

Pharmaceutical News Highlights

Brain clots far more likely from Covid-19 than vaccines

Reuters reported on April 15, that according to British research there is a much higher risk of brain blood clots from COVID-19 infection than there is from vaccines against the disease. The researchers said in a pre-print study that the risk of CVST was eight to 10 times higher following COVID-19 infection than it was from existing vaccines for the disease. The researchers highlighted that COVID-19 was associated with more common clotting disorders than CVST, such as strokes, and that recent debate around vaccines had lost sight of how bad the disease itself could be. The research team, from Oxford University, said they worked independently from the Oxford vaccine team which developed AstraZeneca's shot.

Lesotho grower is Africa's first to sell medicinal cannabis flower to EU

In April a **Lesotho**-based cannabis cultivator **MG Health** has been approved by the EU as the first manufacturer in Africa to export the medicinal cannabis flower as an active pharmaceutical ingredient to the European Union, reported **Business Insider** (16 April 2021). MG Health operates a cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility near Maseru in the mountainous region near Mohale Dam. Meanwhile doctors in Ontario in **Canada** are still hesitant to prescribe medical cannabis to patients suffering long-term pain – 20 years after it was first introduced and despite hundreds of thousands of Canadians using medical cannabis – according to a study published in the **Canadian Medical Association Journal Open**

Malaria vaccine trial results may indicate a 'game-changer'

The first malaria vaccine to meet a World Health Organisation (WHO)-specified goal of more than 75% efficacy has been developed by scientists at the University of Oxford, reported **Reuters** (23 April 2021). The shot uses Matrix-M adjuvant technology and was used in trials in 450 children ages 17 months to five years in Burkina Faso and “was well-tolerated”, the team at the university's Jenner Institute said. The Serum Institute of India has agreed to make the malaria vaccine once approved.