



FALSE
NARRATIVE

Fibrous blood clots reported by embalmers are proof of widespread deaths caused by COVID-19 vaccines

The False Narrative

Embalmers and funeral directors have reported unusual, fibrous blood clots in the bodies of people who were vaccinated against COVID-19 and later died, suggesting that the vaccines caused the clots.

Variations of this False Narrative

- A national survey of embalmers released in January 2024 shows that 70 percent of embalmers reported seeing an increase in fibrous blood clots in bodies beginning in mid-2021, following the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines.

The Facts

Health experts say that there is no evidence that blood clots that have been reported by embalmers and funeral home workers are linked to COVID-19 vaccines. In fact, Jessica Koth, a spokesperson for the National Funeral Directors Association, told FactCheck.org in December 2022 that funeral service professionals “are in no way qualified to draw any conclusions about COVID

vaccines and blood clots. We're not medical examiners or physicians or scientists."

Moreover, in a February 2022 PolitiFact article, Dr. Hari P. Close, at the time the president of the National Funeral Directors & Morticians Association, said that embalmers would not typically even be aware of the vaccination status of people they embalm, stating, "It is not on the death certificate."

The Mayo Clinic states on its website that blood clots can stem from a range of conditions, including obesity, smoking, heart failure, and COVID-19 itself. According to the McGill University Office for Science and Society, clots also commonly form after death — due to blood separation and substances used in the embalming process — and can additionally form when a body is refrigerated, as it would be at a mortuary.

One funeral service worker, an Alabama embalmer named Richard Hirschman, was interviewed and cited by many news outlets — including The Epoch Times, the Daily Caller, the Gateway Pundit, and The Western Journal — as evidence for this claim. However, Hirschman's claims were anecdotal, and he did not present evidence that any clots he found were linked to COVID-19 vaccines. Hirschman himself told FactCheck.org in November 2022 that, "I can't prove what this is. I'm not a doctor nor a scientist — I never said I was."

Hirschman was also featured in the anti-vaccine documentary "Died Suddenly," which included interviews with several funeral service workers who claimed that they also found unusual blood clots in COVID-19 vaccine recipients. The movie also included images and videos of clots, which medical experts have said are not indicative of anything unusual.

"Just looking at these blood clots from the movie, they look like very common postmortem blood clots, and I feel like it was just the shock and awe value of using these images of blood clots taken out of context to scare people," Dr. Eric

Burnett of Columbia University's Irving Medical Center told MedPage Today in November 2022. "To suggest that people are walking around with these massive clots filling up arteries and veins, without being symptomatic, without seeking medical attention for them, is a little hard to believe."

One COVID-19 vaccine previously authorized for use in the U.S. — the Johnson & Johnson vaccine — has been linked to a rare blood clotting disorder known as thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS). This led the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to limit the use of the vaccine in May 2022, restricting its use to adults for whom other COVID-19 vaccines are not accessible or appropriate, and the vaccine was no longer available in the U.S. as of May 2023. However, the FDA maintains that vaccine-induced TTS is rare, stating on its website that the reporting rate for the condition is 3.23 cases per 1 million doses of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine administered.

The false narrative resurfaced in January 2024, with multiple articles on sites with low NewsGuard ratings, based on the results of an unverified online survey.

For example, a Jan. 22, 2024, article published by the anti-vaccine organization Children's Health Defense, titled "Exclusive: 70% of Embalmers Report Finding Strange Blood Clots Beginning in Mid-2021," included an interview with Thomas Haviland, the man who conducted the survey. The article described Haviland as a former U.S. Air Force Major and electrical engineer for an unnamed defense contractor at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

"In Haviland's 2023 survey polling 269 embalmers globally, more than 70% reported seeing white fibrous clots in an average of 20% of corpses," the article said. The article also included anonymous comments from people who responded to Haviland's survey, including one stating, "I have seen a larger increase in these large fibrous clots since the COVID vaccine has come out."

