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Vaccines for the common cold (Review)

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[Intervention Review]

Vaccines for the common cold

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ABSTRACT

Background

The common cold is a spontaneously remitting infection of the upper respiratory tract, characterised by a runny nose, nasal congestion, sneezing, cough, malaise, sore throat, and fever (usually < 37.8 °C). Whilst the common cold is generally not harmful, it is a cause of economic burden due to school and work absenteeism. In the United States, economic loss due to the common cold is estimated at more than USD 40 billion per year, including an estimate of 70 million workdays missed by employees, 189 million school days missed by children, and 126 million workdays missed by parents caring for children with a cold. Additionally, data from Europe show that the total cost per episode may be up to EUR 1102. There is also a large expenditure due to inappropriate antimicrobial prescription. Vaccine development for the common cold has been difficult due to antigenic variability of the common cold viruses; even bacteria can act as infective agents. Uncertainty remains regarding the efficacy and safety of interventions for preventing the common cold in healthy people, thus we performed an update of this Cochrane Review, which was first published in 2011 and updated in 2013 and 2017.

Objectives

To assess the clinical effectiveness and safety of vaccines for preventing the common cold in healthy people.

Search methods

We searched the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) (April 2022), MEDLINE (1948 to April 2022), Embase (1974 to April 2022), CINAHL (1981 to April 2022), and LILACS (1982 to April 2022). We also searched three trials registers for ongoing studies, and four websites for additional trials (April 2022). We did not impose any language or date restrictions.

Selection criteria

Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) of any virus vaccine compared with placebo to prevent the common cold in healthy people.

Data collection and analysis

We used Cochrane's Screen4Me workflow to assess the initial search results. Four review authors independently performed title and abstract screening to identify potentially relevant studies. We retrieved the full-text articles for those studies deemed potentially relevant,

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and the review authors independently screened the full-text reports for inclusion in the review, recording reasons for exclusion of the excluded studies. Any disagreements were resolved by discussion or by consulting a third review author when needed. Two review authors independently collected data on a data extraction form, resolving any disagreements by consensus or by involving a third review author. We double-checked data transferred into Review Manager 5 software. Three review authors independently assessed risk of bias using RoB 1 tool as outlined in the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*. We carried out statistical analysis using Review Manager 5. We did not conduct a meta-analysis, and we did not assess publication bias. We used GRADEpro GDT software to assess the certainty of the evidence and to create a summary of findings table.

Main results

We did not identify any new RCTs for inclusion in this update. This review includes one RCT conducted in 1965 with an overall high risk of bias. The RCT included 2307 healthy young men in a military facility, all of whom were included in the analyses, and compared the effect of three adenovirus vaccines (live, inactivated type 4, and inactivated type 4 and 7) against a placebo (injection of physiological saline or gelatin capsule). There were 13 (1.14%) events in 1139 participants in the vaccine group, and 14 (1.19%) events in 1168 participants in the placebo group. Overall, we do not know if there is a difference between the adenovirus vaccine and placebo in reducing the incidence of the common cold (risk ratio 0.95, 95% confidence interval 0.45 to 2.02; very low-certainty evidence). Furthermore, no difference in adverse events when comparing live vaccine preparation with placebo was reported. We downgraded the certainty of the evidence to very low due to unclear risk of bias, indirectness because the population of this study was only young men, and imprecision because confidence intervals were wide and the number of events was low. The included study did not assess vaccine-related or all-cause mortality.

Authors' conclusions

This Cochrane Review was based on one study with very low-certainty evidence, which showed that there may be no difference between the adenovirus vaccine and placebo in reducing the incidence of the common cold. We identified a need for well-designed, adequately powered RCTs to investigate vaccines for the common cold in healthy people. Future trials on interventions for preventing the common cold should assess a variety of virus vaccines for this condition, and should measure such outcomes as common cold incidence, vaccine safety, and mortality (all-cause and related to the vaccine).

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

Vaccines for preventing the common cold

Review question

Can vaccines help prevent the common cold?

