



The Consumer Healthcare Association

19 Feb 2021

PAGB responds to reports about over-the-counter painkillers and COVID-19 vaccination

In response to media reports that some doctors have advised against taking over-the-counter painkillers shortly before receiving a COVID-19 vaccination because of a lack of evidence about whether it impacts the body's response to the vaccine, Michelle Riddalls, CEO of PAGB, the consumer healthcare association, said: "There is currently no evidence that either ibuprofen or paracetamol affects the body's immune response to any type of COVID-19 vaccine.

"NHS information for people having the vaccine says that anyone who experiences mild side-effects such as a headache or tenderness in the arm after their vaccination can take over-the-counter pain relief to alleviate their symptoms.

"We would urge everyone to take the vaccination when it's offered and to treat any mild side effects, or discomfort experienced after receiving the injection, in accordance with NHS advice.

"As with all medicines, you should always read the information and follow the instructions – and don't forget you can ask a pharmacist for advice if necessary."

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Notes to editors:

PAGB, the consumer healthcare association, represents the manufacturers of branded OTC medicines, self care medical devices and food supplements in the UK.

For further information please contact Polly Newton, Media and Communications Manager, polly.newton@pagb.co.uk or call 07706 001500.