

## **To patients undergoing gynecological treatment who are considering vaccination against Sars-COV-2 virus**

(Updated on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021)

- *The following Guidance is part of the AFOG's advocacy effort to inform our women of the knowledge currently available on this topic. It is not meant to be a clinical diagnostic service and you are advised to consult your own Healthcare Professional for any specific issues. This Guidance is not definitive as the situation may vary from one country or setting to another. As this pandemic evolves, we will keep this information updated at regular intervals. The information contained here relates to the AFOG Statements that can be accessed in the COVID-19 Corner for further information. All cancer patients, including gynecological malignancies, are susceptible to Sars-COV-2 virus, which can lead to severe COVID-19 disease and death. Cancer patients are the priority recipients of the new coronavirus vaccines in many countries.*
- Hence, we recommend vaccination of gynecological patients with the new coronavirus vaccine. Patients receiving surgeries would delay date of surgery from vaccination by at least a few days, while those receiving radiotherapy and/or drug therapies would not.
- Clinical trial data on the new coronavirus vaccine, which is currently being administered worldwide, shows that it can generally prevent COVID-19 infection by more than 90% with twice shots (up to 60% even for the delta variant).
- Safety: The only people who should not be vaccinated are those with severe and profound allergies to the new coronavirus vaccine itself, which is very rare. Almost all gynecologic patients can be vaccinated, regardless of pre-existing medical conditions or current medications. Patients with a history of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia and/or thrombosis should consider mRNA vaccines instead of the Adenovirus-type 26 vector vaccine.
- Efficacy: Cancer patients may have a difficult time acquiring immunity than healthy people, and may also may have a period when immunity is difficult to generate due to surgery or anticancer drug treatment. Nevertheless, sufficient

immunity can be generated from the vaccine. If you have any doubts about the timing of vaccination, please consult your doctor.

- We need to make a well-thought-out decision about vaccination, but we believe that the benefits of vaccination outweigh the adverse events in most cases as there are no reports of increased risk for the COVID-19 vaccines in patients even with cancer.

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