Synagis

Synagis helps prevent your child from getting very sick from an RSV infection. It is very important that your child get all of the Synagis injections **on time** during the RSV season.

What is Synagis?

It is a medicine that helps prevent your child from getting pneumonia or bronchiolitis due to RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). It is given every month during RSV season, November to April.

What is RSV?

RSV is a very common virus that usually causes a cold with runny nose, sore throat and/or fever. Some children, such as premature babies under 6 months of age, children with heart or chronic lung disease and children with weakened immune systems or generalized muscle weakness, are more likely to get very sick from an RSV infection. In these children, RSV can cause severe breathing problems.

Why has my child been prescribed Synagis?

Your child has a greater chance of getting very sick from an RSV infection. Your child's doctor has prescribed Synagis to help prevent this from happening.

How is Synagis given?

It is injected with a needle into the thigh.

Is Synagis a vaccine?

No. There is no vaccine available for RSV. Synagis is a type of antibody. Our bodies make antibodies naturally to help fight infection. Synagis works by helping your child's body fight off an RSV infection.

How long does Synagis work?

It will help protect your child for about one month.

Does my child need all of the monthly injections?

Yes. Your child needs an injection every month during RSV season. It is very important that your child get all of the injections on time.

Where will my child get the Synagis injections?

While your child is staying in the hospital, we will give them the monthly injections. After you leave the hospital, you will need to take your child to their primary care doctor for the monthly injections.

To Learn More

- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit 206-987-2041
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

What are the side effects?

Synagis has few side effects. They are usually mild and do not last very long. Severe side effects are very rare. Side effects may include:

- A mild fever
- A rash
- Redness and soreness at the injection site

Can my child still get their other vaccines?

Yes. Synagis does not effect how well vaccines work. It can be given on the same day as your child's other vaccines.

If my child is sick can they still get their Synagis?

If your child is very sick with a high fever, call your child's doctor to see if they want to wait until your child is well. If your child has a mild fever or cold, they can still get their Synagis injection.

Can my child still get RSV while taking Synagis?

Yes, but it lowers the chance of your child getting very sick from RSV. Synagis will not stop your child from getting other viral infections.

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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