

- Blood clot / Virus

New Covid blood clotting discovery

NT News · 28 Oct 2021 · 13

COVID-19 does not infect blood vessels despite the high risk of blood clots to patients, researchers have found.

University of Queensland researchers found the cardiovascular complications of the virus are triggered by inflammation caused by infected airway cells. “At least 40 per cent of patients that are hospitalised with Covid-19 are at high risk of blood clots, and anti-coagulation therapies are now being routinely used,” the university’s Dr Emma Gordon said. “There have been many studies attempting to prove whether the virus is infecting cells of the inner blood vessel wall or not.

“By conducting our experiments using real, infectious virus rather than fragments of the virus’s spike protein, we can definitively say it is not.”

Immunologist Dr Larisa Labzin said when the immune system worked well, it cleared the virus from the body, but sometimes it went into overdrive and caused an overblown inflammatory response.

This caused complications, and in the case of Covid-19, this was often blood clots.

Knowing inflammation caused these cardiovascular complications rather than the virus itself would help researchers develop the right treatments and better understand how and why these complications arose, Dr Labzin said.