Koth, the NFDA spokesperson, reiterated in a January 2024 email to NewsGuard that embalmers and funeral directors are not qualified to determine a person's cause of death or link any blood clots — which may have developed after death — to COVID vaccines.

Regarding Haviland's survey, she noted that its responses would represent a small fraction of the estimated 37,000 licensed embalmers in the U.S. "I am not sure what the background or methodology of this individual is, but he seems to be drawing conclusions based on a sample size (269 people) that is not fully representative (from a statistical analysis perspective) of the number of embalmers in the country," Koth said.

The Children's Health Defense article said that Haviland conducted his survey through a free online survey platform, SurveyMonkey, and had emailed the survey to state and national funeral director associations and individual funeral homes. However, the article did not explain whether Haviland verified that responses to his survey came from actual embalmers.

Kathleen Ryan, executive director of the Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association, told NewsGuard in a January 2024 phone interview that her organization did send Haviland's survey to its members, a decision for which she expressed regret. "It's a totally worthless survey," Ryan said, pointing to its small sample size and the fact that it did not ask whether the fibrous clots only appeared in vaccinated people.

Editor's Note: This Misinformation Fingerprint was updated on Jan. 29, 2024, to add a new variation of the false narrative.

Written by: [Anicka Slachta](#)

Contributing: [John Gregory](#)

Edited by: [Eric Effron](#), [John Gregory](#)

Examples of this False Narrative ⓘ

- <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/blood-clots-embalmers-report-mid-2021-covid-vaccines/>

“In a recent survey of 269 embalmers across four major countries and three continents, more than 70% reported finding strange fibrous white blood clots in significant percentages of corpses in 2023 — clots they were not finding pre-pandemic....

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 17.5 / 100 [childrenshealthdefense.org \(en_US\)](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/en_US)

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- <https://theohiostar.com/2022/02/21/funeral-directors-embalmers-alarmed-by-unusual-blood-clots-in-vaccinated-bodies/>

“Board-certified funeral directors and embalmers are coming forward to tell tales of horror featuring vaccinated bodies with veins and arteries clogged with strange, rubbery, worm-like clots.”

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- <https://healthimpactnews.com/2022/funeral-embalmer-85-of-dead-bodies-now-have-strange-blood-clots-since-covid-vaccine-roll-outs/>

“Some of the strongest evidence that the COVID-19 vaccines have caused crippling injuries and huge numbers of deaths in the vaccinated population have come from funeral home directors who have reported huge spikes in deaths in their business that correlate with the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccines and mandates.”

 12.5 / 100 [healthimpactnews.com \(en_US\)](https://healthimpactnews.com/en_US)

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- <https://welovetrump.com/2022/09/04/embalmers-finding-never-seen-before-long-rubbery-clots-inside-corpses-since-covid-19-jab-rollout/>

““Several embalmers across the country have been observing many large, and sometimes very long, “fibrous” and rubbery clots inside the corpses they treat, and are speaking out about their findings,” The Epoch Times reports.”

 0 / 100 [welovetrump.com \(en_US\)](https://welovetrump.com/en_US)

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- <https://theleadingreport.com/2023/07/05/embalmer-says-strange-blood-clots-still-being-found-in-vaccinated-people/>

“Embalmer and funeral director Richard Hirschman has said that unusually long and fibrous blood clots continue to be found inside the bodies of deceased covid vaccinated individuals.

...

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 0/100 theleadingreport.com (en_US)

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- <https://greatgameindia.com/funeral-director-deaths-covid-vaccine/>

“Fifteen embalmers are all seeing odd fatal clotting in people that first started in 2021. As many as 65% of cases are affected. Just like the DMED data, this evidence is being totally ignored by the mainstream press and medical community as well as the CDC and other HHS agencies. The only explanation that fits all the facts is that ...

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 5/100 greatgameindia.com (en_US)

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- <https://dcdirtylaundry.com/embalmer-reports-finding-long-fibrous-blood-clots-in-deceased-people-who-got-covid-19-vaccine/>

“An embalmer with decades of experience said in a recent interview that for more than a year he has found “long, fibrous blood clots” in the bodies of some deceased people who got a COVID-19 vaccine.”

