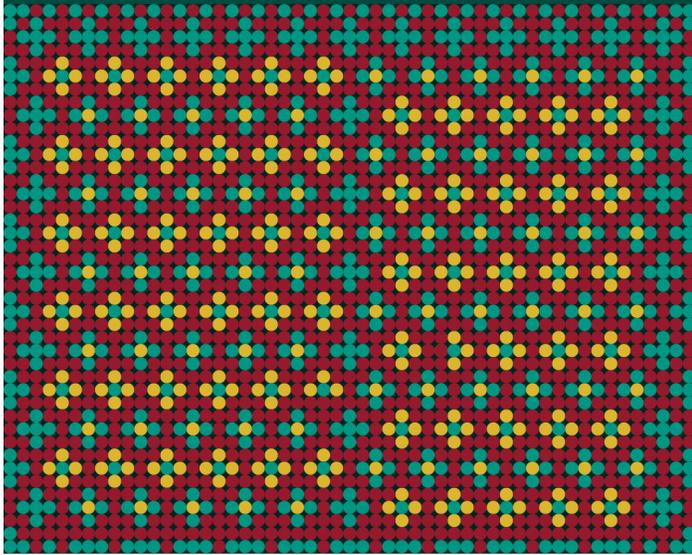**RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)**

Information about the ABRYSVO Vaccine

New medicines are available to help protect people from severe illness caused by respiratory syncytial (sin-SUSH-uhl) virus, or RSV. ABRYSVO (a-bris-vo) is a vaccine that helps protect certain groups of people from getting very sick from RSV.

What is respiratory syncytial virus or RSV?

Respiratory syncytial (sin-SUSH-uhl) virus, or RSV, is a common respiratory virus. Most people usually get mild, cold-like symptoms and feel better in one to two weeks. RSV can cause more severe illness in some people including premature infants, babies younger than 12 months, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems.

What are common symptoms of RSV illness?

Symptoms of RSV infection commonly include the following:

- Runny nose
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Fever
- Wheezing
- Loss of appetite

What is severe RSV disease?

Severe RSV disease is an illness that causes more serious lung and lower airway infections like pneumonia. Severe RSV in pregnant people can cause shortness of breath and other severe breathing problems. Infants with severe RSV usually have trouble breathing or become dehydrated. However, treatment can help prevent these complications.

Contact your healthcare provider if you or your infant have worsening RSV symptoms or are having difficulty breathing.

What is ABRYSVO?

ABRYSVO is a no-cost vaccine that protects against severe RSV, including lung and lower airway infections.

Who is ABRYSVO for?

The ABRYSVO vaccine is for…

- pregnant people at 32 through 36 weeks (about 8 and 8 ½ months),
- people ages 60 years and older, and
- adults who are at a higher risk for severe illness from RSV.

How is the ABRYSVO vaccine given?

Your healthcare provider will give a single dose of the vaccine into your upper arm muscle.

How does ABRYSVO work?

ABRYSVO causes an immune response. It creates antibodies that fight against RSV, which can protect people from developing severe RSV. People vaccinated in pregnancy also transfer this protection to their growing baby.

What are the benefits of the ABRYSVO?

The ABRYSVO vaccine can protect infants under six months of age from potentially life-threatening LRTD. ABRYSVO can also protect older adults over 60 years of age from severe RSV and lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD) which, if left untreated, can result in hospitalization.

What are the possible risks or side effects of the ABRYSVO vaccine?

The most common side effects include pain at the injection site, headache, muscle pain, and nausea.

It is also important to only vaccinate pregnant people at 32 through 36 weeks. Some studies showed a slight increase in preterm birth for pregnant people vaccinated before 32 weeks.

What other factors should I consider?

Ask your healthcare provider if ABRYSVO is right for you, especially if you have ever had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient in ABRYSVO.

If you have an immune system weakened by a medical condition or medication, you may have a decreased immune response to ABRYSVO.

What else can I do to protect myself and my loved ones from RSV?

- Wash your hands often
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Clean surfaces frequently
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Stay home when sick

FIG. 1. YOU ARE CONSIDERED HIGH-RISK OF SEVERE ILLNESS FROM RSV IS YOU MEET AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Adults over 60 years old
- Infants under one year old
- Adults with chronic heart or lung disease
- Adults with underlying medical conditions and weakened immune systems
- Adults in assisted living or long-term care centers.

References

1. ABRYSVO. *FDA*. Accessed October 18, 2023. www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/abrysvo.
2. FDA approves first vaccine for pregnant individuals to prevent RSV in infants. *FDA*. August 21, 2023. Accessed October 18, 2023. www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-vaccine-pregnant-individuals-prevent-rsv-infants.
3. Highlights of prescribing information. *FDA*. August 2023. Accessed October 18, 2023. www.fda.gov/media/168889/download?attachment.