

# Vaccine link to blood clots

Europe's drug regulator\* has reported 222 cases of rare blood clotting among 34 million adults vaccinated with AstraZeneca's Covid shot – but says the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks

*\*Reported by European Medicines Agency (EMA) on April 7*

**1 BRAIN:** EMA reports 169 clots (thrombi) located in veins of brain – very rare form of clotting known as **cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST)**

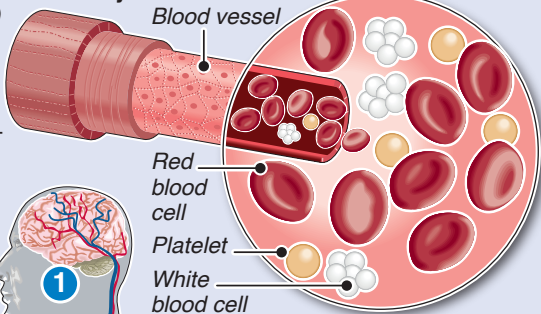
Thrombus in brain can block blood flow, causing stroke

*Normally one in every 200,000 people of all ages develop CVST in a given year*

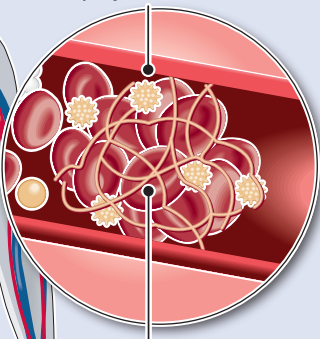
**2 ABDOMEN:** EMA reports 53 cases of **splanchnic vein thrombosis (SVT)** in stomach

All cases had combination of blood clots, bleeding and low levels of platelets

## Healthy blood flow



**Thrombus:** Platelets change shape from round to spiny, stick to each other



Platelets form mesh with blood cells and proteins. Mesh strengthened by strands of insoluble fibrin, producing clot

*EMA stated that most cases were found in women under 60.*

*There have been no reports of CVST or SVT following second dose of vaccine*