Background

The common cold is mainly caused by a viral infection of the upper respiratory tract. People with the common cold feel unwell, have a runny nose, nasal congestion, sneezing, cough with or without sore throat, and have slightly elevated temperatures. However, people usually recover when their immune system controls the impact of the viral infection. Treatment for this condition is aimed at relieving symptoms. Globally, the common cold causes widespread illness and large economic loss. In the United States, economic loss due to the common cold is estimated at more than USD 40 billion per year, including millions of workdays and school days missed. In Europe, the total cost per episode may be up to EUR 1102. There is also a large expenditure on inappropriate antimicrobial prescriptions. It has been difficult to manufacture vaccines to prevent the common cold because it is caused by several viruses. The effect of vaccines for preventing the common cold in healthy people is still unknown.

Search date

The evidence is current to 26 April 2022.

Study characteristics

We did not identify any new trials for inclusion in this update. This review includes one previously identified randomised controlled trial (a type of study where participants are randomly assigned to one of two or more treatment groups) performed in 1965. This study involved 2307 young, healthy military men at a training facility in the United States Navy, and evaluated the effects of a live attenuated (weakened) adenovirus vaccine, an inactivated type 4, and an inactivated type 4 and 7 vaccines compared to a placebo (fake vaccine).

Study funding sources

The included trial was funded by a government institution.

Key results

There were no differences in the frequency of occurrence of the common cold between those who received a live attenuated adenovirus vaccine compared to those who received a placebo. There were no differences between groups in adverse events. However, as the trial

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participants were not representative of the general population and there were flaws in the study design, our confidence in the results is very low. Further research is needed to find out if vaccines can prevent the common cold, as the current evidence does not support the use of the adenovirus vaccine to prevent the common cold in healthy people.

Certainty of the evidence

We assessed the certainty of the evidence as very low due to high risk of bias; because the study population was only young men; and due to the small number of people included in the study and low numbers of colds.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Summary of findings 1. Virus vaccines compared to placebo for preventing the common cold in healthy people

Virus vaccines compared to placebo for preventing the common cold in healthy people

Patient or population: young, healthy men in a military facility
Settings: navy training centre
Intervention: adenovirus vaccines (live, inactivated type 4, and inactivated type 4 and 7)
Comparison: placebo

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No. of participants (studies)	Certainty of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Assumed risk	Corresponding risk				
	Placebo	Virus vaccines for preventing the common cold				
Incidence of the common cold	Study population		RR 0.95 (0.45 to 2.02)	2307 (1 study)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ Very low ^{a,b,c}	
Number of participants with common cold by group Follow-up: mean 9 weeks	12 per 1000	11 per 1000 (5 to 24)				
Vaccine safety Follow-up: mean 9 weeks	The study reported that there were no differences between groups in vaccine-related adverse events.			2307 (1 study)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ Very low ^{a,b,c}	
Mortality: vaccine related and all cause - not reported Follow-up: mean 9 weeks	See comments					The included study did not report this outcome.

*The basis for the **assumed risk** (e.g. the median control group risk across studies) is provided in footnotes. The **corresponding risk** (and its 95% confidence interval) is based on the assumed risk in the comparison group and the **relative effect** of the intervention (and its 95% CI).

CI: confidence interval; **RR:** risk ratio

GRADE Working Group grades of evidence

High certainty: we are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect.

Moderate certainty: we are moderately confident in the effect estimate: the true effect is likely to be close to the estimate of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different.

Low certainty: our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: the true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect.

Very low certainty: we have very little confidence in the effect estimate: the true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of effect.

^aDowngraded one level due to unclear risk of bias.

^bDowngraded one level due to indirectness as the study population is only young men.

^cDowngraded one level due to imprecision as confidence intervals are wide, and the number of events is low.

