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Vaccination of persons under 30 against COVID-19 in the context of the occurrence of myocarditis and pericarditis after administration of messenger RNA vaccines

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On July 27, 2021, a [preliminary opinion from the Quebec Committee on Immunization \(CIQ\)](#) was published on the risk of myocarditis or pericarditis related to the vaccination of young people aged 12 to 39 with mRNA vaccines. Since then, new information has accumulated regarding myocarditis or pericarditis associated with mRNA vaccines, particularly regarding the clinical outcome of cases and the differences in risk depending on the product used. The situation has also changed with the [achievement of vaccination coverage \(adequately vaccinated people\) of approximately 80% among 12-17 year olds and 83% among 18-29 year olds](#), and the start of the vaccination campaign for 5-11 year olds with the pediatric version of the Pfizer-BioNTech product on November 24, 2021. A revision of the previous opinion therefore seems relevant knowing that the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recently issued [new recommendations](#) in this regard.

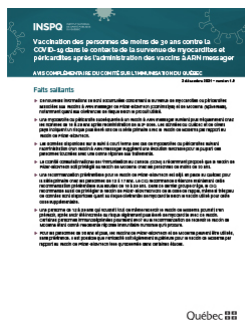
Highlights

- New information has accumulated concerning the occurrence of myocarditis or pericarditis associated with messenger RNA vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty®) and Moderna (Spikevax®), in particular regarding the differences in risk depending on the product used.
- Post-mRNA vaccine myocarditis or pericarditis occurs more frequently in males 18-29 years of age after the 2nd dose. Data from Quebec and various countries indicate a higher risk in the primary series with Moderna's vaccine compared to Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine.
- The data available on the short-term follow-up of cases of myocarditis or pericarditis following the administration of a messenger RNA vaccine suggest a favorable outcome for most of those affected with a good response to treatment.
- Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recently proposed that Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine be preferred over Moderna's vaccine in people under 30 years of age.
- A preferential recommendation for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is already in place in Quebec for the primary series in people aged 12 to 17. The CIQ recommends that this preferential recommendation now be extended to adults aged 18 to 29. In this last age group, the CIQ also recommends giving preference to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine during the booster dose, even if very little data is available on the differential risk of myocarditis depending on the vaccine used for this additional dose.
- A person between the ages of 12 and 29 who would still like to receive Moderna's vaccine could take advantage of it, having been informed of the slightly higher risk of myocarditis with this vaccine. Some immunocompromised people might have been recommended to receive Moderna's vaccine given the excellent humoral immune response it provides.
- For people 30 years and older, vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna can be used, without preference. Efficacy may be slightly higher for Moderna's vaccine compared to Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine as observed in some studies.

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Author(s):

- [Nicholas Brousseau](#)
- [Philippe De Wals](#)
- [Isabelle Roll](#)
- [Marilou Kiely](#)
- [Gaston De Serres](#)
- [Chantal Sauvageau](#)
- [Caroline Ouach Thanh](#)

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