

"THE DISAPPEARED VACCINE"

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CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

In December 2021, the pictures of Nigeria destroying one million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine appeared worldwide. The doses were a donation from other countries, but they were close to expiring.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

If the doses were expired, who had to pay for their disposal?

LUDOVICA JONA – INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST

The country that received them, of course. In Nigeria, we saw the bulldozers burying those vaccines in an open landfill without safety measures in place.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Ludovica Jona collaborated to "Follow the doses", the transnational project funded by the European Commission, and followed the AstraZeneca doses donated by Italy to other Countries.

LUDOVICA JONA - INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST

By examining a contract ratified between Italy and Rwanda for an AstraZeneca donation, we found out that two-thirds of the 856,000 doses, namely more than half a million vials, were to expire just 27 days after; so, a country like Rwanda was supposed to organise a vaccination campaign to provide 25 thousand doses per day. It is a complex procedure, even for a European country.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

The Ministry of Health of Rwanda announced the receipt of the doses on 4 October 2021, but after reading the contract, most of them were to expire on 31 October. Instead, this is the contract ratified between Italy and Libya, where the Libyan Ministry's signature came before the AstraZeneca's.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Why did they have to wait for AstraZeneca to sign?

LUDOVICA JONA - INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST

The framework contract concluded between the European Commission and the pharma company AstraZeneca envisages a clause in which each EU member state must obtain written consent from the company to send doses abroad.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

AstraZeneca was sent to these low and middle-income countries because we no longer use it.

SARA ALBIANI – OXFAM GLOBAL HEALTH SPOKESPERSON - ITALY

The impression we had, and ultimately the actual situation, was that we were sending our scraps to low and middle-income countries, to put it bluntly. Also, African countries have a very young population, and the vaccine we sent was not advised or suitable for those age groups.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Is there a pharmaco-vigilance system in these countries? What do we know about it?

SARA ALBIANI – OXFAM GLOBAL HEALTH SPOKESPERSON - ITALY

Pharmaco-vigilance is quite unstable, as these countries often have weak healthcare systems.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

According to a study conducted by scientists and the EMA's representatives, low and middle-income countries have reported only 3.2% of vaccine-induced severe adverse events.

SARA ALBIANI – OXFAM GLOBAL HEALTH SPOKESPERSON - ITALY

Moreover, the country receiving the vaccines had to bear any compensation claims.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

We donated these vaccines to low and middle-income countries. Right?

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA 2020-2023 DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Maybe the vaccine donation occurred too late. It might have been done earlier and better.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

To your knowledge, is there a pharmaco-vigilance system in place?

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA 2020-2023 DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Your question on pharmaco-vigilance and where it is. In a developing country, it is where it is.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

So, there is not?

NICOLA MAGRINI - AIFA 2020-2023 DIRECTOR-GENERAL

So we should not send them vaccines because there is no pharmaco-vigilance? I don't understand. Your tendency... leaves me astonished...

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Criticism was also made to...

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA 2020-2023 DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Your question surprises me... you are worrying about...

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Seriously?

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA 2020-2023 DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I am totally shocked...

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Shocked? The EMA experts observed that one issue with the donation of these doses concerned the absence of a pharmaco-vigilance system in those countries, and I didn't come up with these thoughts.

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA 2020-2023 DIRECTOR-GENERAL

We agree on that, but generally speaking, pharmaco-vigilance usually underestimates the incidence rate, as explained by any pharmacology book.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

The main criticism was that, ultimately, these countries were sent the vaccine unwanted by Europe, as it was no longer used.

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA 2020-2023 DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I disagree with that. We also sent them MnRA vaccine stocks.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Yes, later. When that vaccine was no longer used in our vaccination campaigns.

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA 2020-2023 DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Let me add one thing: more vaccines are needed. Not less.

