

The Virgin Islands Consortium

AstraZeneca May Have Used Outdated Data in its Disclosure For its Covid-19 Vaccine, Health Officials Say

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U.S. health officials said early Tuesday they were made aware that AstraZeneca may have provided outdated data in its disclosure of trial results for its Covid-19 vaccine.

In a brief statement, the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) said the outdated information could have “provided an incomplete view of the efficacy data.” AstraZeneca as of early Tuesday had not responded to the NIAID statement.

The statement comes on the heels of AstraZeneca's release of data from large-scale U.S. trials, which found its Covid-19 vaccine to be 79 percent effective against the disease. The data represented a boost for the firm, which had experienced setbacks in Europe following reports of unusual blood clotting, raising concerns about the vaccine's safety. European regulators have since said the vaccine is safe.

NIAID said an independent monitoring board working with AstraZeneca on its Covid-19 trials raised concerns about the company's data disclosure and urged AstraZeneca to work with it to ascertain that the most accurate and up-to-date information is provided to the public.

AstraZeneca on Monday announced its intention to submit its Covid-19 vaccine to the Food and Drug Administration for emergency use in the U.S. and expected the vaccine to be available in the country by May if approved.