particles\*\*

\*Recombinant, replication-deficient chimpanzee adenovirus vector encoding the SARS-CoV-2 Spike glycoprotein. Produced in genetically modified human embryonic kidney (HEK) 293 cells.

\*\*Corresponding to not less than  $2.5 \times 10^8$  infectious units (Inf.U)

This product contains genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The **other ingredients** are L-histidine, L-histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, magnesium chloride hexahydrate, polysorbate 80, ethanol, sucrose, sodium chloride, disodium edetate dihydrate (EDTA), water for injection.