

# Synagis (palivizumab) basics

**Stops children from getting Respiratory Syncytial Virus.** Synagis (palivizumab) is the only medicine that prevents Respiratory Syncytial Virus infection in high risk children.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Synagis (palivizumab)</b> Drug effectiveness					
<b>Possible side effects</b>					
<b>Fever</b> 27% chance vs. 25% placebo*					
<b>Rash</b> 12% chance vs. 10% placebo*					
<b>Injection site reaction†</b>					
<b>Serious allergic reaction†</b>					

\* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Synagis (palivizumab) is a monthly injection into the muscle during the season when respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is most active.
- Synagis (palivizumab) is for children less than 2 years old who are premature infants, children with chronic lung disease, and children with certain heart conditions.
- Rarely can cause serious allergic reaction after any injection. Synagis (palivizumab) is usually given in a clinic or hospital so nurses and doctors can respond quickly if this happens.
- Could cause redness or swelling at injection site, rash, or fever.
- If your child is already infected with RSV, they should still receive Synagis (palivizumab) for the remainder of RSV season to prevent another infection.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Serious allergic reaction

Rarely, children getting Synagis (palivizumab) can have a serious allergic reaction including hives, itching, sudden drop in blood pressure, trouble breathing, and swelling of the face and throat. Synagis (palivizumab) is usually given in a clinic or the hospital so nurses and doctors will be able to respond.

### Low platelet count

Could cause drop in platelets which could lead to problems with clotting. If your child has a problem with clotting, talk to your doctor before starting Synagis (palivizumab) since this could make it worse.

### Incorrect RSV lab tests

Make sure you talk to your child's doctor if they're taking Synagis (palivizumab) before testing them for RSV, since the results could be incorrect. Talk to your doctor if you have questions.