



CORONAVIRUS

AstraZeneca vaccine is dropped in Denmark

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That leaves three approved vaccines left, one of which has been paused.

The vaccine from AstraZeneca is now dropped completely in Denmark and is written out of the entire vaccination program.

This is how it sounds from the health authorities at a press conference in the National Board of Health on Wednesday.

Denmark is thus the first country in the world to choose to scrap the vaccine completely, after it has been on hiatus in several countries, while the connection between the vaccine and a few, but unusual side effects is being investigated.

Delayed for two reasons

The decision to drop the vaccine comes for two different reasons.

One reason is that a link between the vaccine and serious side effects such as rare blood clots can now be found.

This is what the director of the National Board of Health, Søren Brostrøm, says at today's press conference.

- We *know* that this is something that is due to the vaccine.

At the same time, he emphasizes that it is not only the connection between vaccine and side effects that causes the AstraZeneca vaccine to be dropped. Vaccines "always have side effects", he says, and in Denmark we are basically not "side-scared".

Moreover, it is only in extremely rare cases that the serious side effects occur. According to Søren Brostrøm, about one in 40,000 vaccinated people

experience getting them.

Therefore, the second reason for dropping the vaccine is also that the authorities do not want to run any risk by using it as long as the infection in Denmark is under as much control as it is at the moment.

Lightning analysis



Hans Engell

Political commentator

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Politically, it is serious that the AstraZeneca vaccine is now being dropped. But it only becomes extremely serious if the vaccine from Johnson & Johnson is also put out of action for a long time.

But everyone knows that it is not the government or Magnus Heunicke who can be blamed for problems with the vaccines. And for once, we in Denmark have been growing at the garden gate by getting large amounts of vaccine. Therefore, there is no panic mood yet - although of course it is a line in the bill.

Three vaccines left

Later on Wednesday, a new and updated calendar will be presented, in which the AstraZeneca vaccine will no longer be included.

With that vaccine out of the equation, there are three approved vaccines left in the Danish vaccination program.

What vaccines are left now?

1. **Pfizer-BioNTech:** Requires two connectors. Denmark has secured doses to vaccinate 4.6 million people with the American-German vaccine.
2. **Moderna:** Requires two connectors. Denmark has secured doses to vaccinate 3.0 million people with the American-German vaccine.
3. **Johnson & Johnson:** Requires a plug. Denmark has secured doses to vaccinate 8.2 million people with the American-German vaccine. The vaccine is currently being paused in Europe by the company itself.

Det drejer sig om de to vacciner fra Pfizer/BioNTech og Moderna, der allerede er i brug, samt en sidste fra Johnson & Johnson, der endnu ikke er taget i brug herhjemme.

Der er dog formentlig et stykke vej endnu til, at sidstnævnte vaccine ender i danske overarme, da det amerikanske selskab selv netop har udskudt

udrulningen

(<http://nyheder.tv2.dk/samfund/2021-04-13-johnson-johnson-udskyder-udrulning-af-vaccine-i-europa>)

i Europa på baggrund af seks tilfælde af sjældne blodpropper i USA.

De seks tilfælde kommer ud af i alt knap syv millioner amerikanere, der har fået Johnson & Johnson-vaccinen.

Derfor er heller ikke denne vaccine i spil i Danmark, men sundhedsmyndighederne oplyste tirsdag, at en endelig melding kommer senere denne uge.

Sammenhæng undersøges

De første og længe ventede vaccinedoser fra det svensk-britiske medicinalfirma AstraZeneca blev leveret herhjemme i februar, men siden 11. marts har vaccinen dog været sat helt på pause i Danmark.

Det har den, mens undersøgelser om en mulig sammenhæng mellem vaccinen og sjældne, men alvorlige blodpropper har stået på.

Det Europæiske Lægemiddelagentur (EMA) fortsatte længe med at anbefale brugen af AstraZeneca på trods af, at flere lande i Europa satte vaccinen på pause.

I sidste uge var beskeden fra EMA

(<https://nyheder.tv2.dk/samfund/2021-04-07-ema-ser-mulig-sammenhaeng-mellem-blodpropper-og-vaccine-men-fordele-opvejer>)

dog, at der er en mulig sammenhæng mellem den og de sjældne blodpropper.

Nevertheless, the agency recommends that member states continue to use the vaccine because the benefits of having the European population vaccinated outweigh the rare risks, it said.