

REG 174 INFORMATION FOR UK HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

This medicinal product has been given authorisation for temporary supply by the UK Department of Health and Social Care and the Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. It does not have a marketing authorisation, but this temporary authorisation grants permission for the medicine to be used for active immunisation of individuals aged 18 years and older for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

As with any new medicine in the UK, this product will be closely monitored to allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions. See section 4.8 for how to report adverse reactions.

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, solution for injection
COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant])

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

One dose (0.5 ml) contains:

COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1-S* recombinant) 5×10^{10} viral particles (vp)

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

This product contains genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Excipient with known effect

Each dose (0.5 ml) contains approximately 2 mg of ethanol.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for injection.

The solution is colourless to slightly brown, clear to slightly opaque with a pH of 6.6.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is indicated for active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2, in individuals ≥ 18 years old.

The use of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca should be in accordance with official recommendations.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Individuals 18 years of age and older

The COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca vaccination course consists of two separate doses of 0.5 ml each. The second dose should be administered between 4 and 12 weeks after the first dose (see section 5.1).

There are no data available on the interchangeability of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca with other COVID-19 vaccines to complete the vaccination course. Individuals who have received the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca should receive the second dose of COVID 19 Vaccine AstraZeneca to complete the vaccination course.

Elderly population

No dosage adjustment is required. See also sections 4.4 and 5.1.

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in children and adolescents (aged <18 years old) have not yet been established. No data are available.

Method of administration

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is for intramuscular (IM) injection only, preferably in the deltoid muscle.

The vaccine should not be mixed in the same syringe with any other vaccines or medicinal products.

For precautions to be taken before administering the vaccine, see section 4.4.

For instructions on administration, see section 6.6.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

Individuals who have experienced thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) following vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca (see section 4.2).

Individuals who have previously experienced episodes of capillary leak syndrome (see also section 4.4).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Traceability

In order to improve the traceability of biological medicinal products, the name and the batch number of the administered product should be clearly recorded.

Hypersensitivity including anaphylaxis

Hypersensitivity reactions including anaphylaxis and angioedema have occurred following administration of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.

Appropriate medical treatment and supervision should always be readily available in case of an anaphylactic event following the administration of the vaccine.

A second dose of the vaccine should not be given to those who have experienced a severe hypersensitivity reaction to the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.

Anxiety-related reactions

Anxiety-related reactions, including vasovagal reactions (syncope), hyperventilation or stress-related reactions may occur in association with vaccination as a psychogenic response to the needle injection. It is important that precautions are in place to avoid injury from fainting.

Concurrent illness

As with other vaccines, administration of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca should be postponed in individuals suffering from an acute severe febrile illness or acute infection. However, the presence of a minor infection, such as cold, and/or low-grade fever should not delay vaccination.

Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia and coagulation disorders

Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS), in some cases accompanied by bleeding, has been observed very rarely following vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. This includes severe cases presenting as venous thrombosis, including unusual sites such as cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, splanchnic vein thrombosis, as well as arterial thrombosis, concomitant with thrombocytopenia. Some cases had a fatal outcome. The majority of these cases occurred within the first 3 weeks following vaccination but have also been reported after this period. Risk factors have not been identified. Some cases had increased D-dimer levels >4000ng/ml, positive platelet factor 4 antibodies and/or laboratory evidence of platelet activation.

As a precautionary measure, administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in patients with a history of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia and thrombosis (HITT or HIT type 2) or cerebral venous sinus thrombosis should only be considered when the benefit outweighs any potential risks.

Healthcare professionals should be alert to the signs and symptoms of thromboembolism and/or thrombocytopenia. Vaccinated individuals should be instructed to seek immediate medical attention if four or more days after vaccination they develop new onset or worsening severe or persistent headaches with blurred vision, which do not respond to simple painkillers, or if they develop new symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, leg pain, persistent abdominal pain, any neurological symptoms or signs such as confusion or seizures, or unusual skin bruising and/or petechiae beyond the site of vaccination.