BACKGROUND

Description of the condition

Although there is no standard definition for the common cold (see [Appendix 1](#)), it is generally defined as a spontaneously remitting infection of the upper respiratory tract (URT), characterised by a runny nose, nasal congestion, and sneezing. Other symptoms associated with the common cold include cough, malaise, sore throat, and fever (usually < 100 °F/37.8 °C) ([Eccles 2009](#)). A temperature of 100 °F/37.8 °C or higher for three to four days is typically associated with influenza and other respiratory diseases (see [Appendix 2](#)) ([DDCP 2010](#)). Despite the fact that the common cold is not considered to be a deadly disease, bacterial complications can lead to high morbidity and mortality ([Giraud-Gatineau 2020](#); [Veiga 2021](#)).

The common cold is a disease of diverse aetiology (see [Appendix 3](#)) ([Heikkinen 2003](#)). Premature babies, children, the elderly, and other populations with comorbidities such as chronic lung diseases (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), congenital heart disease, and asthma are more prone to viral infections that cause the common cold, including respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), human rhinovirus (HRV), parainfluenza, coronavirus, and adenovirus (non-polio) ([Johnston 2017](#); [Lu 2020](#); [Rubner 2017](#); [Shibata 2018](#)). Additionally, in humans, coronavirus such as the HCoV-229E, HCoV-OC43, HCoV-NL63, and HCoV-HKU1 strains are responsible for URT infections (URTI) associated with the common cold ([Zumla 2016](#)). It has been shown that 1% to 10% of the population is infected with the HCoV-NL63 coronavirus annually ([Szelazek 2017](#)). Even the infectious agent SARS-CoV-2 can be associated with the common cold ([Zimmermann 2020](#)). The transmission of the common cold occurs through aerosols, direct contact with infected nasal secretions, or fomites ([DeGeorge 2019](#); [L'Huillier 2015](#); [Reynolds 2016](#)); the primary factors that contribute to the spread of this disease include poor hand hygiene, overcrowding, and interactions in places such as schools, day-care centres, and between households ([Adler 2018](#); [Alexandrino 2016](#)).

The common cold is one of the most frequent illnesses experienced by humans. Children may experience up to 11 URIs annually ([Lambert 2007](#); [Tang 2019](#)), whilst adults experience an average of two episodes per year ([Tomita 2012](#); [Visseaux 2017](#)). For instance, HRV is responsible for 50% to 80% of common colds, and it is an important cause of morbidity, reduced productivity, and inappropriate use of antibiotics ([Kardos 2017](#); [Warner 2019](#)). Although there are few studies on the socioeconomic costs of the common cold, and most existing studies are problematic in terms of methodology (e.g. recall bias) for mainly being cross-sectional studies on self-reported surveys performed in a small or specific population, the impact on school and work absenteeism caused by common cold and the economic burden it causes cannot be overlooked ([Dicpinigaitis 2015](#); [Jaume 2020](#); [Jaume 2021](#)). In the United States, economic loss due to the common cold is estimated at more than USD 40 billion per year, including an estimate of 70 million workdays missed by employees suffering from a cold, 189 million school days missed by children, and 126 million work days missed by parents caring for children with a cold ([Kardos 2017](#)), all of which have an impact on productivity ([Dicpinigaitis 2015](#)). In Europe, the total cost per episode may be up to EUR 1102, of which 75% are indirect costs ([Stjärne 2012](#)). Additionally, there is a large

expenditure due to inappropriate antimicrobial prescription and use for URTI ([Tsuzuki 2020](#)).