SIGFRIDO RANUCCI - STUDIO

It is the ignominious ending of a vaccine that was thought to be perfect. A vaccine on which Europe and Italy had bet for mass immunisation. Why was a story that looked so perfect suddenly interrupted by a series of contradictory pieces of information, news and circular letters that spread confusion and distrust among people? What could have been considered a promising vaccine for people over 60 was discarded. We donated it to the African countries when it was about to expire. It quickly disappeared from vaccination centres at the end of 2021. First, we had 40 million doses; 12 million were administered, and 10.5 million were disposed of by the pharmaceutical company. The rest became a donation for low and middle-income countries, operated through Covax and using bilateral agreements. However, we sent them where there is no adequate pharmaco-vigilance system to detect possible adverse, rare, or severe effects, as experienced by young Europeans and Italians. Pharmaco-vigilance bulletins told their stories as statistics, but the families still seek justice. Our correspondent Claudia Di Pasquale.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Exactly three years ago, Italy launched the AstraZeneca vaccination campaign against COVID-19 in February. The first doses of the Oxford vaccine were administered to teachers and law enforcement. The photo reporter Fabrizio Villa, brother of Davide Villa, head of the police mobile squad of Catania, was the first to show these images to the officers of the Catania police headquarters.

FABRIZIO VILLA - DAVIDE VILLA'S BROTHER

I remember smiling and telling him: I will take a picture of you tomorrow while you get the vaccine shot.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Was he happy to get vaccinated?

FABRIZIO VILLA - DAVIDE VILLA'S BROTHER

Davide took care of Mom, who is old and sick. He immediately thought that getting vaccinated was necessary to protect her.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Davide Villa gets vaccinated on 18 February 2021. On the 22nd, he takes part in a police raid, and then he begins to experience abdominal pain. So, on March 2, Fabrizio drove him to the emergency room of the Catania hospital.

FABRIZIO VILLA - DAVIDE VILLA'S BROTHER

The doctors of the emergency unit struggle to understand what he has, but nobody asks him whether he got vaccinated.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

The following day, Davide Villa gets transferred to the San Marco hospital.

FABRIZIO VILLA - DAVIDE VILLA'S BROTHER

He was sent to the Intensive Care Unit and diagnosed with a cerebral hemorrhage with evidence of thrombocytopenia and portal vein thrombosis. That was the moment his agony started for the next 30 hours.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Davide Villa died on 6 March 2021. He was 50. This was the first case of death due to the administration of the first AstraZeneca dose in Italy. The Public Prosecutor's Office in Messina established that there was a causal link between the vaccine and the onset of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia, which caused his death.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

What did the Prosecutor's Office do?

FABRIZIO VILLA - DAVIDE VILLA'S BROTHER

They archived the case.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

How did they justify it?

FABRIZIO VILLA - DAVIDE VILLA'S BROTHER

They said that, given the emergency of that period, no criminal liability could be recognised. But I cannot accept that no one is responsible. AstraZeneca did not donate the vaccine during the pandemic, so if something went wrong, they must bear responsibility. I got vaccinated, like anyone else in my family. We had trust in the vaccine, for pity's sake, but I lost my brother. How can I be okay with archiving the case?

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

A few days after Davide Villa's decease, on 9 March 2021, another person died: Stefano Paternò, a naval petty officer who didn't know he had COVID without symptoms.

GIORGIO SEMINARA – PATERNÒ'S FAMILY LAWYER

The night after he got vaccinated, he started feeling bad and had acute respiratory distress. Despite the prompt intervention of 118, he couldn't make it to the next day.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

What were the autopsy results?

GIORGIO SEMINARA - PATERNÒ'S FAMILY LAWYER

The expert report found an aetiological link between the administration of the vaccine and the death of Stefano Paternò. This was clearly stated.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Did they find the responsible persons?

GIORGIO SEMINARA - PATERNÒ'S FAMILY LAWYER

The proceedings ended, and the case against AstraZeneca or the medical staff was closed.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Is AstraZeneca compensating Paternò's family somewhat?

GIORGIO SEMINARA - PATERNÒ'S FAMILY LAWYER

No, AstraZeneca is not compensating them.

TG1 of 11/03/2021

AstraZeneca: many European countries suspend vaccinations. But, according to EMA, benefits exceed risks.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

On 7 March 2021, Austria suspended the use of an AstraZeneca batch after the decease of a 49-year-old nurse. The same batch is then suspended across other EU Countries. On 11 March 2021, Italy suspended the batch that contained the vaccines administered to Paternò and Villa, and, on the same day, Denmark, Norway and Iceland announced the temporary general suspension of AstraZeneca vaccines.

GIOVANNI REZZA - PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

Then, on 15 March, a decision was made for precautionary reasons all of a sudden – isn't that true? That of suspending vaccinations with AstraZeneca.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

The decision lasted three days.