Individuals diagnosed with thrombocytopenia within 3 weeks after vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca should be actively investigated for signs of thrombosis. Similarly, individuals who present with thrombosis within 3 weeks of vaccination should be evaluated for thrombocytopenia.

Patients with TTS require specialised clinical management and should be urgently referred to a secondary healthcare centre and to a specialist in haematology for advice on further management.

Risk of bleeding with intramuscular administration

As with other intramuscular injections, COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca should be given with caution to individuals with thrombocytopenia, any coagulation disorder or to persons on anticoagulation therapy, because bleeding or bruising may occur following an intramuscular administration in these individuals.

Capillary leak syndrome

Very rare cases of capillary leak syndrome (CLS) have been reported in the first days after vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. A history of CLS was apparent in some of the cases. Fatal outcome has been reported. CLS is a rare disorder characterised by acute episodes of oedema mainly affecting the limbs, hypotension, haemoconcentration and hypoalbuminaemia. Patients with an acute episode of CLS following vaccination require prompt recognition and treatment. Intensive supportive therapy is usually warranted. Individuals with a known history of CLS should not be vaccinated with this vaccine. See also section 4.3.

Immunocompromised individuals

The efficacy, safety and immunogenicity of the vaccine have not been assessed in immunocompromised individuals, including those receiving immunosuppressant therapy. The efficacy of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca may be lower in immunosuppressed individuals.

Duration of protection

The duration of protection afforded by the vaccine is unknown as it is still being determined by ongoing clinical trials.

Limitations of vaccine effectiveness

Protection starts from approximately 3 weeks after the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. Individuals may not be fully protected until 15 days after the second dose is administered. As with all vaccines, vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca may not protect all vaccine recipients (see section 5.1).

Excipients

Sodium

This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dose, and is considered to be essentially sodium-free.

Ethanol

This medicinal product contains 2 mg of alcohol (ethanol) per 0.5 ml dose. The small amount of alcohol in this medicinal product will not have any noticeable effects.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

No interaction studies have been performed.

Concomitant administration of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca with other vaccines has not been studied (see section 5.1).

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

There is a limited experience with the use of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in pregnant women.

Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to pregnancy, embryo/fetal development, parturition or post-natal development (see section 5.3).

Administration of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca during pregnancy should only be considered when the potential benefits outweigh any potential risks (including those described in sections 4.4 and 4.8) for the mother and fetus.

Breastfeeding

It is unknown whether COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is excreted in human milk.

Fertility

Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to fertility.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines. However, some of the adverse reactions mentioned under section 4.8 may temporarily affect the ability to drive or use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile

The overall safety of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is based on an analysis of pooled data from four clinical trials conducted in the United Kingdom, Brazil, and South Africa. At the time of analysis, 24,244 participants ≥ 18 years old had been randomised and received either COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca or control. Out of these, 12,282 participants received at least one dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca and 10,448 received 2 doses. The median duration of follow-up in the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca group was 137 days post-dose 1, and 81 days post-dose 2.

Demographic characteristics were generally similar among participants who received COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca and those who received control. Overall, among the participants who received COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, 89.8% were aged 18 to 64 years and 10.2% were 65 years of age or older. The majority of recipients were White (75.5%), 9.8% were Black and 3.7% were Asian; 55.8% were female and 44.2% male.

The most frequently reported adverse reactions were injection site tenderness (63.8%), injection site pain (54.3%), headache (52.7%), fatigue (53.0%), myalgia (43.9%), malaise (44.4%), pyrexia (includes feverishness (33.5%) and fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ (7.6%)), chills (32.2%), arthralgia (26.6%) and nausea (22.2%). The majority of adverse reactions were mild to moderate in severity and usually resolved within a few days of vaccination. By day 7 the incidence of subjects with at least one local or systemic reaction was 4% and 14% respectively. When compared with the first dose, adverse reactions reported after the second dose were milder and reported less frequently.

Reactogenicity events were generally milder and reported less frequently in older adults (≥ 65 years old).

If required, analgesic and/or anti-pyretic medicinal products (e.g. paracetamol-containing products) may be used to provide symptomatic relief from post-vaccination adverse reactions.

