

# Information for Parents about Synagis



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## What is Synagis®?

It is a medication that helps a child's body fight off a serious respiratory syncytial virus also called RSV. It is given every month for 3 to 5 months during the RSV season. In BC the RSV season is November to April.

## Why has my child been prescribed Synagis®?

Your child has more risk of developing a severe RSV infection. Your doctor has asked that your child receive Synagis®.

## How is Synagis® given?

It is given by needle into the thigh muscles. If your child needs more than 1 ml of Synagis® the amount is split and your child will receive a shot in each thigh.

## Is Synagis® a vaccine like the other immunizations my child receives?

No. There is no vaccine available for RSV. Synagis® is a type of antibody. It works like antibodies that your child's body makes naturally to fight an infection. The antibodies from Synagis® help your child for about one month.

## Is Synagis® a blood product?

No. There is also no chance of your child getting an infection from Synagis®.

## Does my child need to receive all of the monthly injections?

**Yes!** It is very important that your child get all of the injections. Each injection protects your child from a serious RSV infection for about 30 days. It is very important that you bring your child to her or his appointment every month during the RSV season. If you miss an appointment then contact your clinic to reschedule as soon as possible.

## What are the side effects of Synagis®?

Synagis® has few side effects. If side effects develop they are usually mild and do not last very long. Side effects may include:

- a mild fever
- a rash
- redness and soreness at the injection site.

Severe side effects are very rare.

## Can my child still receive their other immunizations?

Yes, Synagis® does not interfere with other immunizations. It can be given on the same day.

## If my child is sick can they still receive their Synagis®?

Usually yes. If your child is very sick with a high fever you should contact your doctor. Your doctor may want to wait until your child is well. On the other hand your doctor may feel that waiting to give the Synagis® may be a greater risk for your child. A mild fever or cold is usually not a reason to wait.

## Can my child still get RSV even if they are receiving Synagis®?

Yes, but the chance of getting so sick that she or he needs to be admitted to hospital is reduced. It is also important to know that Synagis® will not prevent other viral infections.

**Remember** – it is very important that your child receive all of her or his injections **on time** to be protected for the entire RSV season.

**Protect your child by coming every month for her or his Synagis injection.**