

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**THROMBOSIS CANADA ENCOURAGES PATIENTS ON ANTICOAGULATION
TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE**

Thrombosis Canada guidance is that anticoagulant therapy should not be a barrier to getting vaccinated for the estimated 1 million Canadians on anticoagulants

Toronto, Ontario (December 22, 2020) – As COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration ramps up in Canada, physicians and patients are asking about managing vaccination in people who are receiving anticoagulant (blood thinning) therapy. This issue is important for an estimated 1 million Canadians who are receiving anticoagulant therapy, many of whom are elderly and are likely to be at higher risk for coronavirus-related health problems. It is important to emphasize that anticoagulant therapy should not be a barrier to the administration of the coronavirus vaccine. In our view, any bleeding risk due to anticoagulant therapy that may result in a hematoma (muscle bruise) at the vaccine injection site is greatly outweighed by the benefits of the vaccine.

The bottom line is that as Thrombosis Canada member Dr Menaka Pai says, “You can get the COVID-19 vaccine if you’re on blood thinners. Mask up, stay 6 ft apart, maintain your household bubble... and review Thrombosis Canada’s practical tips for healthcare professionals and patients to understand how to get the vaccine safely.”

The Thrombosis Canada guidance is as follows:

For patients on warfarin:

- We encourage patients who are receiving warfarin treatment to receive vaccinations, including the COVID-19 vaccine.
- There is a small risk of bruising at the vaccination injection site, but we do not expect any serious effects related to being on blood thinning treatment.
- We suggest that after the vaccine injection prolonged pressure for 3 to 5 minutes is applied to the injection site to reduce bruising.
- There is no need to measure the blood thinning level (INR test) just before receiving a vaccination; you should continue INR testing according to the schedule recommended by your doctor.

For patients on a newer blood thinner, one of apixaban (Eliquis), dabigatran (Pradaxa), edoxaban (Lixiana), or rivaroxaban (Xarelto):

- We encourage patients who are receiving blood thinning (anticoagulant) treatment to receive vaccinations, including the COVID-19 vaccine.
- There is a small risk of bruising at the vaccination injection site, but we do not expect any serious effects related to being on blood thinning treatment.
- We suggest that after the vaccine injection prolonged pressure for 3 to 5 minutes is applied to the injection site to reduce bruising.

For patients on aspirin or a similar drug because of a previous heart attack or stroke:

- We encourage patients who are receiving aspirin or similar drugs like clopidogrel (Plavix) or ticagrelor (Brillinta) to receive vaccinations, including the COVID-19 vaccine.

- There is a small risk of bruising at the vaccination injection site, but we do not expect any serious effects related to being on blood thinning treatment.
- We suggest that after the vaccine injection prolonged pressure for 3 to 5 minutes is applied to the injection site to reduce bruising.

We are still in the early stages of delivery of the vaccines for COVID-19 and our guidance may change as the vaccines are more broadly distributed. Watch the Thrombosis Canada website for changes to this guidance as the process continues.

Disclaimer:

Please note that the recommendations contained herein must be viewed as general guidelines based on current knowledge. Their application must be adapted to individual patients. Thrombosis Canada assumes no responsibility or liability arising from any error or omission or from the use of any information contained herein. You must not rely on the information in this document as an alternative to medical advice from your doctor or other professional healthcare provider.

@ThrombosisCan (www.ThrombosisCanada.ca)

Thrombosis Canada comprises a membership that includes the most eminent and internationally recognized thrombosis experts globally. Members have made many significant contributions to the body of knowledge in vascular medicine and disseminated that knowledge through hundreds of peer-reviewed publications, as well leading the development of international clinical practice guidelines.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS WITH PATIENTS AND DOCTORS, CALL:

David Airdrie

Executive Director

Thrombosis Canada

647-528-8586

info@thrombosiscanada.ca