**ICCK statement on covid vaccines**

1. All the approved vaccines in India are safe and effective in preventing severe disease and death due to covid 19. All cardiac patients are encouraged to get their vaccination at the earliest. These vaccines are safe and side effects like blood clots and inflammation of the heart are very rare.
2. The interval between doses vary among vaccines and patients are advised to follow the instructions given at the vaccination centre. For example, covishield needs a minimum interval of 12 weeks between doses whereas covaxin needs only 4 weeks.
3. Patients should be aware that vaccine offers protection only 2-3 weeks after second dose of vaccination and should continue to take all precautions.
4. Since the duration of protection offered by current generation of vaccines is unknown at this point and immune escape phenomenon noted especially with mutant strains of virus, public should continue social distancing, masks and hand hygiene even after full vaccination.
5. The purpose of the vaccine is to prevent severe disease or death and to break the chain to end pandemic. Breaking the chain of transmission of covid is possible only after 60-70% of population is fully vaccinated.
6. Patients on oral anticoagulants like warfarin can get vaccinated if INR is less than 3. No need to stop anticoagulation if INR is within therapeutic range. They are advised to apply pressure at the injection site for 2 minutes after vaccination.
7. Those on newer anticoagulants like dabigatran, rivaroxaban, apixaban etc. can skip one dose of medicine on the previous day of vaccination. They are also advised to apply pressure at the injection site for 2 minutes after vaccination.
8. Cardiac patients on antiplatelet medications like aspirin, clopidogrel, ticagrelor etc. can receive vaccination safely without any modification of medications.
9. Other than hypersensitivity to vaccines, there is no absolute contra indications to receive covid vaccines for cardiac patients.
10. Pregnant women whether cardiac patient or not, are strongly advised to get covid vaccines at the earliest, considering bad outcomes observed with covid during preganancy.