

### **Additional provision of support for Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombocytopenia and Thrombosis (VITT) patients**

As a consequence of the clear need for psychological support for patients who have experienced Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombocytopenia and Thrombosis (VITT), Thrombosis UK is pleased to share news of two new services provided by the charity that may be of benefit:

- A closed Facebook peer to peer support group specifically for VITT patients
- An internet-based psychological support service led by a clinical psychologist to which patients may be referred by clinicians or self-refer.

These provisions add to our existing support including patient and professional-focused information on VITT and a range of psychological coping strategies presently available on the Thrombosis UK website (<https://thrombosisuk.org/vitt.php> )

#### ***Facebook***

Thrombosis UK currently has run a highly successful Facebook peer to peer support group for patients with VTE for several years. Unfortunately, this cannot meet the needs of VITT patients. Accordingly, we have now established a second, fully moderated, closed support group, restricted to patients with a confirmed diagnosis of VITT.

We will not advertise this group publicly on our social media channels but would ask you to notify your VITT patients of the group. They can access it by emailing [clare@thrombosisuk.org](mailto:clare@thrombosisuk.org) stating they wish to join and detailing how they found out about the group.

#### ***Psychological support***

Thrombosis UK is also supporting the provision of a psychology therapy and consultancy service specifically for VITT patients. This will be led by a clinical psychologist (Prof Paul Bennett) with substantial experience in the treatment of individuals experiencing adverse psychological reactions to significant health challenges.

Although operating virtually (via zoom), this will function much as a typical service, providing live therapy sessions, email support, and consultations as appropriate. All patients referred will have an initial 'live' consultation and follow-up support as appropriate. Healthcare professionals in the UK can refer a UK resident who has been diagnosed with VITT for assessment to this service by emailing [paul@thrombosisuk.org](mailto:paul@thrombosisuk.org) with typical referral information, including the patient's email address through which contact will generally be made.

Alternatively, UK residents who have been diagnosed with VITT can read more about the service and resources available and contact the service via this website page: <https://thrombosisuk.org/vitt-support.php>