

## **Haematology triage policy for patients with previous vaccine-induced immune thrombocytopenia and thrombosis (VITT)**

VITT is a rare disorder occurring after COVID-19 vaccination and leading to blood clots in multiple organ sites including the venous sinuses of the brain. Untreated the risk of death is over 50%. People who have previously had VITT may present with recurrent symptoms. They need to be monitored closely. Signs of relapse may be when a patient's platelet count starts to fall or they develop new or recurrent symptoms.

These include

- Headaches which may be worse on lying down or bending forward, or associated with nausea or vomiting.
- Changes in vision, fits or weakness on one side of the body or face.
- Persistent abdominal (tummy) pain
- blood in the stools
- Chest pain, shortness of breath
- Leg swelling

Patients with previous VITT, who call up with new symptoms that they think may be their VITT returning, should have a full blood count, D Dimer and clotting screen including Clauss fibrinogen.

If the patient lives in the Oxford area, this should be through haematology triage or in A&E. If the patient lives near another hospital in the Thames Valley, the blood samples may either be taken in Oxford, or the patient will be diverted towards their local A&E.

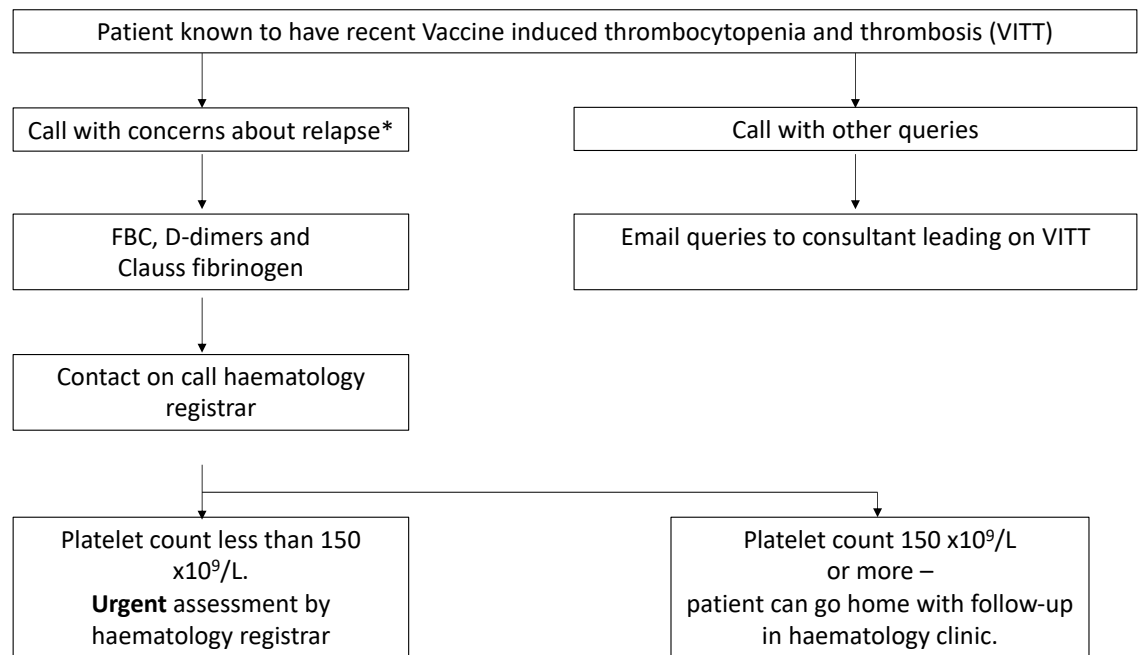
If the full blood count shows a normal platelet count, the patient may be discharged and asked to report the following day if symptoms persist or become worse.

If the platelet count is less than  $150 \times 10^9/L$  then urgent discussion with the haemostasis registrar on call is needed to decide on need for urgent treatment. Please see the guidance from the Expert Haematology Panel focussed on VITT <https://b-s-h.org.uk/about-us/news/guidance-produced-by-the-expert-haematology-panel-ehp-focussed-on-vaccine-induced-thrombosis-and-thrombocytopenia-vitt/> for more information.

A flow chart for calls from patients with previous TTP is on page 2 of this document.

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### Flow chart for triage calls for a patient with previous VITT



\*symptoms of VITT include headache, confusion, blurred vision, weakness on one side, severe abdominal or chest pain, stomach upset and bloody diarrhoea, anything unusual and severe.