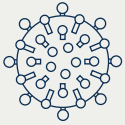


UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS

Getting RSV vs. the RSV Preventive Antibody

(RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS)



We all want to make the best health choices for our children.
So how risky is RSV compared to the RSV preventive antibody?

RSV FAST FACTS



HOW CONTAGIOUS?

Highly contagious. Nearly all children are infected with RSV before they turn 2 years old. Repeat RSV infections are common at all ages. RSV spreads both through droplets in the air and through direct contact. Direct contact with RSV can occur when kissing the face of a child infected with RSV. When a person touches a surface that has RSV on it, and then touches their eyes, nose, and or mouth, they can become infected.^{1,2}



HOW SERIOUS?

Mild to extremely serious. Infants and older adults are more likely to have severe RSV infections that affect the lower lung.^{1,2} Serious complications can include:

Hospitalization: 2–3 in 100 infants may need to be hospitalized.² RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization in the United States.³

Bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lung): RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis in babies.³

Pneumonia (infection of the lungs): RSV is the most common cause of pneumonia in babies.³

RSV PREVENTIVE ANTIBODY FAST FACTS



HOW EFFECTIVE?

The RSV preventive antibody reduces the risk of serious lower lung infections in infants by about 80%. It is also 80%–90% effective at protecting infants from being hospitalized from RSV in their first RSV season.^{4,5}

Vaccines for RSV, however, are only available for certain adults and pregnant people.⁶ For more information, visit [CDC's website](#).



HOW SAFE?

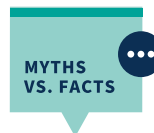
Scientists tested the RSV preventive antibody for safety in three separate clinical trials in more than 3,000 children. If side effects occur, they are usually mild and go away on their own.^{4,7,8}

For more information about RSV immunization safety, visit [CDC's website](#).



SAFETY RECORDS

The RSV preventive antibody was approved in July 2023. Safety reviews during three clinical trials found that the most common side effects after getting the RSV preventive antibody are rash, pain, swelling, or hardness at the injection site.^{4,6,7}



MYTH BUSTER

Is RSV the same as the common cold? No, RSV is very different. At first, RSV symptoms can look like cold symptoms: children will often sneeze, cough, and have a runny nose. But unlike a cold, which will run its course, RSV can be very serious. Children with RSV can have trouble breathing and might require hospitalization.³



Five separate safety systems continuously monitor all immunizations for as long as they are given.⁹

Learn more at hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html.

COMPARING THE TWO

RSV

PREVENTIVE ANTIBODY TO PREVENT SEVERE RSV

Common Mild to Moderate Symptoms and Common Side Effects^{2,4,8,10,11}

Common symptoms of RSV last about 1–2 weeks and can include:

- Runny nose
- Decreased appetite
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Fever
- Wheezing

In young infants (less than 6 months old), symptoms occur in stages rather than all at once, and can include:

Common side effects of the preventive antibody to prevent severe RSV are usually mild and last 1–3 days. If side effects occur, they can include:

- Rash
- Pain, redness, swelling, or hardness where preventive antibody was given

- Irritability
- Decreased activity
- Difficulty breathing
- Eating or drinking less
- Retractions (pulling in) of the chest wall that can be a sign of a blocked airway

Rare, More Serious Symptoms or Complications and Rare Side Effects^{2,4,8,10,11}

Serious symptoms or complications of RSV vary and can include:

- Bronchiolitis (swelling of the small airways in the lungs)
- Pneumonia (lung infection)

Serious side effects of the preventive antibody to prevent severe RSV vary and can include:

- Severe hypersensitivity reaction (an exaggerated or extreme immune response)

Sources:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/causes>
2. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/infants-young-children>
3. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/about>
4. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/vaccines/protect-infants.html>
5. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/wr/mm7309a4.htm>
6. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-safety/vaccines/rsv.html>
7. U.S. Food and Drug Administration: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-new-drug-prevent-rsv-babies-and-toddlers>
8. DailyMed: <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/fda/fdaDrugXsl.cfm?setid=2f08fa60-f674-432d-801b-1f9514bd9b39&>
9. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <https://www.hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html>
10. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: <https://www.chop.edu/conditions-diseases/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv>
11. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/symptoms>