 5/100 dcdirtylaundry.com (en_US)

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- <https://zeeemedia.com/interview/major-tom-haviland-shock-data-7-out-of-10-embalmers-confirm-huge-strange-clots/>

“Major Tom Haviland joins us to expose SHOCKING data from a survey he has conducted with embalmers across the Unites States which shows 7 out of 10 embalmers are seeing the HUGE clots inside of people as shown in the documentary Died Suddenly, confirmed by Richard Hirschman.”

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- <https://www.independentsentinel.com/the-covid-vaccinated-dead-have-strange-clots/>

“Morticians, embalmers, and coroners notice unusual stringy blood clots among the vaccinated deceased. They are also noticing other odd anomalies never seen before and are now attributing these occurrences to the COVID-19 vaccines.”

 30 / 100 [independentsentinel.com \(en_US\)](https://www.independentsentinel.com/en_US)

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- <https://sensereceptornews.com/?p=18638>

“In a new conversation with Australian interviewer Maria Zee retired Air Force major, independent data analyst, and electrical engineer Major Tom Haviland outlines the responses to a survey he’s conducted amongst embalmers in the U.S. regarding the phenomenon of novel “white fibrous clots” appearing in dead bodie...

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- <https://uncutnews.ch/exklusiv-70-der-einbalsamierer-berichten-dass-sie-ab-mitte-2021-seltsame-blutgerinnsel-finden/>

“In einem Exklusivinterview mit The Defender teilte der ehemalige Luftwaffenmajor Thomas Haviland das Ergebnis seiner Umfrage unter Einbalsamierern mit, die nach der Masseneinführung der COVID-19-Impfstoffe ab Mitte 2021 von einem starken Anstieg der Zahl der Faserklumpen, der Mikrogerinnsel und der Todesfälle bei ...

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 7.5 / 100 [uncutnews.ch \(en_ALL\)](https://uncutnews.ch/en_ALL)

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- <https://www.dcclothesline.com/2022/02/11/embalmer-richard-hirschman-mysterious-clotting-found-in-65-of-deceased-vaccinated-individuals/>

“Cases of mysterious blood clots found in the bodies of vaccinated individuals are soaring.”

 0 / 100 [dcclothesline.com \(en_US\)](https://www.dcclothesline.com/en_US)

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- https://www.thedesertreview.com/opinion/columnists/covid-shots-causing-monstrous-clots/article_13ad0062-e680-11ec-9aca-3bc4b8cb2804.html

“Dr. Ryan Cole a Mayo-trained board-certified pathologist and owner of the largest independent diagnostics laboratory in Idaho, is finding an alarming number of large blood clots that have appeared since the COVID shot rollout and seem to be present only in those people who have received the injection. ”

 27.5 / 100 [thedesertreview.com](https://www.thedesertreview.com) (en_US)

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- <https://creativestructionmedia.com/news/health-freedom/2024/01/24/rubbery-white-fibrous-clots-found-by-embalmers/>

“UK physician Dr. Philip McMillan interviews Thomas Haviland (Retired US Air Force Major) on a survey of hundreds of embalmer’s experiences in finding strange, never before seen, white fibrous clots in COVID-19 vaccinated people which were only found following the rollout of the COVID “vaccines”.”

 20 / 100 creativestructionmedia.com (en_US)

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- <https://www.oann.com/video/in-focus-video/white-fibrous-blood-clots-found-in-deceased/>

 25 / 100 [oann.com](https://www.oann.com) (en_US)

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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4Q-vW1tWyo>

“Latest Research Findings on Embalmers Strange Clots”

  [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (en_US)

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- <https://yournews.com/2022/12/02/2465259/embalmer-richard-hirschman-confirms-that-covid-vaccines-cause-blood-clots/>

“Vaccinedeaths.com is reporting that, “The Wuhan coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines are causing the blood clots in people, according to veteran embalmer Richard Hirschman. ‘We need to remember because this truth is coming out. I really did not want to believe this was some kind of conspiracy to try to depopulate the world. B...

