

Protective antibodies against RSV for all newborns

Protection against severe RSV infection

RSV is a virus that causes respiratory infections. In young children, it can sometimes lead to severe infections, requiring hospital care. Therefore, all newborns are offered treatment to protect against severe RSV infections.

What is RSV?

RSV is a common cold virus that spreads mostly during autumn and winter in Sweden. For young children, it can sometimes cause severe respiratory infections.

How is the medication administered

The medication is given at the maternity ward, via an injection into the child's thigh muscle. The procedure takes only a few seconds.

Antibody treatment

To protect the child from severe RSV infection, a medication containing antibodies, Beyfortus, is administered.

This medication provides protection that lasts for 5–6 months and after this gradually diminishes.

Side effects

Most children experience no side effects, but in some cases, the treatment may lead to:

- Redness or tenderness at the injection site
- Mild fever or irritability during the first day
- Allergic reaction (very rare)

If the pregnant person has received RSV treatment

The child is not given antibodies if the pregnant person has received treatment against RSV within two weeks prior to delivery. In that case, the protection provided to the child through those antibodies is sufficient.

Frequently asked questions

- **Does the treatment prevent my child from contracting RSV?**
No, it does not prevent infection but provides protection against severe infection.
- **Does the treatment protect against all colds?**
No, the medication only protects against RSV.
- **Does my child need additional injections?**
No, one dose of the medication is sufficient for the entire season.
- **Is the treatment voluntary?**
Yes, as a guardian, you decide whether your child will receive the medication.

Summary

Beyfortus is a safe and well-studied medication that protects infants from severe RSV infection. It has been used in other countries, such as Finland and Spain, with very good results in preventing severe RSV infection and hospitalization due to RSV infection. Administering the injection early reduces the risk of severe illness during the child's first months.

Questions?

Speak with your pediatrician or the staff at the maternity ward.



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