Description of the intervention

There is no specific treatment for the common cold. Treatment is focused on easing the symptoms. Prevention is therefore essential to stop the spread of viruses that cause the common cold. In terms of preventive measures, studies have shown that simple measures such as handwashing and maintaining physical distance are relevant to all respiratory infections, but difficult to apply or enforce because, as time passes, motivation and compliance may decrease ([Allan 2014](#); [Jefferson 2020](#)). Consequently, another method of prevention is vaccination. The development of vaccines for the common cold has been challenging because of the aetiological diversity of the disease and the antigenic variability of the common cold viruses ([Glanville 2013](#); [To 2017](#)). The case of HRV remains a challenge for the public health and scientific communities due to technical, logistical, and fundamental biological difficulties ([Stobart 2017](#)). Unlike several human viruses, HRV vaccine must be able to elicit protective neutralising antibodies to potentially over 150 serologically distinct types spanning three different species ([Ren 2017](#); [Stobart 2017](#)). For this reason, it is difficult to develop a vaccine that provides full protection ([Stepanova 2019](#)). Despite these challenges, recent attempts using rhinovirus-derived VP1, a surface protein that is critically involved in the infection of respiratory cells, has demonstrated that with enough exposure and recombinant VP1 as an immunogen, cross-serotype reactive antibodies can be generated ([Edlmayr 2011](#); [McLean 2012](#)). The future of vaccine development for the common cold seems promising, considering that studies on virus genotyping such as HRV genotype are being published more frequently ([Luka 2020](#); [Ren 2017](#)), and there is a rapid technological development of vaccines that include micro-/nanoparticle material and recombinant technologies ([Papadopoulos 2017](#)).

Adenovirus is a recognised pathogen of the URT ([Biserni 2020](#)). Adenovirus serotype 4 (Ad4) and serotype 7 (Ad7) vaccines were used during immunisation programmes beginning in 1971. Unfortunately, their interruption triggered the re-emergence of adenovirus-produced diseases in crowded locations. An example of this reappearance was documented in US military training sites, where Ad4 accounted for 98% of all diagnoses ([Russell 2006](#)). The development and deployment of AdV-4 and AdV-7 vaccines is essential in controlling AdV-4- and AdV-7-related URTI ([Collins 2020](#)). Adenoviral vaccines delivered orally have been used for decades to prevent respiratory illnesses. New studies have concluded that these vaccines are safe and have brought about a large immune response in the studied populations. For instance, a study examining the duration of the neutralising antibody response generated from a live oral AdV-4 and AdV-7 vaccine showed that, regardless of pre-vaccination serostatus, participants developed a significant antibody response which persisted for at least six years after vaccination ([Collins 2020](#)).

RSV is an important cause of respiratory infection in older adults, and almost all children have been infected with RSV by the age of two; due to incomplete and short-lived natural immunity, repeated RSV infections occur throughout life ([Williams 2020](#)). The development of an RSV vaccine has been difficult due to antigenic variability, especially in proteins F and G. However, a first-in-human phase 1 trial has been reported to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of an experimental RSV vaccine of

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Ad26.RSV.preF (a replication-incompetent adenovirus-26 vector encoding the F protein), which is administered intramuscularly 12 months apart in healthy adults aged ≥ 60 years old (Williams 2020). There have also been concerns of enhanced respiratory disease (ERD) after vaccination with the formalin-inactivated RSV vaccines in the 1960s, in which patients showed X-ray evidence of severe pneumonia and bronchiolitis, in addition to immunopotentiality induced by a T helper (Th)-2 and Th17 T cell responses with the enrolment of T cells, neutrophils, and eosinophils causing inflammation and tissue damage (Rey-Jurado 2017). Current vaccine candidates, especially those designed for infants and children, whose immune systems are still immature, must therefore be safe and avoid these immunologic features of ERD (Mazur 2018).

One RSV immunisation approach is the development of a vaccine for pregnant women, since it has been demonstrated that RSV-neutralising antibodies are transferred from the pregnant woman to the foetus through the placenta (Chu 2014). A clinical trial in which healthy pregnant women received either an intramuscular dose of RSV fusion (F) protein nanoparticle vaccine or placebo, showed that during the first 90 days of life, infants with RSV had a significantly lower number of respiratory tract infections (1.5%) compared to the placebo group (2.4%). However, to tag the vaccine as successful in terms of efficacy, its possible benefits with respect to other endpoint events have to be demonstrated (Madhi 2020). Another phase II clinical trial evaluated the tolerability and safety of RSV fusion (F) protein nanoparticle vaccine compared to placebo in 50 healthy third-trimester pregnant women and their infants (Muñoz 2019). The trial demonstrated that the vaccine was well tolerated with no differences on safety outcomes other than expected short-term reactogenicity in women who received the active vaccine. In addition, transplacental antibody transfer ranged between 90% and 120% across assays for infants of the vaccinated group of women (Muñoz 2019).

