

Post Covid Vaccine headache (Guidance may change)

Time of concern 4-30 days

Platelets and d dimer will reassure if no red flags.

If concern ref for urgent platelets and d dimer and possible imaging

Of concern

New-onset severe and persistent headache, thunderclap headache, headache worse on lying, blurred vision, confusion, seizures, shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, persistent abdominal pain, unusual skin bruising or pinpoint spots beyond the injection site.

or risk factors:

Vasculitis or thrombophilia, cerebral or systemic infections, trauma, malignancy, obesity, thyroid disease and inflammatory bowel disease.

And don't overlook other headache red flags that are not related:

- Sudden-onset severe headache, reaching maximum intensity within five minutes.
- New-onset headache in a person aged over 50 (consider temporal arteritis or a space-occupying lesion).
- A headache that progressively worsens or whose character changes dramatically.
- Associated features such as fever, seizure, neck stiffness, papilloedema, neurological deficit, personality change, dizziness, visual disturbance or vomiting.
- An atypical aura, or an aura occurring for the first time in a woman who uses a combined contraceptive method.
- A whole household with new headache – consider carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Immunocompromised due to unmanaged HIV, a primary immunodeficiency or the use of immunosuppressant drugs.
- Current or past malignancy – consider cerebral metastases

Further reading

<https://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/clinical-areas/pain/headache-after-covid-vaccination/>

https://b-s-h.org.uk/media/19512/guidance-version-10-on-mngmt-of-thrombosis-with-thrombocytopenia-occurring-after-c-19-vaccine_20210401.pdf