

# THANZ Multidisciplinary<sup>†</sup> VITT Guideline for Doctors

## Background

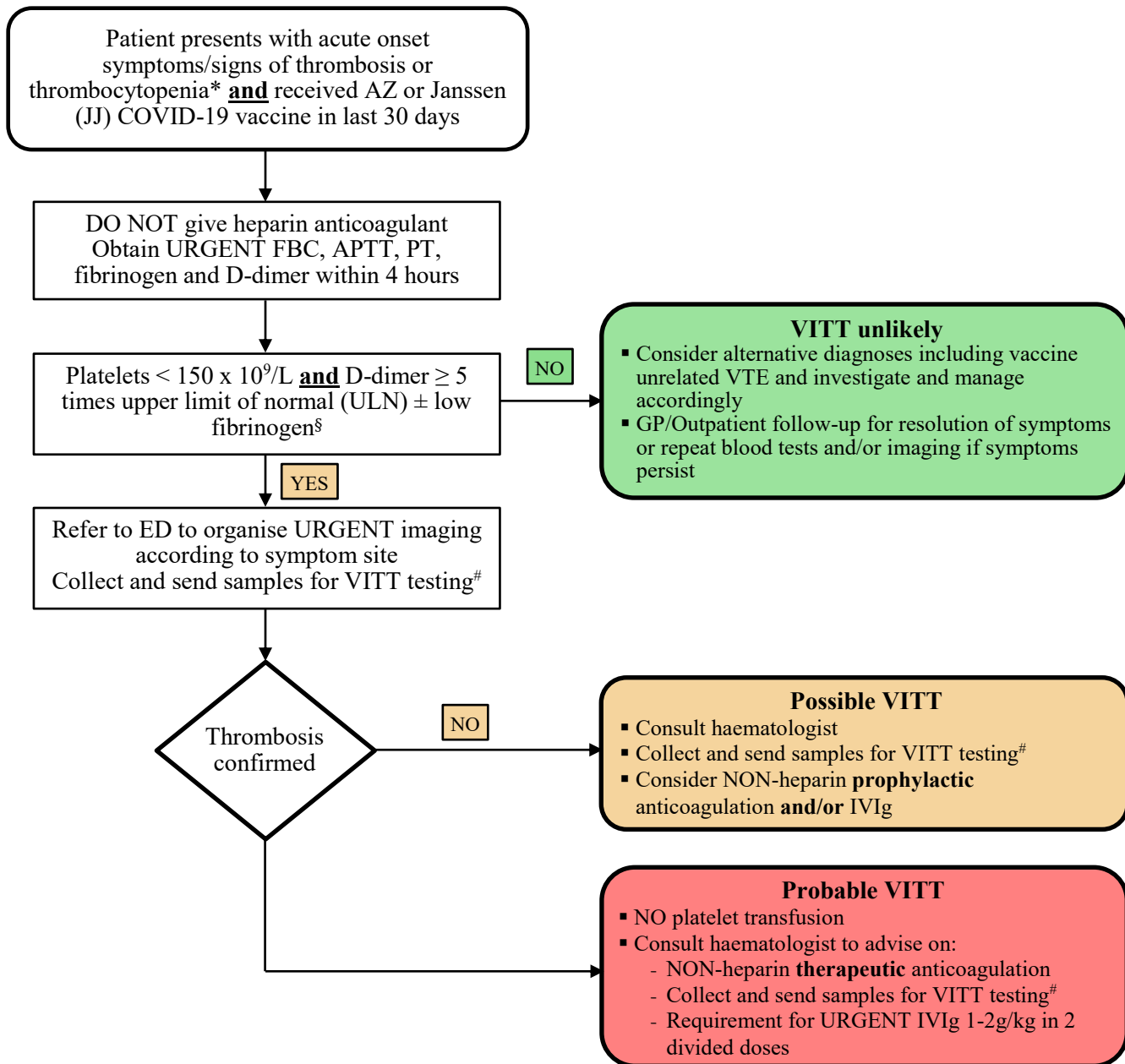
A severe prothrombotic syndrome associated with thrombocytopenia has been described in a small number of patients exposed to the COVID-19 AstraZeneca and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine. This syndrome is currently being called several names: VITT (vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia), TTS (thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome), and VIPIT (vaccine-induced prothrombotic immune thrombocytopenia). For the purposes of this Thrombosis & Haemostasis society of Australia New Zealand (THANZ) Multidisciplinary guideline, the term VITT will be used. It has been observed in early reported cases that platelet transfusions and administration of heparin may lead to progressive thrombosis.

## What causes this syndrome?

The exact pathophysiology of the syndrome is still unknown however, the majority of cases are associated with the presence of pathological antibodies against platelet factor 4 (PF4) or PF4/polyanion complexes. These antibodies are only detectable by specific ELISA methods in specialized laboratories.

## When should I suspect VITT?

- Onset of symptoms 4 – 30 days after vaccination, AND
- Thrombosis – cerebral venous sinuses, splanchnic vein; VTE/PE and arterial also reported; AND
- Thrombocytopenia ( $<150 \times 10^9$ ), AND
- High d-dimer (typically  $> 5 \times$  ULN)



\*Symptoms/signs:

**CVT:** persistent headache, visual changes, focal neurological symptoms, seizures, coma, secondary ICH

**Splanchnic vein thrombosis:** abdominal pain

**PE/DVT:** chest pain, dyspnoea, leg pain, redness or swelling

**Arterial ischaemia:** pallor and coldness in limb, myocardial ischaemia

**Thrombocytopenia:** petechiae, acute onset bruising or bleeding

§ If normal platelet count and d-dimer  $\geq 5 \times$  ULN with persisting symptoms, consider repeat FBC and/or imaging



#Link to VITT Testing Form



Link to THANZ Advisory Statement

†The following professional societies (†† additionally denotes formal endorsement) and their nominated representatives were part of the development of this document:

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