



**Increase in Blood Pressure and COVID-19 Vaccination:
Statement of the French Society of Hypertension (SFHTA).**

Paris, February 14th, 2021

France Coronavirus Vaccine Campaign has started a month ago and is monitored closely by the French Pharmacovigilance System and National Drug Agency (ANSM) both noticing non severe, transitory, acute blood pressure (BP) elevation, occurring in hypertensive and non-hypertensive subjects. This adverse drug reaction (ADR) has been reported only to date with the Comirnaty Vaccine (Pfizer-BioNtech). Its incidence remains low, and needs to be investigated more precisely though not reported in clinical trials and publications up to now.

A quick review using the WHO Pharmacovigilance Database VigiBase™ (collecting Data from more than 100 national signal reporting systems) indicates that the number of hypertension reports is yet low (0,9%) among reported ADR and close to that reported for the Flu Vaccine Campaigns (0,5%).

In the absence of systematic BP measures, BP increases were reported in subjects being considered as symptomatic soon after vaccination. Symptoms were nonspecific or similar to flu-like syndrome with headaches. Some delayed (within one week) BP increases have also been reported. Data are insufficient to inter causality between the Comirnaty Vaccine injection and BP increases. This increase could merely reflect the consequence of an adrenergic reaction mediated by pain or stress/anxiety also triggered by excess media coverage of the vaccine campaign in France. Again this type of reactions have previously been reported for other vaccine (i.e. flu ..). Later increases in BP could be due to a previously undiagnosed hypertension.

Although transient and benign, these ADR are largely conveyed by the general media and could lead to illegitimate worries leading to inappropriate antihypertensive drug prescription before, during and after immunization or to delay or absence of a second shot of the vaccine.

Taken together, the available evidence **does not support a deleterious effect of COVID-19 vaccination on BP. Therefore, there is currently no reason to discontinue or postpone vaccination in hypertensive patients who are at high risk of severe COVID-19 or in subjects who experienced BP modifications after the first shot. The low incidence of BP increases does not require any systematic measurement or follow-up of BP recording or any antihypertensive drug administration before/during or after vaccination.**

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