GIOVANNI REZZA - PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

Why? Because there was still no clear evidence or sufficient elements to establish a causal link between the vaccine and the adverse event.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

On 19 March 2021, the Ministry of Health quoted an Aifa statement and wrote that EMA had confirmed AstraZeneca's positive benefit/risk ratio, thus excluding a link between the thrombosis cases and the vaccine. The truth was that EMA did not exclude such a link; it considered it a possibility instead.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

According to you, they excluded it.

NICOLA MAGRINI –2020-2023 AIFA DIRECTOR-GENERAL

As far as I know, the first cases in March were all but confirmed or confirmable as attributable.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

The words excluded and possible are pretty different. They can be excluded or possible.

NICOLA MAGRINI – 2020-2023 AIFA DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Let's put it this way: I honestly tried to defend a public vaccine; having more than one option was paramount. In my opinion, on 15 March, with just one case...

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

18 March. It was on 18 March.

NICOLA MAGRINI – 2020-2023 AIFA DIRECTOR-GENERAL

What's the difference, 15, 18...

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Well, everything is different.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

In those days, the world-known German immunologist Andreas Greinacher had already started analysing samples from 11 patients.

ANDREAS GREINACHER – IMMUNOLOGY PROFESSOR – UNIVERSITY OF GREIFSWALD

We received the first sample on Tuesday, 16 March, at 2 pm and found a solution by noon on Wednesday. To treat those cases, you had to administer immunoglobulins, a drug available in all hospitals.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

How old were these 11 patients?

ANDREAS GREINACHER – IMMUNOLOGY PROFESSOR – UNIVERSITY OF GREIFSWALD

They were in the 20 - 50 age range and showed symptoms of thrombocytopenia, acute headache or acute stomach pain due to severe thrombotic brain or abdominal events.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Is there a causal link between these cases of thrombosis accompanied by low platelets and the AstraZeneca vaccine?

ANDREAS GREINACHER – IMMUNOLOGY PROFESSOR – UNIVERSITY OF GREIFSWALD

Yes, clearly and unequivocally. The samples analysed showed the presence of anti-pf4 antibodies, which strongly affect platelets and are induced by the vaccine.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Greinecher told us that he received the samples on 16 March. One day later, he had already completed his tests and figured it all out.

GIOVANNI REZZA - PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

If everything was clear, I guess EMA should have done something about it. EMA kept saying that the vaccine was optimum. Therefore, AIFA...

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Followed Ema's lead.

GIOVANNI REZZA - PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

Ema... The Ministry of Health can rely on the statements issued by regulatory agencies.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

By following the indications of such agencies, on 25 March 2021, the Ministry of Health modified the communication attached to the consent form, which reports that a combination of blood clots and low platelets was rarely observed, with 25 cases across Europe out of 20 million people. Today, we know that, in young women, there could be up to one case out of 30,000 first doses.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

On 25 March, the communication attached was modified. If you do the maths, you have one chance out of one million to be at risk.

GIOVANNI REZZA - PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

Yes.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Now we know it wasn't true.

GIOVANNI REZZA - PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

Unfortunately, I guess the data on adverse events need more research and accuracy.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Meanwhile, the day before the consent form was modified, on 24 March 2021, a 37-year-old teacher from Gela, Zelia Guzzo, died. She had got her vaccine shot on March 1st.

ANDREA NICOSIA – ZELIA GUZZO'S HUSBAND

Zelia was in pain; she vomited and had a headache until she was hospitalised for a cerebral haemorrhage on 12 March. She spent the next two weeks in there until she died on March 24.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

What did she have exactly?

ANDREA NICOSIA – ZELIA GUZZO'S HUSBAND

Venous sinus thrombosis, polydistrict thrombosis and thrombocytopenia. This has been established.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

After the family pressed charges, the Prosecutor's Office in Gela opened an investigation, and the expert report ascertained the presence of a causal link between the vaccine and the pathophysiological events that led to death.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

And the Prosecutor's Office?

ANDREA NICOSIA – ZELIA GUZZO'S HUSBAND

The Prosecutor's Office requested to dismiss the case. We felt like they were fooling us, but no one was to blame.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

And what did you do?

ANDREA NICOSIA – ZELIA GUZZO'S HUSBAND

We initiated a civil action.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Against whom?