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 7.5 / 100 yournews.com (en_US)

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- <https://teaparty.org/embalmers-have-been-finding-bizarre-fibrous-blood-clots-amid-covid-vaccine-campaign-475608/>

“Numerous embalmers around the country are speaking out about the post-mortem signs they’re seeing that prove just how dangerous the shots really are.”

 7.5 / 100 teaparty.org (en_US)

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- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/unusually-large-blood-clots-found-in-bodies-of-the-deceased-since-covid-jab-rollout/>

“In June, a pathologist who heads one of America’s leading labs, Dr. Ryan Cole, said he was finding unusually long blood clots, as long as one foot, in the bodies of deceased people who received COVID-19 vaccines.”

 17.5 / 100 lifesitenews.com (en_US)

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- <https://www.stewpeters.com/video/2023/02/exclusive-look-new-fibrous-clots-found-in-vaxxed-dead-feds-caught-putting-unvaxxed-on-lists/>

“Embalmer Richard Hirschman continues to find bizarre fibrous clots inside the bodies of dead vaxxed people!
New survey of embalmers reveals fibrous clots discovered across the nation.
Seven out of ten respondents acknowledged they have also seen strange clots in ...

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 7.5 / 100 stewpeters.com (en_US)

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- <https://www.worldtribune.com/report-70-percent-of-embalmers-reported-finding-strange-blood-clots-not-found-pre-pandemic/>

“In a new survey, more than 70 percent of embalmers reported finding strange fibrous white blood clots in significant percentages of corpses in 2023, a report said.

...

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 20 / 100 [worldtribune.com \(en_US\)](https://www.worldtribune.com/en_US)

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- <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/embalmer-alarmed-mysterious-blood-clots-vaccinated-people/>

“Amid indications from many different sources of a dramatic rise in the sudden onset of serious illnesses following COVID-19 vaccination, a veteran embalmer is reporting that he and more than a dozen colleagues in the industry have been noticing strange blood clots in most of their cases.”

 17.5 / 100 [wnd.com \(en_US\)](https://www.wnd.com/en_US)

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- <https://dailyclout.io/worldwide-embalmer-blood-clot-survey-reveals-disturbing-discovery/>

“The December 2023 “Worldwide Embalmer Blood Clot Survey” was conducted from December 8th, 2023 to 8 January 8th, 2024.
Of the 269 embalmers who responded to the survey:
OVER 70% of embalmers saw the “WHITE FIBROUS CLOTS” in their corpses in 2023...

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 17.5 / 100 [dailyclout.io \(en_US\)](https://dailyclout.io/en_US)

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- <https://dailycaller.com/2022/09/05/embalms-blood-clots-2020-2021-fibrous-materials-covid/>

“Embalms around the country are reportedly finding staggering increases in the number of corpses presenting with “fibrous” clots post-mortem. ... While some of the embalmers were quick to note there could be a relation between the clots, COVID-19 and/or the COVID-19 vaccines, most suggested this as a cause without ...

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 82 / 100 [dailycaller.com \(en_US\)](https://dailycaller.com/en_US)

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- https://www.ntd.com/strange-new-blood-clots-in-most-bodies-embalmer-s_837378.html

“Several embalmers across the country say they’ve been observing many large, and sometimes very long, “fibrous” and rubbery clots inside the corpses they treat. The clots found are lacking iron, potassium, magnesium, and zinc, which, according to experts, shows that these aren’t just normal post-mortem clots. Many of the ...

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 44.5 / 100 [ntdnews.com](https://www.ntdnews.com) (en_US)

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- <https://amgreatness.com/2022/02/17/funeral-directors-and-embalmers-alarmed-by-weird-freakishly-large-blood-clots-clogging-veins-in-vaccinated-bodies/>

“Board-certified funeral directors and embalmers are coming forward to tell tales of horror featuring vaccinated bodies with veins and arteries clogged with strange, rubbery, worm-like clots.”