Regarding parainfluenza, there is still no approved vaccine available. However, the intranasal administration of two doses of a live-attenuated human parainfluenza virus type 3 HPIV3-cp45 vaccine seems promising, as it has been shown to be well tolerated and immunogenic in seronegative children over six months of age (Karron 2011).

How the intervention might work

Vaccines work by inducing an immune response, such as an antibody response that interferes with a pathogenic invasion and prevents their adherence to epithelial cells through opsonisation, phagocytosis, and other mechanisms (Pichichero 2009; Wooden 2018). A correlate of protection to a pathogen is a measurable sign that a person is immune after vaccination, and can either be absolute or relative (Plotkin 2020). There may also be more than one correlate of protection for a disease, known as 'co-correlates' (Plotkin 2020). The immune memory is a critical correlate (effector memory for short-incubation and central memory for long-incubation diseases), and cell-mediated immunity can operate as a correlate or co-correlate of protection against a disease (Plotkin 2010). However, some vaccines only have surrogates for an unknown protective response, which are easy measurements but not functional (Plotkin 2010). For instance, as there is no correlate of protection for the development of HRV vaccines, serum IgA is used as a surrogate marker for studies on all live attenuated HRV vaccines to demonstrate vaccine take (Armah 2016).

Studies suggest that vaccines that mimic natural infection and take into account the structure of pathogens seem to be effective in inducing long-term protective immunity (Kang 2009). Different types of vaccines against respiratory viruses already exist, but all have been focused on decreasing the incidence of lower respiratory infections. Traditionally inactivated or live attenuated viruses are used. However, there are promising approaches that use micro-/nanoparticles material and recombinant technologies that produce a broad immunogenic, reproducible, safe, and often self-adjuvating response (Gomes 2017; Papadopoulos 2017).

Why it is important to do this review

Although the common cold is self-limiting with symptoms often lasting up to 10 days, it is the most common acute illness in industrialised countries with a very high incidence, presenting several episodes per person a year, as well as being one of the main causes of primary care consultations (DeGeorge 2019; Jaume 2020). Despite being generally mild, the common cold can occur with other respiratory illnesses, which can predispose susceptible individuals to potentially serious complications. Vaccines could therefore be used to reduce the prevalence of the disease around the world and decrease primary care consultations that might saturate healthcare systems.

The socioeconomic burden from the common cold has not been fully studied, and the few studies published in this area mainly have methodological limitations. However, it has been demonstrated that the common cold can lead to work and school absenteeism as well as having an impact on productivity and healthcare costs (Dicpinigaitis 2015; Jaume 2021; Kardos 2017), which could also be reduced by preventing the illness through vaccine use, if effective.

Furthermore, if randomised controlled trials demonstrate that there is an effective and safe vaccine to prevent the common cold, scientists could continue researching this field.

OBJECTIVES

To assess the clinical effectiveness and safety of vaccines for preventing the common cold in healthy people.

METHODS

Criteria for considering studies for this review

Types of studies

Randomised controlled trials (RCTs). We did not apply limits with respect to follow-up periods. In future updates, we will consider at least 60 days of follow-up. We only included RCTs that reported data about the incidence of the common cold.

Types of participants

Healthy people aged between 6 months and 90 years.

Types of interventions

Any vaccine that prevents the common cold, which protects against RSV, rhinovirus, parainfluenza, or adenovirus (non-polio), irrespective of dose, schedule, or administration route, versus placebo. We excluded trials on the prevention of influenza A and B because influenza and the common cold are two different diseases (Jefferson 2012). See Appendix 3 for details.