ANDREA NICOSIA – ZELIA GUZZO'S HUSBAND

Against AstraZeneca. Unfortunately, we got trapped in a gigantic system, bigger than us and bigger than my now 4-year-old son, who was one year and a half at that time. So...

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

In 1999, researchers in Berlin discovered that the administration of adenovirus can cause thrombocytopenia in rabbits and that the reason could be related to coagulation problems. In this 2001 study, high doses of adenovirus were administered to macaques. The result was thrombocytopenia and disseminated intravascular coagulation. In 2003, researchers at Bethesda did a new study on monkeys to discover why adenovirus induces thrombocytopenia.

MAHA OTHMAN – HAEMATOLOGIST – QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY KINGSTON

At the time, adenovirus was being studied as a vector in gene therapy. In 1999, a boy was injected with it but died tragically a few days later due to a severe immune reaction. Scientists, therefore, began to study the adenovirus to see how it could be modified and used safely in gene therapy or vaccination.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Maha Othman is a Canadian haematologist. In 2007, she conducted a study on adenovirus, thrombocytopenia and rats.

MAHA OTHMAN – HAEMATOLOGIST – QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY KINGSTON

We discovered that adenovirus directly binds to platelets and activates them, thus leading to blood clots.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

And what did you think when the first thrombosis cases occurred after vaccination with AstraZeneca?

MAHA OTHMAN – HAEMATOLOGIST – QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY KINGSTON

It became easy to think that "a possible cause could be adenovirus".

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Meanwhile, on 30 March 2021, Augusta Turiaco, 55, died at the polyclinic in Messina. She had been vaccinated with AstraZeneca on 11 March. She had a pulmonary embolism and several thromboses, including one at the cerebral venous sinus, and also thrombocytopenia. The Public Prosecutor's Office in Messina ascertained that her death was causally related to the administration of the AstraZeneca vaccine, but again, the investigation was dropped.

NUNZIO TURIACO – AUGUSTA TURIACO'S BROTHER

The Italian State recognised that my sister died for a vaccination; in fact, her children were compensated.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

How much is the compensation?

NUNZIO TURIACO – AUGUSTA TURIACO'S BROTHER

77 thousand euros. So, on the one hand, the Prosecutor's Office also recognised that AstraZeneca caused my sister's death, but no one is to blame, so we were obliged to sue AstraZeneca.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

You, alone.

NUNZIO TURIACO – AUGUSTA TURIACO'S BROTHER

Just us, sadly, alone.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

What was AstraZeneca's stance with the causal link established by court experts?

NUNZIO TURIACO – AUGUSTA TURIACO'S BROTHER

AstraZeneca denies the presence of this causal link in my sister's case.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Does AstraZeneca negate that your sister died due to the vaccine?

NUNZIO TURIACO – AUGUSTA TURIACO'S BROTHER

Well, they say there is no evidence. But what evidence do they want from us? In their vaccine leaflet, they had written a list of possible symptoms in case of adverse reaction! My sister has reported all those adverse reactions, but they still dare to write that the causal link cannot be proven. What do they want?

SIGFRIDO RANUCCI IN STUDIO

AstraZeneca, the disappeared vaccine, however, leaves questions behind. So, the subject is complex and delicate. Scholars and experts exchange opinions and scientific studies. Still, no examinations, autopsies, or expert opinions are enough to unequivocally certify the causal link between the use of the vaccine and the onset of these rare, serious adverse effects. That is why, eventually, the investigations of the judiciary all end with a dismissal. No one has ever been found responsible: The regulatory body is not responsible because it approved the vaccine based on the data provided by AstraZeneca; AstraZeneca is not guilty because its vaccine was screened and endorsed by the regulatory body. What emerges from our investigation, however, is that perhaps these effects were not so unpredictable. Some doubts arrived from Austria after the first two cases of patients suffering from these adverse effects. On the other hand, is it possible that Great Britain, which had developed the vaccine and started

the vaccination campaign a month earlier, did not have the same doubts when faced with adverse reactions?

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

In England, the first person to receive an AstraZeneca shot was Brian Pinker, an 82-year-old patient. The campaign with the Oxford vaccine officially started on 4 January 2021, one month before any other European country.

ROBERT MENDICK – JOURNALIST FOR THE TELEGRAPH

That was a reason for national pride. We had left the European Union and it was Britain telling that we were back and producing the vaccine that was going to save the world.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

But was the AstraZeneca vaccine still used in the UK?

