

GLENVILLE MEDICAL Concierge Care

Dear Patient,

We certainly have been excited about the COVID vaccines. As we're sure you are aware, the J&J vaccine has been placed on "pause" due to recent side effects concerning a rare clotting disorder. So far, this seems to be quite rare and has been reported in just 6 out of 6.8 million patients, specifically women between the ages of 16 and 48.



Interestingly, it sounds like a similar rare reaction to the Astra Zeneca vaccine which seems to have an autoimmune basis. The "pause" is to try to identify a possible mechanism and allow physicians to review any other possible concerns. This is actually good news in that vaccine responses continue to be reviewed closely.

For patients who have received the J&J vaccine, please let us know if you develop severe headaches, visual disturbances, a change or loss of consciousness, weakness, or seizures within 3 weeks of vaccination.

So far, the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have not shown any worrisome side effects after more than 180 million doses over a longer period of time, and they continue to be monitored. If you have been scheduled for a J&J vaccine, you will most likely receive a substitute mRNA vaccine or be rescheduled for some time in the future. In the meantime, we encourage the use of the mRNA Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Stay safe!

Cases are rising locally as restrictions are lifting and we're all suffering from COVID fatigue. Variants continue to emerge. While it looks like the vaccines offer protection against severe illness, please continue to wear masks, avoid large gatherings and wash your hands. Keep in mind that you are not fully protected until 2 weeks after receiving the second mRNA vaccine. And remember: now that spring has arrived, please protect yourself from ticks as you head out on walks.

Hopefully, we are seeing light at the end of this long tunnel! As always, please reach out if you need us.

Sincerely,

Steven Mickley, MD
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