The safety profile was consistent across participants with or without prior evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection at baseline; the number of seropositive participants at baseline was 753 (3.1%).

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are organised by MedDRA System Organ Class (SOC). Within each SOC, preferred terms are arranged by decreasing frequency and then by decreasing seriousness. Frequencies of occurrence of adverse reactions are defined as: very common ($\geq 1/10$); common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$); uncommon ($\geq 1/1,000$ to $< 1/100$); rare ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1000$); very rare ($< 1/10,000$) and not known (cannot be estimated from available data).

Table 1 Adverse drug reactions

MedDRA SOC	Frequency	Adverse Reactions
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Uncommon	Lymphadenopathy
	Not known	Thrombocytopenia
Immune system disorders	Not known	Anaphylaxis
		Hypersensitivity
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Uncommon	Decreased appetite
Nervous system disorders	Very common	Headache
	Uncommon	Dizziness, somnolence
Vascular disorders	Very rare	Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome*
	Not known	Capillary leak syndrome
Gastrointestinal disorders	Very common	Nausea
	Common	Vomiting, diarrhoea
	Uncommon	Abdominal pain

MedDRA SOC	Frequency	Adverse Reactions
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Uncommon	Hyperhidrosis, pruritus, rash, urticaria
	Not known	Angioedema
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	Very common	Myalgia, arthralgia
	Common	Pain in extremity
General disorders and administration site conditions	Very common	Injection site tenderness, injection site pain, injection site warmth, injection site pruritus, injection site bruising ^a , fatigue, malaise, feverishness, chills
	Common	Injection site swelling, injection site erythema, injection site induration, pyrexia ^b , influenza-like illness

^a Injection site bruising includes injection site haematoma (uncommon, unsolicited adverse reaction)

^b Measured fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ (common)

* Severe and very rare cases of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome have been reported post marketing. These included venous thrombosis such as cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, splanchnic vein thrombosis, as well as arterial thrombosis (see section 4.4).

Very rare events of neuroinflammatory disorders have been reported following vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. A causal relationship has not been established.

Post-authorisation reports of influenza-like illness

Some recipients have reported chills, shivering (in some cases rigors), and increased body temperature possibly with sweating, headache (including migraine-like headaches), nausea, myalgia and malaise, starting within a day of vaccination. These effects usually lasted for a day or two.

If a patient reports unusually high or prolonged fever, or other symptoms, alternative causes should be considered and appropriate advice should be provided for diagnostic investigation and medical management as required.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

If you are concerned about an adverse event, it should be reported on a Yellow Card. Reporting forms and information can be found at <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store and include the vaccine brand and batch/Lot number if available.

Alternatively, adverse events of concern in association with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca can be reported to AstraZeneca on 08000 541 028 or via www.azcovid-19.com.

Please do not report the same adverse event(s) to both systems as all reports will be shared between AstraZeneca and MHRA (in an anonymised form) and dual reporting will create unnecessary duplicates.

4.9 Overdose

There is no specific treatment for an overdose with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. In the event of an overdose, the individual should be monitored and provided with symptomatic treatment as appropriate.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Vaccine, other viral vaccines, ATC code: J07BX03

Mechanism of action

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is a monovalent vaccine composed of a single recombinant, replication-deficient chimpanzee adenovirus (ChAdOx1) vector encoding the S glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2. Following administration, the S glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2 is expressed locally stimulating neutralising antibody and cellular immune responses.

Clinical efficacy

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca has been evaluated based on an interim analysis of pooled data from four on-going randomised, blinded, controlled trials: a Phase I/II Study, COV001, in healthy adults 18 to 55 years of age in the UK; a Phase II/III Study, COV002, in adults ≥ 18 years of age (including the elderly) in the UK; a Phase III Study, COV003, in adults ≥ 18 years of age (including the elderly) in Brazil; and a Phase I/II study, COV005, in adults aged 18 to 65 years of age in South Africa. The studies excluded participants with history of anaphylaxis or angioedema; participants with severe and/or uncontrolled cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, liver, renal, endocrine/metabolic disease, and neurological illnesses; as well as those with immunosuppression. In studies COV001 and COV002, licensed seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations were permitted (at least 7 days before or after their study vaccine).