 42 / 100 amgreatness.com (en_US)

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- <https://www.organicconsumers.org/news/embalmer-reveals-93-cases-died-vaccine>

“This is a massive health issue since it is killing a huge number of people. Her embalmer friends have noticed it as well and have never seen it before in their careers.
The clots are only associated with people who have been vaccinated. They were on...

 20 / 100 [organicconsumers.org](https://www.organicconsumers.org) (en_US)

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- <https://naturalnews.com/2022-01-31-embalmers-report-blood-clots-vaccinated-deceased-people.html#>

“An embalmer with decades of experience said in a recent interview that for more than a year he has found “long, fibrous blood clots” in the bodies of some deceased people who got a COVID-19 vaccine.”

 5 / 100 naturalnews.com (en_US)

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- <https://transition-news.org/umfrage-aus-dem-jahr-2023-einbalsamierer-in-den-usa-entdecken-bei-ihrer-arbeit>

“Über 75 Prozent der befragten Einbalsamierer sahen diese Gerinnsel in den Körpern von insgesamt 600'000 Verstorbenen. Vor Covid und den Covid-«Impfstoffen» habe es dieses Phänomen nicht gegeben, betont Steve Kirsch, Geschäftsführer der «Vaccine Safety Research Foundation». ”

 32.5 / 100 transition-news.org (en_ALL)

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- https://www.rebelnews.com/undertaker_interview_part_3

“John O’Looney believes what he has discovered in the bodies of the vaccinated deceased might shine light of the increased rates of SADS, strokes, heart attacks and other auto-immune diseases we are seeing around the world. His discovery was made when embalming the deceased, he found arteries clogged with clot-like ...

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 47 / 100 [rebelnews.com](https://www.rebelnews.com) (en_CA)

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- <https://www.charismanews.com/us/90826-vaccinated-people-are-majority-of-covid-deaths>

“One embalmer with 11 years of experience revealed that 93% of her recent cases died due to clots from the COVID shot. Morticians usually use a dissolving fluid to break up clots but now the fluid cannot not make it through these new monstrosities. The embalmers are finding that they are getting back pressure ...

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 35 / 100 [charismanews.com](https://www.charismanews.com) (en_US)

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- <https://fyi.com/news/unreported/survey-70-of-embalmers-worldwide-report-finding-strange-blood-clots-since-mid-2021/>

“(The Defender) In a recent survey of 269 embalmers across four major countries and three continents, more than 70% reported finding strange fibrous white blood clots in significant percentages of corpses in 2023 — clots they were not finding pre-pandemic....

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- <https://www.clarkcountytoday.com/news/more-embalmers-report-bizarre-blood-clots-amid-covid-vax-campaign/>

“More embalmers report they have seen the emergence of bizarre “fibrous” clots in a substantial portion of their cases since the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines. ... Now, the Epoch Times, which has spoken to others who are observing the same phenomena, reports preliminary research suggests the clots are produced by spik...

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 57 / 100 [clarkcountytoday.com \(en_US\)](https://www.clarkcountytoday.com/en_US)

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- <https://www.westernjournal.com/embalmers-baffled-finding-numerous-long-fibrous-clots-inside-corpses-something-isnt-right/>

“Several embalmers across the United States reportedly have been noticing a strange phenomenon that started sometime after the COVID-19 pandemic hit of seeing long, “fibrous” and “rubbery clots” inside the corpses they prepare. The cause of the clots is not known. Some embalmers told The Epoch Times they believ...

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 82 / 100 [westernjournal.com \(en_US\)](https://www.westernjournal.com/en_US)

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- <https://www.newstarget.com/2022-01-31-embalmers-report-blood-clots-vaccinated-deceased-people.html>

“Specifically, Hirschman reports finding “arteries and veins filled with unnatural blood clot combinations” that also contain “strange fibrous materials” that have completely filled up the vascular systems of many people who have died during the pandemic and after vaccines became widely used.”