ROBERT MENDICK - JOURNALIST FOR THE TELEGRAPH

No. It was quietly dropped around the end of 2021.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Why did the country that first developed that vaccine stop using it?

ROBERT MENDICK - JOURNALIST FOR THE TELEGRAPH

Nobody really gives a very clear answer. The general answer is other vaccines are better and create fewer problems.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE FUORICAMPO

Robert Mendick is a journalist for the Telegraph. He collected the stories of those who were permanently injured or lost a relative due to AstraZeneca.

ROBERT MENDICK - JOURNALIST FOR THE TELEGRAPH

According to the official data collected in England, about 80 people died due to vaccine-induced thrombosis with thrombocytopenia. In addition to that, more than 400 people with serious adverse reactions were reported.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Which is the first established case of death after the administration of the AstraZeneca vaccine in England?

ROBERT MENDICK - JOURNALIST FOR THE TELEGRAPH

It was a physician named Stephen Wright, and he left a wife and two children.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Stephen Wright received his first AstraZeneca shot on 16 January 2021, 12 days after starting the vaccination campaign in England. He died on 26 January, three days before the EU Commission authorised using AstraZeneca in EU countries. To understand what happened during those days, we travelled to Kent and visited Charlotte, Stephen Wright's widow.

CHARLOTTE WRIGHT - STEPHEN WRIGHT'S WIDOW

My husband was 32 years old. He was a clinical psychologist and had to start working for a famous children's hospital in London in that period.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

What symptoms did he have?

CHARLOTTE WRIGHT - STEPHEN WRIGHT'S WIDOW

Nine days after the vaccine, he woke up with a headache and felt tingling in the arm. He tried to move but couldn't, so he understood that he was losing control over his body. We called the 111, and an ambulance came and took him away. That was the last time that I saw him.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Stephen Wright was hospitalised at the King's College Hospital in London, where he died a few hours later, on 26 January 2021. The death certificate reported that he died of cerebral haemorrhage, spontaneous intracranial bleeding and sagittal sinus thrombosis.

CHARLOTTE WRIGHT - STEPHEN WRIGHT'S WIDOW

However, the death certificate did not report symptoms of thrombocytopenia, although the doctors knew it. I got a call from the hospital and they told me he couldn't get surgery because his platelets were too low. So low they couldn't even count them.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Did someone from the hospital tell you that there could be a link between death and vaccine?

CHARLOTTE WRIGHT - STEPHEN WRIGHT'S WIDOW

No, no, no, at the beginning, they told us he died from natural causes, just a stroke. But two months later, a haematologist from the hospital called me to tell me that he had never seen that kind of brain haemorrhage. He also talked about a German scientist who had found a link with the vaccine.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Greinacher.

CHARLOTTE WRIGHT - STEPHEN WRIGHT'S WIDOW

Yes, him. So, I have fought for two years to have the death certificate changed.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Only on 19 April 2023, a coroner certified that Stephen Wright's cause of death was a thrombosis with thrombocytopenia induced by the vaccine.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Did you report your husband's case to the British pharmaco-vigilance?

CHARLOTTE WRIGHT - STEPHEN WRIGHT'S WIDOW

Yes, on 4 February 2021, and, if I am not wrong, the doctors reported it again on 8 February.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

In 2021, the British pharmaco-vigilance published weekly reports with figures related to the reported adverse events. We discover that the cerebral haemorrhage and sagittal sinus thrombosis experienced by Stephen Wright were described in the report of 22 February 2021, about one month after his death, while the sagittal sinus thrombosis appeared at the end of February, and low platelets in mid-March.

SARAH MOORE – LAWYER AT LEIGH DAY LAW FIRM

One wonders if the English pharmacovigilance system has really worked. We must consider that reports enter the system if they are voluntarily submitted by doctors, relatives, or patients. So, I fear that many may not have even been reported.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

The law firm where Sarah Moore works is in Leeds, West Yorkshire county town. She is now working on 37 cases of adverse reactions to the AstraZeneca vaccine, including Stephen Wright's.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Are you aware of other cases in January 2021?

SARAH MOORE – LAWYER AT LEIGH DAY LAW FIRM

Yes. I, alone, am on two other cases that happened in January.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

What did the Regulatory Agency do between January and February when the first cases were reported?

