

Synagis

What is Synagis?

Synagis is a man made antibody to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a virus that can cause serious illness or death in children. It is NOT a vaccine. Synagis gives your baby a dose of virus-fighting substances called antibodies to help prevent serious RSV infections. (also see hand out on RSV)

Why does my baby need Synagis?

Your baby was either premature with lung disease, has a heart condition, or has some other lung or heart issue and is full term. Your baby is probably going home during RSV season (usually around October through April in Wisconsin)

How is Synagis given?

Synagis is given by a shot, usually in the thigh.

My baby only needs to get this shot once?

There are only enough antibodies in one shot to last about one month. Your baby will need to get shots once a month during the RSV season. It is *very* important that you do not miss a dose.

Depending on your child's lung/heart situation, he/she may also need shots during their second RSV season.

RSV is the #1 cause of hospitalization in babies under one year of age. Synagis has been used in more than one million children in the US since its introduction in 1998.

So, my baby won't get RSV if he gets the Synagis?

Your baby could still get RSV, but the chance is lessened and the illness may not be as severe.