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Some back out of COVID-19 vaccine trial in Spain after AstraZeneca scare, lead investigator says

Madrid.— News of serious side effects in one participant of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine trial led some volunteers in Johnson & Johnson's vaccine trial in Spain to drop out, its lead investigator told Reuters yesterday.

Still, the trial had sufficient reserve volunteers to carry on as normal, lead investigator Alberto Borobia said.

"Many have called to ask us some more detail about the risk of the vaccine, whether what happened with that

vaccine had anything to do with the one we are studying, these types of questions," Borobia said in the interview. He did not say how many people had dropped out. This highlights the challenge for drugmakers in trialing potential vaccines to control the pandemic in enormous public scrutiny. Drugmakers often pause trials while testing drugs but they do not typically disclose that.

AstraZeneca's COVID-19

vaccine trial was placed on hold globally on Sept.6 after a serious side effect was reported in a trial participant in the UK. Trials restarted in Britain and Brazil on Monday with the go-ahead from British regulators, but remain on hold in the United States.

Johnson & Johnson's Belgian Janssen unit began Phase II trials of its COVID-19 vaccine in Spain on Monday, to be carried out on 190 people and concluded on Sept. 22.

Another area of Palma goes into lockdown

● President Armengol announced further mobility restrictions in parliament yesterday. These are to be applied to the Arquitecte Bennàssar district of Palma and to areas of Sant Antoni and Ibiza Town which have the highest rates of coronavirus infection. P3



Ring found in mass grave brings closure to Spanish civil war victim's family

● A wedding ring worn by her father 84 years ago when he was shot dead by General Francisco Franco's fascist forces finally gave certainty to Rosa Maria Insua, who received it, tears in her eyes, last week at the site of a mass grave found near Madrid.

The discovery of the ring by the Historic Memory Recovery Association (ARMH) confirmed the resting place of Eugenio Juan Insua, which his family had tried to find out for decades in vain.



Spain to transform 'Valley of the Fallen' Franco monument into civilian cemetery

● The Spanish government intends to transform the Franco-era monument known as *The Valley of the Fallen* into a cemetery to hold the remains of people killed on both sides of the Spanish Civil War, Deputy Prime Minister Carmen Calvo said. "The more than 30,000 victims of both sides will have peace and respect from all there," Calvo told a news conference. The initiative is part of a draft bill proposed by the left-wing coalition government, and dubbed "Democratic Memory Law", which would be submitted to parliament in a few months. The bill, which was partly unveiled by Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez last week, will also finance the unearthing of mass graves where victims of the civil war and the Franco dictatorship were buried and will prevent publicly funded institutions from glorifying the dictatorship.