SARAH MOORE – LAWYER AT LEIGH DAY LAW FIRM

Nothing, they continued to advise that the benefits of the vaccine outweighed the risks.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Today, we can say that before Stephen Wright's death, the British pharmaco-vigilance had already been alerted of other cases of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia in a 60-year-old man, another 50-year-old man, and a 60-year-old woman, who died later.

SARAH MOORE – LAWYER AT LEIGH DAY LAW FIRM

The bigger question in my head is: what data did AstraZeneca have? They could collect data from all countries, I think they had to play a more active role in pharmaco-vigilance and they can't just rely upon what the regulators are doing.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Did the UK Government recognise that there was a link between these thrombosis cases and the AstraZeneca vaccine?

SARAH MOORE – LAWYER AT LEIGH DAY LAW FIRM

Yes, in most of my cases, the causal link was certified, or they received compensation from the government.

CHARLOTTE WRIGHT - STEPHEN WRIGHT'S WIDOW

The government gave us 120 thousand pounds for his life. 120.

ROBERT MENDICK - JOURNALIST FOR THE TELEGRAPH

120 thousand pounds might sound like a lot of money, but they are just a little more than two yearly incomes.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

The compensation envisaged by the British government is based on an old law from 1979, created precisely to compensate for the damage caused by the vaccines and which was based on the disability criteria of war amputees.

ROBERT MENDICK - JOURNALIST FOR THE TELEGRAPH

Based on British law, proving the causal link between disability and vaccines is insufficient to obtain compensation. You need a certain level of disability for the payment to work, at least 60%.

SARAH MOORE – LAWYER AT LEIGH DAY LAW FIRM

For instance, we are working on the case of a woman who reported brain damage after the AstraZeneca vaccine and lost sight in one eye. Since she doesn't reach the 60% segment, she is not entitled to any compensation.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Did AstraZeneca compensate the victims?

SARAH MOORE – LAWYER AT LEIGH DAY LAW FIRM

No, no, not even a penny.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

So, the lawyer Sarah Moore and her clients decided to launch a multi-million legal action against the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca.

SARAH MOORE – LAWYER AT LEIGH DAY LAW FIRM

The British government eliminated the civil liability of vaccine producers during the pandemic. To start the litigation, we had to rely on a 1987 law on consumer protection, according to which the faultiness of the product must be proven.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Do you think the AstraZeneca vaccine was defective?

SARAH MOORE – LAWYER AT LEIGH DAY LAW FIRM

I think so. For us, the fault was that it could cause VITT, vaccine-induced thrombosis with thrombocytopenia.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Does AstraZeneca recognise the link between Vitt and the vaccine?

SARAH MOORE – LAWYER AT LEIGH DAY LAW FIRM

They do not accept the link between Vitt and the AstraZeneca vaccine. They play with words, use another term, TTS, i.e. thrombosis with thrombocytopenic syndrome, and say that since TTS existed before the vaccine, there is not necessarily a causal link.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

To clear our minds, we contacted Professor Andreas Greinacher again, who coined the acronym VITT in 2021 to indicate the vaccine induces thrombosis with thrombocytopenia.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Did the acronym VITT enter scientific literature?

ANDREAS GREINACHER – IMMUNOLOGY PROFESSOR – UNIVERSITY OF GREIFSWALD

Yes, undoubtedly.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

The WHO also uses another word, TTS. What's the difference with Vitt?

ANDREAS GREINACHER – IMMUNOLOGY PROFESSOR – UNIVERSITY OF GREIFSWALD

TTS is an umbrella term that defines these thrombotic events accompanied by thrombocytopenia. Vitt is a sub-group. All agree on the fact that the Vitt is real and caused by the vaccine.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Meanwhile, over the last three years, AstraZeneca's revenues have exploded: in 2020 the Company earned 26.6 billion dollar; in 2021, the amount increased to 37.4 and peaked at 44.4 billion in 2022.

ROBERT MENDICK – JOURNALIST FOR THE TELEGRAPH

Today, AstraZeneca is the richest company in Britain. It's bigger than BP, it's bigger than Shell, it's bigger than HSBC, all the ones listed on the London Stock Exchange. If it were to lose the lawsuit, the British government, the British taxpayer funds, would pay instead. The government, in fact, has indemnified the pharmaceutical companies, which produced the vaccines, and took responsibility for paying any damages.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

So, will the British government pay in any case?

