South Africa suspends Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine rollout after researchers report ‘minimal’ protection against coronavirus

Despite earlier plans, South Africa has suspended its rollout of Oxford-AstraZeneca’s vaccine after researchers reported it was only modestly effective against a new variant of the coronavirus in the country.

The vaccine, which is manufactured by Johnson & Johnson in the US, was authorized by drug regulators in South Africa on February 5 after clinical trials showed it was 67% effective against COVID-19.

But researchers on Friday reported that the vaccine was only 50% effective against the more contagious B.1.351 variant that is spreading rapidly in the country, as well as other variants.

The vaccine, however, is still thought to be effective against reducing severe illness and hospitalization.

South Africa has already purchased 60 million doses of the vaccine, with plans to expand the rollout to the general population.

The suspension comes as health officials in the country prepare to administer the vaccine to healthcare workers and elderly people who are considered to be at higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 illness.

The vaccine is manufactured by AstraZeneca and is produced in the UK.

Researchers presented data from a trial involving 2,000 volunteers in South Africa, which showed that the vaccine had a lower efficacy rate against the B.1.351 variant than against other strains.

They said the vaccine was 74% effective against severe illnesses, but only 50% effective against symptomatic infections.

The findings are consistent with those from other studies in South Africa and other countries, which have shown that the vaccine is less effective against the B.1.351 variant.

However, officials said they would continue to monitor the situation closely and that the vaccine would likely still be used for those who are considered to be at higher risk of severe illness.

South Africa has already administered more than 1.5 million doses of the vaccine, and plans to vaccinate about 25 million people by the end of the year.

The suspension is the latest in a series of setbacks for the vaccine, which has been hailed as a key tool in the global fight against COVID-19.

But it has faced delays and uncertainty in some countries, with some governments expressing doubt about its effectiveness.

South Africa's suspension comes as other countries, including the US, Canada, and the UK, have also reported lower efficacy rates against the B.1.351 variant.

The vaccine is expected to be used in many countries around the world, including in the US and Canada, where it is expected to be approved for use within the coming months.

Researchers have been closely monitoring the vaccine's effectiveness against the B.1.351 variant, which is spreading rapidly in South Africa and other parts of the world.

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ในบทความจากนักวิจัย STU ผู้มีความรู้ด้านวัคซีนของโคโรนาไวรัสไวรัสโคโรนา SARS-CoV-2 ให้ข้อมูลในหลายประเทศในขณะนี้

南非的疫苗试验出现意外，导致南非暂停使用阿斯利康的COVID-19疫苗，因为该疫苗未能在阻止南非出现的新冠病毒变异株方面取得显著效果。南非卫生部长表示，尽管该疫苗在预防重症和死亡方面仍然有效，但在预防轻症和无症状感染方面的作用较弱。世界卫生组织则表示，各国应根据当地情况和疫苗的供应情况来决定是否继续使用该疫苗。
In South Africa may sell AstraZeneca shots as it switches to J&J vaccine to fight variant COVID-19, by Natalie Grover in https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/feb/08/how-can-covid-vaccines-be-tweaked-to-tackle-new-variants

In a rapidly changing landscape where vaccine variants are emerging and spreading, countries are adapting their vaccination strategies. South Africa, which had been using AstraZeneca shots, announced it would switch to Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine to fight the new variant COVID-19.

The decision was based on the country’s experience with the AstraZeneca vaccine, which had been found to be less effective against the new variant. The new variant, which is currently spreading rapidly in South Africa, is believed to be more transmissible and resistant to current vaccines.

The government decided to switch vaccines to ensure the maximum number of people are protected from the new variant. This is a common strategy employed by many countries to deal with the rapidly evolving nature of the virus.

The switch is expected to allow South Africa to accelerate its vaccination program, which is crucial in controlling the spread of the virus and preventing hospitalizations and deaths.

The move is also expected to provide some level of protection against the new variant, which is currently spreading rapidly in South Africa. The country has been hit hard by the pandemic, with over 1.5 million cases and more than 70,000 deaths reported so far.
เพราะหลายประเทศมีความหวังให้กับวัคซีนโควิด-19 ของแอสตราเซเนกาเป็นอย่างมากเพราะนอกจากจะราคาแพง แต่ยังสะดวกสบายด้วยระบบการฉีดวัคซีนที่มีอยู่ทั่วไปแล้ว วัคซีนโควิด-19 ของแอสตราเซเนกายังเป็นวัคซีนที่สำคัญของแผนขององค์การอนามัยโลกที่เกี่ยวกับการเผยแพร่และการสร้างหลักฐานวัคซีนโควิด-19 ให้แก่ประชาชนของโลกที่เรียกกันว่าโครงการโคเวร์ (COVAX) ที่ประเทศไทยมีมากมายที่อยู่ด้วย ดังนั้น อาจเป็นเวลาที่ต้องกลับไปเรื่อยแผนการฉีดวัคซีนให้แก่ประชาชนมากที่สุดในเวลานี้แผนปัจจุบันยังจะไม่ได้ยื่นหรือไม่เพียงพอ เลือกต่างๆที่มีอยู่คืออะไรหรือว่าต้องมีการปรับปรุงแผนที่มีอยู่รวมถึงกิจกรรมของรัฐต่างๆที่จะนำแผนไปปฏิบัติจริงส่วน

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