All participants are planned to be followed for up to 12 months, for assessments of safety and efficacy against COVID-19 disease.

Based on the pre-defined criteria for interim efficacy analysis, COV002 and COV003 exceeded the threshold of ≥ 5 virologically confirmed COVID-19 cases per study and therefore contributed to the efficacy analysis; COV001 and COV005 were excluded.

In the pooled analysis for efficacy (COV002 and COV003), participants ≥ 18 years of age and seronegative at baseline received two doses of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca (N=5,807) or control (meningococcal vaccine or saline) (N=5,829). Because of logistical constraints, the interval between dose 1 and dose 2 ranged from 4 to 26 weeks.

Baseline demographics were well balanced across COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca and control treatment groups. Overall, among the participants who received COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, 94.1% of participants were 18 to 64 years old (with 5.9% aged 65 or older); 60.7% of subjects were female; 82.8% were White, 4.6% were Asian, and 4.4% were Black. A total of 2,070 (35.6%) participants had at least one pre-existing comorbidity (defined as a BMI ≥ 30 kg/m², cardiovascular disorder, respiratory disease or diabetes). The median follow-up time post-dose 1 and post-dose 2 was 132 days and 63 days, respectively.

Final determination of COVID-19 cases were made by an adjudication committee, who also assigned disease severity according to the WHO clinical progression scale. A total of 131 participants had SARS-CoV-2 virologically confirmed (by nucleic acid amplification tests) COVID-19 occurring ≥ 15 days post-dose 2 with at least one COVID-19 symptom (objective fever (defined as $\geq 37.8^\circ\text{C}$), cough, shortness of breath, anosmia, or ageusia) and were without evidence of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection. COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca significantly decreased the incidence of COVID-19 compared to control.

An updated efficacy analysis included 17,178 participants from all four studies. Among the participants who received COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, 83.8% were 18 to 55 years old, 10.5% were 56 to 69 years old and 5.6% were aged 70 or older. The median follow-up time post-dose 1 and post-dose 2 was 143 days and 83 days, respectively. The results of these analyses, interim and updated efficacy analyses, are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca efficacy against COVID-19

Population	COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca		Control		Vaccine efficacy % (CI)
	N	Number of COVID-19 cases, n (%)	N	Number of COVID-19 cases, n (%)	
Interim analysis (cut-off date: 04 Nov 2020)					
Primary (see above)	5,807		5,829		
COVID-19 cases		30 (0.5)		101 (1.7)	70.4 (54.8, 80.6) ^a
Hospitalisations ^b		0		5 (0.1)	-
Severe disease ^c		0		1 (<0.1)	-
Updated analysis (cut-off date: 07 Dec 2020)					
Primary (see above)	8,597		8,581		
COVID-19 cases		84 (1.0)		248 (2.9)	66.7 (57.4, 74.0) ^d
Hospitalisations ^b		0		9 (0.1)	100 (50.2, NE) ^d
Severe disease ^c		0		2 (<0.1)	-

N = Number of subjects included in each group; n = Number of subjects having a confirmed event; CI = Confidence Interval; NE = Not Evaluable; ^a 95.84% CI; ^b WHO severity grading ≥ 4 ; ^c WHO severity grading ≥ 6 ; ^d 95% CI.

In the interim analysis, participants who had one or more comorbidities had a vaccine efficacy (VE) of 73.4% [95% CI: 48.5; 86.3]; 11 (0.5%) vs 43 (2.0%) cases of COVID-19 for COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca (N=2,070) and control (N=2,113), respectively; which was similar to the VE observed in the overall population. In the updated analysis, the VE in this subgroup of participants with one or more comorbidities was 62.7% (95% CI: 44.8; 74.8 [COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca 34/3,056 vs control 93/3,102]).