ROBERT MENDICK – JOURNALIST FOR THE TELEGRAPH

Yes, we will pay. I will pay.

SIGFRIDO RANUCCI IN STUDIO

In its financial statements, AstraZeneca claims to have distributed as many as 3.1 billion vaccine doses in 180 countries worldwide and saved more than 6 million lives. This is based on a calculation, a mathematical calculation. In 2021, in terms of receipts, however, vaccine sales reached 3.9 billion dollars. In 2022, they dropped to only 1.8 billion, and in 2023, they collapsed. However, unlike the patients, the pharmaceutical company did not suffer any adverse effects and continued to grow. Latest breaking news of the week: it ended 2023 with a profit of \$6 billion, double the previous year's profit, thanks to investments and the performance of its oncology division. Total revenues increased by 3% to 45.8 billion dollars and are expected to grow further by 10%. In December, AstraZeneca also announced the purchase of the American giant Icosavax, which produces vaccines, and the acquisition of Gracell Biotechnologies, a Chinese pharmaceutical company and expert in cell therapy. In short, it has left its vaccine behind, just as it has abandoned the families of the victims who are still seeking justice.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

On 12 March 2021, the AstraZeneca vaccination campaign for lawyers started at the Mistretta hospital. Mario Turrisi is among the first to get a shot. Twenty-three days later, his health status plummeted. He is transferred to the Messina hospital, where he is diagnosed with a severe brain haemorrhage.

CARMELA TURRISI - MARIO TURRISI'S SISTER

We were 99% sure that the haemorrhage with thrombosis was vaccine-induced. They had had another patient just one week before who had died and reported the same symptoms. In fact, they reported the case immediately to Aifa and administered immunoglobulins to my brother that night.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

So, your brother was administered immunoglobulins right away?

CARMELA TURRISI - MARIO TURRISI'S SISTER

Yes, immediately.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Did it work?

CARMELA TURRISI - MARIO TURRISI'S SISTER

No, it didn't. They made another CT scan and realised my brother had no brain left. They could only see a blood mass.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Mario Turrisi died on 8 April 2021. He was 45. The day before, the Ministry of Health had issued a new circular letter, upon Aifa's suggestion, to recommend AstraZeneca to people over 60.

GIOVANNI REZZA – PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

EMA says it is recommended for people over 18. Instead, we say that use on people aged 60 and over is preferred.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

It is still difficult to understand why all regions organised vaccination days for people over 18. If you knew that it was better to administer this vaccine to people over 60, why address vaccination events to that age group?

GIOVANNI REZZA – PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

Let me ask you something. Have you ever found a circular letter recommending open days?

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Nope. But I have the minutes of the CTS meeting that you attended.

GIOVANNI REZZA – PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

Sure. I am one of the institutional members...

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Perfect. So, you knew what you were doing.

GIOVANNI REZZA – PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

Moreover, the CTS only provides an advisory opinion. The CTS is not in charge; it didn't give...

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

In this way, nobody is responsible.

GIOVANNI REZZA – PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

The CTS only provided indications. It simply said: this is an authorised vaccine.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

The CTS authorised the Regions to organise vaccination open days with adenoviral vector vaccines, like AstraZeneca, to individuals over 18. Irene Cervelli, 41, managed to book her shot on 26 May 2021 in Lucca.

IRENE CERVELLI

I was number 47 out of 50. Bummer. I had complications, and my life has fully changed.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

What kind of damage did you have?

IRENE CERVELLI

Permanent left-side paralysis and total blindness in the right eye. And on the healthy eye, I have optic nerve damage that prevents me from seeing sideways.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

After the vaccine, Irene Cervelli was in a coma for three months, underwent no less than five surgeries, a long rehabilitation and is now 100% disabled. Three years later, she is trying to resume her life and voluntary work in paediatric oncology wards.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

What did they tell you on the vaccination day? What information did you receive?

IRENE CERVELLI

They gave me a form to sign.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

As we know, a supplementary note with the various risks was attached to this form. Did you have a chance to see it? Do you remember it?

IRENE CERVELLI

No, and no one told me that there was this note.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

What would you want?

IRENE CERVELLI

I want to shed light on how these open days were managed and which criteria were used when picking a specific age group.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

An investigation was opened into the case of Irene Cervelli, but the public prosecutor's office asked twice for the case to be archived.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Did Irene Cervelli have precisely the same thing?

