

Covid-19. AstraZeneca vaccine stops being sold in Europe

07 May, 2024 - 01:17 • João Pedro Quesado

The company argues with vaccines developed for new variants and says that Vaxzevria "is no longer manufactured or administered".

The AstraZeneca vaccine against covid-19 will no longer be sold from this Tuesday in the European Union. The European Commission has acceded to the British pharmaceutical company's request to withdraw the marketing authorisation, granted in 2021.

According to the [Spanish daily "ABC"](#), the company asked Ursula von der Leyen's Commission on 5 March to withdraw the authorisation on the vaccine "Vaxzevria", which it developed against covid-19 together with the University of Oxford.

"Given that multiple updated vaccines have been developed for COVID-19 variants, there is now a surplus of vaccines available. This has led to a decrease in demand for Vaxzevria, which is no longer manufactured or managed," the company's Spanish subsidiary said in a statement.

The company also underlined the role of the vaccine in the fight against the pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. "According to independent estimates, more than 6.5 million lives have been saved and more than 3 billion doses have been delivered worldwide in the first year of use alone," AstraZeneca said.

This year, AstraZeneca admitted in court documents that the vaccine it produced may have rare side effects, in a case in which 51 victims and families are seeking £100 million in damages from the company for causing Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome.

This company's vaccine was one of the first to hit the market, but administration has been halted in several countries, including Portugal, due to reports of blood clots and a lower efficacy rate compared to other vaccines.