The number of COVID-19 cases in participants ≥ 65 years old were too few to draw conclusions on efficacy. However, in this subpopulation, immunogenicity data are available, see below. In the interim analysis there were 2 cases of COVID-19 in 660 participants. In the updated analysis, there were 12 cases in 1,383 participants (4 for COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca vs 8 for control; VE = 51.9% [95% CI: -60.0, 85.5]). The majority of participants ≥ 65 years old received their doses with an interval shorter than 6 weeks.

The level of protection gained from a single dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca was assessed in an exploratory analysis that included participants who had received one dose. Participants were censored from the analysis at the earliest time point of when they received a second dose or at 12 weeks post-dose 1. In this population, VE from 22 days post-dose 1 was 73.0% (95% CI: 48.8; 85.8 [COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca 12/7,998 vs control 44/7,982]). In the updated analysis, this was 69.2% (95% CI: 48.5; 82.4 [COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca 20/11,044 vs control 65/11,015]).

Exploratory analyses showed that increased immunogenicity was associated with a longer dose interval (see *Immunogenicity* Table 4). Efficacy results from subgroup analyses using the updated dataset were consistent with the immunogenicity data (Table 3).

Table 3 COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca efficacy by dosing interval^a

Dosing interval	COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca		Control		Vaccine efficacy % (95% CI)
	N	Number of COVID-19 cases, n (%)	N	Number of COVID-19 cases, n (%)	

<6 weeks	3,905	35 (0.9)	3,871	76 (2.0)	55.1 (33.0, 69.9)
6-8 weeks	1,124	20 (1.8)	1,023	44 (4.3)	59.7 (31.7, 76.3)
9-11 weeks	1,530	14 (0.9)	1,594	52 (3.3)	72.3 (50.0, 84.6)
≥12 weeks	2,038	15 (0.7)	2,093	76 (3.6)	80.0 (65.2, 88.5)

N = Number of subjects included in each group; n = Number of subjects having a confirmed event;
CI = Confidence Interval; ^a Data from the updated analyses (07 December 2020 data cut off).

Immunogenicity

Following vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, in participants who were seronegative at baseline, seroconversion (as measured by a ≥4 fold increase from baseline in S-binding antibodies) was demonstrated in ≥98% of participants at 28 days after the first dose and >99% at 28 days after the second. Higher S-binding antibodies were observed with increasing dose interval (Table 4).

Generally similar trends were observed between analyses of neutralising antibodies and S-binding antibodies. An immunological correlate of protection has not been established; therefore, the level of immune response that provides protection against COVID-19 is unknown.

Table 4 SARS-CoV-2 S-binding antibody response to COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca^{a, b}

Population	Baseline	28 days after dose 1	28 days after dose 2
	GMT (95% CI)	GMT (95% CI)	GMT (95% CI)
Overall	(N=1,538) 57.1 (53.8; 60.6)	(N=1,466) 8,358.0 (7,879.2; 8,866.0)	(N=1,511) 30,599.8 (29,137.1; 32,135.9)
<i>Dose Interval</i>			
<6 weeks	(N=578) 61.4 (55.3; 68.0)	(N=578) 8,184.5 (7,423.9; 9,023.1)	(N=564) 21,384.2 (19,750.7; 23,152.8)
6-8 weeks	(N=339) 56.1 (49.6; 63.3)	(N=290) 9,103.9 (8,063.1; 10,279.1)	(N=331) 28,764.8 (25,990.8; 31,834.9)
9-11 weeks	(N=331) 53.6 (47.5; 60.4)	(N=309) 8,120.9 (7,100.2; 9,288.4)	(N=327) 37,596.1 (34,494.2; 40,976.8)
≥12 weeks	(N=290) 54.3 (47.6; 61.9)	(N=289) 8,249.7 (7,254.5; 9,381.4)	(N=289) 52,360.9 (47,135.2; 58,165.9)

N = Number of subjects included in each group; GMT = Geometric mean titre; CI = Confidence interval;
S = Spike

^a Immune response evaluated using a multiplex immunoassay; ^b in seronegative individuals who received two recommended doses of vaccine.

The immune response observed in participants with one or more comorbidities was consistent with the overall population.