 5 / 100 [naturalnews.com \(en_US\)](https://www.naturalnews.com/en_US)

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- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/70-of-embalmers-report-finding-strange-blood-clots-beginning-in-mid-2021/>

“In a recent survey of 269 embalmers across four major countries and three continents, more than 70% reported finding strange fibrous white blood clots in significant percentages of corpses in 2023 — clots they were not finding pre-pandemic....

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 7.5 / 100 [lifesitenews.com \(en_US\)](https://lifesitenews.com/en_US)

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- <https://covid19reporter.com/canadian-and-global-embalmers-are-finding-alarming-never-seen-before-blood-clots-in-the-newly-deceased/>

“Embalmers Have Been Finding Numerous Long, Fibrous Clots That Lack Post-Mortem Characteristics.”

 7.5 / 100 [covid19reporter.com \(en_US\)](https://covid19reporter.com/en_US)

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- <https://1819news.com/news/item/embalmer-discovers-over-100-cases-of-strange-clots-in-people-since-release-of-covid-19-vaccine>

“One Alabama embalmer will perform his job in silence no longer. Richard Hirschmann has been the impetus for recent disturbing pathology reports of abnormal blood clots found and removed by embalmers from the corpses they embalmed. Hirschmann claims this pattern has only emerged in his line of work ...

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- <https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/09/never-seen-embalmers-finding-long-rubbery-clots-inside-corpse-since-implementation-covid-vaccines/>

“Embalmers are finding long, rubbery clots inside of corpses since the implementation of Covid vaccines.

According to one Alabama embalmer who has been treating corpses for over 20 ...

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 30 / 100 [thegatewaypundit.com \(en_US\)](https://thegatewaypundit.com/en_US)

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- <https://www.sunfellow.com/covid19-blood-clots-in-vaccinated-dead-people/>

“Current Mystery Clot News:

- Exclusive: 70% Of Embalmers Report Finding Strange Blood Clots Beginning In Mid-2021 (John-Michael Dumais, The Defender, 01/22/24)...

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- https://www.theepochtimes.com/embalmers-have-been-finding-numerous-long-fibrous-clots-that-lack-post-mortem-characteristics_4696015.html

“Numerous embalmers from different states confirmed to The Epoch Times that they have been seeing these strange clots, starting from either 2020 or 2021. It’s not yet known if the cause of the new clot phenomenon is COVID-19, vaccines, both, or something different.”

 17.5 / 100 [theepochtimes.com \(en_US\)](https://www.theepochtimes.com/en_US)

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Reliable Sources ⓘ

<https://www.factcheck.org/2022/12/scicheck-died-suddenly-pushes-bogus-depopulation-theory/>

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-limits-use-janssen-covid-19-vaccine-certain-individuals>

<https://www.yalemedicine.org/news/coronavirus-vaccine-blood-clots>

<https://www.mcgill.ca/oss/article/covid-19-critical-thinking/anti-vaccine-documentary-died-suddenly-wants-you-feel-not-think>

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/exclusives/101975>

<https://www.politifact.com/article/2022/nov/29/died-suddenly-repeats-debunked-covid-19-vaccine-cl/>

<https://healthfeedback.org/claimreview/the-film-died-suddenly-rehashes-debunked-claims-conspiracy-theories-covid-19-vaccines/>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/symptoms/blood-clots/basics/causes/sym-20050850>

<https://factcheck.afp.com/doc.afp.com.32VB23Q>

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2022/feb/09/newswars/no-clear-evidence-covid-19-vaccines-are-responsible/>

<https://healthfeedback.org/claimreview/photos-blood-clots-embalming-dont-show-link-with-covid-19-vaccines-blood-clotting-risk-higher-after-covid-19/>

Risk of Harm ⓘ

High

First Appeared ⓘ

2022

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COVID-19 AND vaccine AND "Richard Hirschman" -check -false -debunk
"Died Suddenly" AND "Blood clots" -check -false -debunk
haviland and "blood clots" and embalmers
"white fibrous blood clots" AND survey
"fibrous blood clots" AND haviland
"fibrous clots" AND embalmers

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