



Positively  
affecting the lives  
of our members each and  
every day

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## RSV More Common Than Thought in Children Up To Age Five

*Children who are in high risk groups, such as premature infants are given injections of medications like Synagis. These are administered during the typical flu season starting in October or November. Injections are commonly prescribed for the first two years of life in high risk children.*

Researches now state that RSV in children as old as five years of age is higher than previously thought. About 2.1 million children five or younger need care for RSV each year and most of these children were previously healthy.

An article in the February issue of the New England Journal of Medicine suggests that the current emphasis only on those children at high risk for the disease may be missing a large number of other children.

The article further states, that the study shows an unrecognized and large burden exists among children with no risk factors who are between one and five years old.

Researchers conducted studies in five hospitals, emergency rooms, and pediatric offices in Rochester, Nashville and Cincinnati from 2000 through 2004. The results of the data accumulated during the study period

were then extrapolated to the entire U.S. population:

- An estimated 2.1 million children younger than five with RSV infection require medical attention each year.
- Among those, about 3% are hospitalized, 25% are treated in an emergency room and 73% are treated in a pediatrician's office.
- Of the outpatients, 61% are ages two through five.
- Overall, of those needing care for RSV, 78% are over the age of one.

It is estimated that among children under the age of five years, RSV infection results in approximately one of 334 hospitalizations, one of 38 visits to the emergency room, and one of 13 visits to the doctor's office each year in the U.S.

\*Source: MedPage Today

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## Green Tea Poses Problem for Velcade® Patients

Green tea products have been regarded as a great health supplement for many years. Its antioxidant compounds have shown they are a potent weapon against leukemia, lung, prostate, colon and breast cancer. A compound in green tea called EGCG polyphenol binds to a common protein in tumors called GRP78 (which is responsible for preventing cell death) and inhibits its function, thereby assisting in the death of tumor cells.

But, new studies suggest that some components of green tea may counteract the anticancer effects of the cancer therapy, Velcade®.

A team at the University of Southern California studied effects of green tea compounds when combined with cytotoxic chemical therapy. Researchers studied whether the combination of green tea and Velcade® would improve outcomes against multiple myeloma, a blood cancer and glioblastoma, a malignant brain tumor. Velcade® works by inhibiting proteasomes and inducing tumor cell death. However, the team was surprised to find that the EGCG compound in green tea seemed to prevent Velcade® from fighting the disease by blocking its proteasome inhibitory function. The two compounds contradicted each other in the cell, leaving nearly 100 percent of the tumor intact.

*continued, Green Tea Poses Problem for Velcade® Patients*

The study findings may have several important implications in the clinical setting. As little as two or three 250 mg capsules of green tea extract can possibly inhibit the function of Velcade®. The team believes that as the EGCG inactivates Velcade's® function in the tumor cell, it may also prevent some of the side effects that usually accompany therapy. As a result, patients taking green tea products to supplement their therapy may feel better and might be encouraged to increase their intake while unknowingly negating the efficacy of Velcade® treatment. The evidence is sufficient enough to urge patients undergoing Velcade® therapy to abstain from consuming green tea products, in particular the widely available, highly concentrated forms that are sold as liquid or capsules.

## FDA Approves Synvisc One – New Long-Lasting Osteoarthritis Treatment

The Food and Drug Administration has granted marketing approval to Genzyme Corp. for its viscosupplement, Synvisc-One, for relief of pain associated with osteoarthritis of the knee.

Synvisc-One is administered through a single intra-articular injection. It is an alternative treatment regimen to Synvisc, a three-injection treatment that was approved in the U.S. in 1997. Patients suffering from osteoarthritis of the knee may experience clinically significant pain relief for up to six months. This longer term relief may delay the need for total knee replacement.

Synvisc is a derivative of hyaluronic acid that is injected into the knee joint to replace the synovial fluid that often gets degraded in osteoarthritis patients.



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## AIDS/HIV

Daunoxome  
Doxil  
Intron A  
Roferon-A  
Serostim  
Taxol  
Fuzeon

## Alpha1 - Proteinase Inhibitor Deficiency

Aralast  
Prolastin  
Zemaira

## Antihemophilic Agents

Antihemophilic Factor  
Advate  
Alphanate  
Bioclote  
Helixate FS  
Hemofil M  
Humate P  
Hyate C  
Koate DVI  
Kogenate FS  
Monarc M  
Monoclote P  
Recombinate  
ReFacto

## Anti-nausea

Aloxi  
Anzemet  
Emend  
Kytril  
Zofran

## Asthma

Xolair

## Cancer/Related

Adriamycin  
Adrucil  
Alkeran  
Aredia  
Avastin  
BiCNU  
Blenoxane  
Busulfex  
Campath  
Camptosar  
Cerubidine  
Cosmegen  
Cytarabine  
Cytosan  
Depocyt

Doxil  
DTIC-Dome  
Eligard  
Ellence  
Erbitux  
Ethyol  
Faslodex  
Fludara  
Gemzar  
Gleevec  
Herceptin  
Hycamtin  
Idamycin  
IFEX  
Intron A  
Leucovorin  
Leukine  
Leustatin  
Lupron Depot  
Lupron Depot-Ped  
Mesnex  
Mustargen  
Mutamycin  
Mylotarg  
Navelbine  
Nexavar  
Nipent  
Novantrone  
Oncaspar  
Ontak  
Paraplatin  
Platinol AQ  
Proleukin  
Rituxan  
Roferon-A  
Sutent  
Tarceva  
Taxol  
Taxotere  
Temodar  
Thyrogen  
Toposar  
Trelstar Depot  
Trelstar LA  
Trisenox  
VePesid  
Vinblastine  
Vincasar  
Vumon  
Xeloda  
Zanosar  
Zoladex  
Zometa

## Contraceptives

Depo-Provera

## Crohn's Disease

Remicade

## Dystonia

Botox  
Myobloc

## Factor IX Concentrates

Alphanine SD  
Benefix  
Mononine  
Profilnine SD  
Proplex T  
Bebulin VH

## Gaucher's Disease

Ceredase  
Cerezyme  
Zavesca

## Growth Hormone Deficiency

Genotropin  
Humatrope  
Norditropin  
Nutropin  
Nutropin AQ  
Saizen

## Hematologics

Arixtra  
Aranesp  
Epogen  
Fragmin  
Innohep  
Lovenox  
Neulasta  
Neumega  
Neupogen  
Procrit

## Hepatitis C

Copegus  
Infergen  
Intron A  
Pegasys  
Peg-Intron  
Rebetron  
Roferon-A

## Hormone Deficiency

Delatestryl  
Delestrogen  
Depo-Estradiol  
Depo-Testosterone

## Hunter Syndrome

Elaprase

## Primary Immunodeficiency

Carimune NF  
Gamimune N  
Gammagard S/D  
Gammar-P  
Gamunex  
Iveegam EN  
Panglobulin  
Panglobulin NF  
Polygam S/D  
Venoglobulin-S

## Miscellaneous

Alferon-N  
Milrinone  
Zinecard

## Multiple Sclerosis

Avonex  
Betaseron  
Copaxone  
Novantrone  
Rebif  
Tysabri

## Osteo/ Rheumatoid/ Psoriatic Arthritis

Enbrel  
Humira  
Hyalgan  
Kineret  
Orencia  
Remicade  
Supartz  
Synvisc

## Osteoporosis

Forteo  
Miacalcin

## Psoriasis

Amevive  
Enbrel  
Raptiva  
Remicade

## Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Synagis

## Rh Hemolytic Disease

BayRho-D  
Micro-Rhogam  
Rhogam  
WinRho-SDF