High seroconversion rates were observed in older adults (≥65 years) after the first (97.3%; N=149) and second dose (100.0%; N=156). The increase in S-binding antibodies 28 days after second dose was lower for participants ≥65 years old (GMT=19,258.5 [N=161, 95% CI: 16,650.4; 22,275.1]) when compared to participants aged 18-64 years (GMT=32,337.1 [N=1,350, 95% CI: 30,720.8; 34,038.4]). The majority of participants ≥65 years old had a dose interval of <6 weeks, which may have contributed to the lower titres observed.

In participants with serological evidence of prior SARS-CoV-2 infection at baseline (GMT=10,979.1 [N=36; 95% CI: 6,452.7; 18,680.5]), S-antibody titres peaked 28 days after dose 1 (GMT=139,010.4 [N=35; 95% CI: 95,429.0; 202,495.1]) but did not increase further after the second dose.

Spike-specific T cell responses as measured by IFN- γ enzyme-linked immunospot (ELISpot) assay were induced after a first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. These did not rise further after a second dose.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Not applicable.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on a conventional study of repeat dose toxicity or reproductive toxicity.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

L-Histidine
L-Histidine hydrochloride monohydrate
Magnesium chloride hexahydrate
Polysorbate 80 (E 433)
Ethanol
Sucrose
Sodium chloride
Disodium edetate dihydrate
Water for injections

6.2 Incompatibilities

This vaccine must not be mixed with other medicinal products or diluted.

6.3 Shelf life

Unopened multidose vial
6 months

After first use

Use as soon as practically possible and within 6 hours. The vaccine may be stored between 2°C and 25°C during the in-use period.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Unopened multidose vial
Store in a refrigerator (2°C – 8°C).
Do not freeze.
Keep vials in outer carton to protect from light.

After first use

For storage conditions after first use of the medicinal product, see section 6.3.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Multidose vial

10-dose vial

5 ml of solution in a 10-dose vial (clear type I glass) with a halobutyl rubber stopper and an aluminium overseal with a plastic flip-off cap. Pack sizes of 10 multidose vials.

8-dose vial

4 ml of solution in an 8-dose vial (clear type I glass) with a halobutyl rubber stopper and an aluminium overseal with a plastic flip-off cap. Pack sizes of 10 multidose vials.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Handling instructions and administration

This vaccine should be handled by a healthcare professional using aseptic technique to ensure the sterility of each dose. The vaccine does not contain any preservative.

Do not use this vaccine after the expiry date which is stated on the label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Unopened multidose vial should be stored in a refrigerator (2°C – 8°C). Do not freeze.

Keep the vials in outer carton in order to protect from light.

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is a colourless to slightly brown, clear to slightly opaque solution. The vaccine should be inspected visually prior to administration and discarded if particulate matter or differences in the described appearance are observed. Do not shake the vial. Do not dilute the solution.

The vaccine should not be mixed in the same syringe with any other vaccines or medicinal products.

The vaccination course consists of two separate doses of 0.5 ml each. The second dose should be administered between 4 and 12 weeks after the first dose. Individuals who have received the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca should receive the second dose of the same vaccine to complete the vaccination course.

Each vaccine dose of 0.5 ml is withdrawn into a syringe for injection to be administered intramuscularly, preferably in the deltoid muscle of the upper arm. Use a separate sterile needle and syringe for each individual. Each vial contains at least the number of doses stated. It is normal for liquid to remain in the vial after withdrawing the final dose. When low dead volume syringes and/or needles are used, the amount remaining in the vial may be sufficient for an additional dose. Care should be taken to ensure a full 0.5 ml dose is administered. Where a full 0.5 ml dose cannot be extracted, the remaining volume should be discarded. Do not pool excess vaccine from multiple vials. After first dose withdrawal, use the vial as soon as practically possible and within 6 hours (stored at 2°C to 25°C). Discard any unused vaccine.

To facilitate the traceability of the vaccine, the name and the batch number of the administered product should be clearly recorded for each recipient.

Disposal

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca contains genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Any unused vaccine or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements. Spills should be disinfected using agents with activity against adenovirus.

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Not applicable.

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

Not applicable.

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Not applicable.

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

15/07/2021