Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Learn the facts about RSV.

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What is RSV?

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a highly contagious virus that can impact everyone and in mild cases presents like a common cold. However, RSV can also cause more serious respiratory illness, mainly in older adults and in young infants. Like influenza, RSV season is common during the winter months, in temperate climates.

What are the symptoms?

- Cough
- A stuffy or runny nose
- Sore throat
- Breathing difficulty
- Fever

RSV can lead to more serious complications, such as pneumonia (older adults). RSV may also worsen some existing conditions, such as chronic respiratory or heart disease. In very serious cases RSV infection can lead to hospitalization and death.

How does the virus spread?

You can get infected with RSV if you inhale droplets from an infected person when they cough or sneeze. Like many respiratory viruses, the infection can spread either directly (e.g. kissing, handshaking) or indirectly (e.g. speaking face to face, touching contaminated surfaces).

Treatment and prevention of RSV

Currently there is no effective treatment or vaccine against RSV infection to protect older adults. Studies are underway to determine whether investigational medicines/vaccines can help treat or protect against RSV disease. We are working on RSV vaccine trial(s) and if you are interested you can contact us.

RSV and Other Respiratory Viruses: True or False

- *RSV infection is easy to distinguish from other respiratory infections.*
  False. RSV can be misdiagnosed as other respiratory viruses (e.g. influenza) because they have similar symptoms. A laboratory test is needed to confirm infection of RSV or another virus.
- *RSV and influenza are different viruses.*
  True. However, RSV and influenza (flu) can occur at the same time. For more information you can contact your doctor.

To prevent the spread of RSV, you can take regular precautions such as:

- *Washing your hands*
- *Covering your nose and mouth with tissue or your arm when sneezing or coughing*
- *Disposing of used tissues*
- *Limiting contact with people who may be vulnerable to infection*

What Is A Vaccine Clinical Trial?

Frequently Asked Questions Other Side

For more information contact:

CAN-ENG-GSK-RSV OAADJ-004006-disease and study information material-v1.0-06Nov2020

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a vaccine clinical trial?

Clinical trials help determine if vaccines are safe and effective at preventing infections and other health conditions.

What will happen during a clinical trial?

Before enrolling in a clinical trial the participant will review an informed consent document with the trial doctor. This document explains in detail the clinical trial, its purpose, benefits and potential risks.

The trial team, made up of doctors, nurses, and other specialized health care professionals, will:

- check your health at the beginning of the clinical trial;
- provide specific instructions and guidance for what to do during the trial;
- monitor your health throughout the trial; and
- ensure that the guidelines for the clinical trial are followed.

To allow the trial team to monitor your health carefully, regular physical exams, medical assessments (e.g. temperature) or other exams as required by the trial will be done.

How is it determined who can participate in a clinical trial?

To participate in a clinical trial, participants must meet certain standards, called “inclusion criteria”. There are also factors that can exclude some people from participating, called “exclusion criteria”.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria are for example:

- Medical conditions
- Age
- Previous or current medications/ vaccinations
- Recent participation in a clinical trial

What benefits can you expect from taking part in the clinical trial?

Taking part in a trial may or may not have any direct benefit to you. Information obtained from clinical trials can help develop vaccines.

Are clinical trials safe?

Clinical trials follow strict guidelines. Safety measures are put in place to protect participants who are closely monitored for any changes in their health. Your study doctor will inform you about the potential risks associated with the clinical trial.

Can I leave a clinical trial once it has started?

Taking part in a clinical trial is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the trial at any time for any reason. Your decision will not affect medical care you receive outside the trial.

How is my personal information protected?

Your personal information will be kept confidential and secure. The trial sponsor and the trial team will protect your information in accordance with the laws in your country.

How is a new vaccine approved?

National health agencies, such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), have established guidelines for all the phases of clinical trials to ensure that the safety and effectiveness of new vaccines are properly assessed before they are approved for use in the general public. National health agencies approve a vaccine only if the effectiveness and safety data from the clinical trial support the approval of the product.[1, 2]

[1] *https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/ensuring-safe-vaccines.html*

[2] *https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/clinical-evaluation-new-vaccines*

It’s important to fully understand what will happen in a clinical trial. You may want to talk with your general practitioner, family, or friend before making a decision. Feel free to ask the trial team all the questions you may have before agreeing to participate. These frequently asked questions cover some of the basics about clinical trials.

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