FEDERICO CORTI – CERVELLI FAMILY'S LAWYER

Vitt. This is sure.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

So, nobody ever questioned that the vaccine caused this reaction?

FEDERICO CORTI - CERVELLI FAMILY'S LAWYER

No, there is no doubt whatsoever in this investigation on that aspect there.

GIOVANNI AMANDOLI - CERVELLI FAMILY'S LAWYER

If you take the massiveness of vaccination, adverse reactions may seem negligible, but in certain age groups, especially women from 18 to 45 years old, the incidence increases.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

These open days, you say you did not organise them, were they a mistake?

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA DIRECTOR GENERAL 2020-2023

I would have organised an open day in line with Aifa's recommendations.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

So, for people aged over 60.

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA DIRECTOR GENERAL 2020-2023

Exactly.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

You can reach precisely in women, in young women, even 4 cases every 100 thousand doses, so one case every 25 thousand.

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA DIRECTOR GENERAL 2020-2023

Sure, fine, no, no, that's data...

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Is the data correct?

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA DIRECTOR GENERAL 2020-2023

Yes.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

In May, while vaccination days were held across the country, in other words, you stated that reactions occurred in one case every 100,000 doses, namely the entire country's population, without distinction of sex or age.

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA DIRECTOR GENERAL 2020-2023

I say that the specification by age and younger age, especially women, was made and taken in deciding to change age, which was very evident.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

It makes a difference if I read one every 100 thousand doses, but I am informed that young women who get a vaccine shot can also have a risk every 25 thousand first doses. That is, it is not the same thing.

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA DIRECTOR GENERAL 2020-2023

We did not have to communicate with reports. And the responsibility for the vaccination campaign was not Aifa's.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

In the following report published in August, this rate becomes one case per million.

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA DIRECTOR GENERAL 2020-2023

It was not in the pharmaco-vigilance reports, which summarise pharmacovigilance from spontaneous reporting that you were supposed to look for the incidence figure. This reliance of yours on the point data is not very rigorous.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

To say one case in a million is not rigorous.

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA DIRECTOR GENERAL 2020-2023

If you want to do this systematic disinformation, do it.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

No, I am not the one doing disinformation here.

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA DIRECTOR GENERAL 2020-2023

Of course, you are. We started well with the estimates that I hope will appear and a specific path...

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

I will definitely have you say that because it contradicts what you wrote for me.

NICOLA MAGRINI – AIFA DIRECTOR GENERAL 2020-2023

All right.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE OFF-SCREEN

Meanwhile, while Irene Cervelli was in hospital, an 18-year-old girl, Camilla Canepa, died in Genoa on 10 June 2021. She, too, had attended an AstraZeneca open day.

GIOVANNI REZZA – PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

Then, on 11 June, it was decided to cut off vaccination for those under 60.

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Because an 18-year-old girl died during the open days.

GIOVANNI REZZA – PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

Don't you think these circular letters are all correct?

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

Camilla Canepa died on 10 June. The circular is dated the 11th.

GIOVANNI REZZA – PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

Whenever... allow me...

CLAUDIA DI PASQUALE

You wouldn't have done it otherwise. If it didn't happen and you got away with it, let's say the Regions got away with it and the case didn't happen, these vaccination days would continue.

GIOVANNI REZZA – PREVENTION DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH 2020-2023

The vaccination days are clearly not a responsibility of the Ministry of Health, not even from an organisational point of view, the responsibility of an advisory body such as the Cts, I am obliged to tell you.

SIGFRIDO RANUCCI IN STUDIO

So, the Ministry of Health is not responsible, the CTC is not responsible, although it did give the green light to vaccination days, the Regions are not accountable, and the CTC, whose coordinator was Prof. Franco Locatelli, who stopped answering the phone, contrary to what Prof. Rezza and Magrini, who put their faces to it. Aifa says 'we are not responsible', and we had already recommended using the AstraZeneca vaccine for the over 60s. However, after the cases of adverse reactions and serious adverse effects, the AstraZeneca vaccine disappeared from European vaccination centres. Nonetheless, in autumn 2022, the Ema grants marketing authorisation, which was previously conditional. Here, who benefits from this definitive authorisation if AstraZeneca stops producing the vaccine a few months later?