



Anticoagulation FORUM

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Should patients taking anticoagulants receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Medical experts are recommending for patients prescribed anticoagulants to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Many of these patients have underlying health conditions putting them at increased risk for serious illness if infected with COVID-19. There are no known pharmacological interactions between components of the vaccine and oral or parenteral anticoagulants. There is a risk of light bleeding, bruising, or hematoma at the injection site but the vaccine is not associated with a serious risk of bleeding. For patients taking warfarin, there is guidance to suggest that the INR should be below 4.0 or below the upper threshold of a person's therapeutic range prior to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine to reduce risk of bleeding complications.

Patients receiving the COVID-19 vaccine should make the vaccinator aware they are taking an anticoagulant. Anticoagulated patients should be vaccinated with a fine-gauge needle (23-gauge or smaller caliber) followed by firm pressure on the injection site for 2-5 minutes.

Resources:

1. [Vaccine Administration: Intramuscular \(IM\) injections: Adults 19 years of age and older \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/pdf/19-covid-19.pdf)
2. [COVID-19 and Blood Clotting | Blood Clots \(stoptheclot.org\)](https://stoptheclot.org/covid-19-and-blood-clotting/)
3. [COVID-19 Vaccination While on a Blood Thinner \(wpcomstaging.com\)](https://www.wpcomstaging.com/covid-19-vaccination-while-on-a-blood-thinner/)

Please closely follow all advisories from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov and your local public health organizations. Please refer to the AC Forum Anticoagulation Centers of Excellence Resource Center <https://acforum-excellence.org/Resource-Center/> and the COVID section <http://covid.acforum-excellence.org> for additional resources.