

# Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine: Is It Efficacious?

## Purpose

There has been observed brand hesitancy between the Johnson & Johnson Janssen COVID-19 vaccine as compared to the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine where individuals have expressed concerns over disparities in efficacy. This likely stems from the blanket efficacy statements reported in media outlets where the Johnson & Johnson's vaccine reports an efficacy of 72% compared to 94% & 95% for Moderna and Pfizer respectively. The purpose of this info-bite is to clarify the concerns over efficacy so we can reassure our patients that all three vaccination options are efficacious and safe. The goal is to reduce vaccine brand hesitancy, as it may lead to a delay in vaccination, which may put our patients at risk.

## Is the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine efficacious?

Yes, the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine has proven efficacy. Its reportedly 100% efficacious against death due to COVID-19 AND prevention against hospitalization. Additionally, it is potentially effective against variant strains as it maintained high efficacy against severe disease (73-82%) across world regions. The 72% efficacy often noted includes prevention of mild & moderate disease; it is unclear at this time how efficacious the vaccine is against mild & moderate disease.

## Is the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine less efficacious than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine?

There is no evidence to claim that any of the three vaccines available are more efficacious than another. None of these vaccines have been compared in a head-to-head trial. Additionally, since the vaccine trials were tested at different times and locations, it further reduces one's ability to claim one is better than the other.

## Is the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine safe?

The rate of serious adverse events (injury, hospitalization, or death) in the Johnson & Johnson's trial was 0.4% in the vaccine group, and 0.4% in the placebo group. Severe reactions (those severe enough to prevent daily activity) were more common in the vaccine group, with reactions grade 3 or higher reported at 2.5% vs 0.7%. Injection site reactions occurred in 50% of vaccine recipients within 7 days (most commonly pain at the injection site). Roughly 55% of participants experienced systemic reactions within 7 days (headache, fatigue, and myalgia).

## Which vaccine is best?

The vaccine you can get soonest!

The Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine reports 100% efficacy against death due to COVID-19 and prevention of hospitalization.

