

THE EPOCH TIMES



Dr. Aseem Malhotra. (Courtesy of Dr. Aseem Malhotra)

PREMIUM **VACCINES & SAFETY**

Doctor Turns Against Messenger RNA COVID-19 Vaccines, Calls for Global Pause

By [Zachary Stieber](#) and [Jan Jekielek](#) | September 26, 2022 Updated: September 26, 2022

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A doctor who promoted COVID-19 vaccines is now calling for health authorities around the world to pause administration of two of the most-widely utilized COVID-19 vaccines, asserting that the benefits from the vaccines may not outweigh the risks.

“There is more than enough evidence—I would say the evidence is overwhelming—to pause the rollout of the vaccine,” Dr. Aseem Malhotra, a British cardiologist and evidence-based medicine expert, told The Epoch Times.

A paper from Malhotra was published on Sept. 26 detailing the evidence.

Among the citations is a [recent reanalysis](#) of the [Pfizer](#) and [Moderna](#) clinical trials that concluded vaccinated trial participants were at higher risk of serious adverse events. Malhotra called the study a “smoking gun.”

Malhotra also pointed to the lack of reduction in mortality or severe disease in the trials, which were completed in 2020.

Taking into account death rates and other figures since then, the number of people who need to be vaccinated to prevent a single COVID-19 death ranges from 93,000 for people aged 18 to 29 to 230 for people aged 80 and above, according to [an analysis](#) of UK safety and effectiveness data by the Health Advisory & Recovery Team.

The author also noted that serious side effects have been detected after the trials, such as myocarditis, a form of heart inflammation.

Overall, looking at the absolute benefits and drawbacks of the vaccines, it's time to halt their usage and allow authorities and other experts to closely examine the data to see if the vaccines should be used again down the road, according to Malhotra.

The paper [was published in the Journal of Insulin Resistance](#) in [two parts](#) following peer review.

Pfizer and Moderna did not return requests for comment.

Reversal

Malhotra received the Pfizer primary series in January 2021. He became a promoter of the vaccine, even appearing on “Good Morning Britain” to advise Indian film director Gurinder Chadha to get the shot. Chadha did so shortly after.

Malhotra said he began digging into vaccine data after his father, Dr. Kailash Chand, suffered a cardiac arrest at home approximately six months after receiving Pfizer's vaccine.

The post-mortem showed two of Chand's major arteries were severely blocked, even though Malhotra described his father as a fit person who did not have any significant heart problems.

Malhotra began reading about post-vaccination issues, including [a study abstract in the journal Circulation](#) that identified a higher risk of a heart attack following vaccination with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, and [a study from Nordic counties](#) that identified a higher risk of myocarditis. While authorities have claimed that myocarditis is more common after COVID-19 than vaccination, many studies [have found otherwise, at least for certain age groups](#). Some papers [have found](#) no increased incidence of heart inflammation for COVID-19 patients.

Malhotra has come to believe his father's death was linked to the vaccine.

“I’ve always approached medicine and science with uncertainties because things constantly evolve. And the information I had at the time is completely different to the information I have now,” Malhotra told The Epoch Times. “And in fact, it is my duty and responsibility as the information has changed to act on that information. And that’s what I’m doing.”



A doctor prepares the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination center in Halifax, England, on July 31, 2021. (Ian Forsyth/Getty Images)

Response to Criticism

After the new paper was published, critics noted that Malhotra is a board member of the Journal of Insulin Resistance.

Malhotra acknowledged the position but said that the article went through an independent peer review process and that he has no financial links to the journal.

The doctor encouraged people to view his publication history, which includes articles in the British Medical Journal and the Journal of the American Medical Association.

He said he chose to submit the paper to the insulin journal for several reasons, including it being “one of the few journals that doesn’t take money from the pharmaceutical industry.”

“I don’t think that there’s any validity to question the integrity of the piece,” he said. “People can argue I’ve got an intellectual bias. We all have intellectual biases, but there’s certainly no financial bias for me.”

Gains Support

Leading scientists say the new paper is important.

“We fully believe that vaccines are one of the great discoveries in medicine that has improved life expectancy dramatically, however, mRNA genetic vaccines are different, as long-term safety evaluation is lacking but mandatory to ensure public safety,” Sherif Sultan, president of the International Vascular Society, said in a statement, adding that the findings “raise concerns regarding vaccine-induced undetected severe cardiovascular side effects and underscore the established causal relationship between vaccines and myocarditis, a frequent cause of unexpected cardiac arrest in young individuals.”

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, a professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of Stanford, added that Malhotra “makes a good case that there is considerable heterogeneity across age groups and other comorbid conditions in the expected benefits and expected side effect profiles of the vaccine” and “finds that while there may be a case for older people to take the vaccine because the benefits may outweigh expected harm that may not be the case for younger people.”

Dr. Campbell Murdoch, who advises the Royal College of General Practitioners, said that the study “describes multiple systemic failures in the provision of safe and effective evidence-based medicine,” and that the situation has made it “impossible for patients and the public to make an informed choice about what is best for their health and life.”

Some others criticized the paper, including Dr. Victoria Male, an immunologist at Imperial College London.

Male wrote on Twitter that the table in the paper outlining the number of people in each age group estimated to need a vaccination to prevent a COVID-19 death “is quite in favour of vaccination.”