

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

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Vaccination is the best protection against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections and their complications. RSV is very common and contagious. It causes infections of the lungs and respiratory tract.

Disease	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
RSV infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cold or flu-like symptoms (e.g. stuffy or runny nose, sore throat, cough, fatigue, fever)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Serious infection of the lungs or respiratory tractDeath among vulnerable people

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against RSV infections and their complications. The RSV vaccine can be administered to certain people aged 18 years and over and to pregnant people, preferably between the 32th and the 36th weeks of pregnancy.

Symptoms after vaccination

Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g., redness at the injection site). Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g., cold, gastro, headache).

The RSV vaccine is safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long.

Frequency	Known reactions to the vaccine	What to do
In most cases (more than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pain at the injection site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site.Take fever/pain reducing medicine as needed.See a health professional if symptoms are severe.
Very common (less than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">FatigueMuscle and joint painHeadache	
Common (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Redness and swelling at the injection siteFever	

There appears to be a small risk of developing Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) after receiving the RSV vaccine. The risk would be about 7 to 9 extra cases in one million people vaccinated. However, after an RSV infection, the risk of GBS would be 2 to 4 times compared to an expected frequency for GBS in the adult population. This syndrome causes progressive, reversible paralysis, which can sometimes leave permanent effects. The cause of GBS is unknown. Most cases occur after an intestinal or respiratory infection, especially in young adults and the elderly.

We recommend that you stay at the clinic at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reaction may occur. If an allergic reactions occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

For any questions, contact the person giving the vaccine, or Info-Santé 811 or a health professional.