Types of outcome measures

Primary outcomes

1. Incidence of the common cold after vaccination, regardless of the causal agent determined by laboratory or clinical examination. In future updates, we will consider the incidence of the common cold as one of the primary outcomes, measured 60 days after the last dose of the vaccine.
2. Vaccine safety, i.e. adverse events ("any untoward medical occurrence that may present during treatment with a pharmaceutical product but which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with this treatment") and adverse drug reactions ("a response to a drug which is noxious, uninitiated and which occurs at doses normally used in men for prophylaxis, diagnosis, or therapy of disease, or for the modification of physiologic functions") (Nebeker 2004).
3. Mortality: vaccine related and all cause.

Secondary outcomes

We did not consider any secondary outcomes. In future updates, we will consider mortality as a secondary outcome.

Search methods for identification of studies

Electronic searches

We updated the search strategies in the following databases:

1. the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL; Issue 4, 2022), which contains the Cochrane Acute Respiratory Infections Specialised Register, searched 26 April 2022, in the Cochrane Library (Appendix 4);
2. MEDLINE via Ovid (September 2016 to 22 April 2022) (Appendix 5);
3. Embase via Elsevier (September 2016 to 22 April 2022) (Appendix 6);
4. CINAHL via EBSCO (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature) (September 2016 to 22 April 2022) (Appendix 7); and
5. LILACS via BIREME (Latin American and Caribbean Health Science Information database) (September 2016 to 22 April 2022) (Appendix 8).

We used the Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search Strategy to identify randomised trials in MEDLINE: sensitivity- and precision-maximising version (2008 revision); Ovid format (Lefebvre 2021). We adapted the search strategy to search Embase, CINAHL, and LILACS.

We searched the following trial registries on 26 April 2022:

1. ISRCTN registry (www.isrctn.com);

2. ClinicalTrials.gov (clinicaltrials.gov/); and
3. World Health Organization International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (WHO ICTRP) (www.who.int/ictrp/search/en/).

We did not restrict the results by language, search dates, or publication status (published, unpublished, in press, or in progress).

Searching other resources

We checked the reference lists of all relevant trials and identified reviews. We searched the following websites for trials on 29 April 2022:

1. US Food and Drug Administration (www.fda.gov/);
2. European Medicines Agency (www.emea.europa.eu/);
3. Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (www.mhra.gov.uk/index.htm); and
4. Evidence in Health and Social Care (www.evidence.nhs.uk/).

Data collection and analysis

Selection of studies

We used Cochrane's Screen4Me workflow to help assess the search results. Screen4Me comprises three components: known assessments – a service that matches records in the search results to records that have already been screened in Cochrane Crowd and been labelled as an RCT or as non-RCT; the RCT classifier – a machine learning model that distinguishes RCTs from non-RCTs; and if appropriate, Cochrane Crowd – Cochrane's citizen science platform where the Crowd help to identify and describe health evidence. For more information about Screen4Me and the evaluations that have been done, visit the Screen4Me web page on the [Cochrane Information Specialist's portal](#). More detailed information regarding evaluations of the Screen4Me components can be found in the following publications: [Marshall 2018](#), [Noel-Storr 2020](#), [Noel-Storr 2021](#), [Thomas 2021](#).

Following Screen4Me assessment, four review authors (CM, DB, MLF, MJMZ) independently screened the titles and abstracts of studies identified as a result of the search for potential relevance. We retrieved the full-text reports of those studies deemed potentially relevant, and four review authors (MJMZ, CM, DB, MLF) independently screened the full texts to identify studies for inclusion in the review, and identified and recorded the reasons for exclusion of excluded studies. Any disagreements were resolved through discussion or by consulting a third review author (DSR) when needed. We identified and excluded duplicates and collated multiple reports of the same study so that each study, rather than each report, was the unit of interest in the review. We recorded the selection process in sufficient detail to complete a PRISMA flow diagram (Figure 1) and [Characteristics of included studies](#) table (Moher 2009). We imposed no language restrictions.

Figure 1. PRISMA flowchart

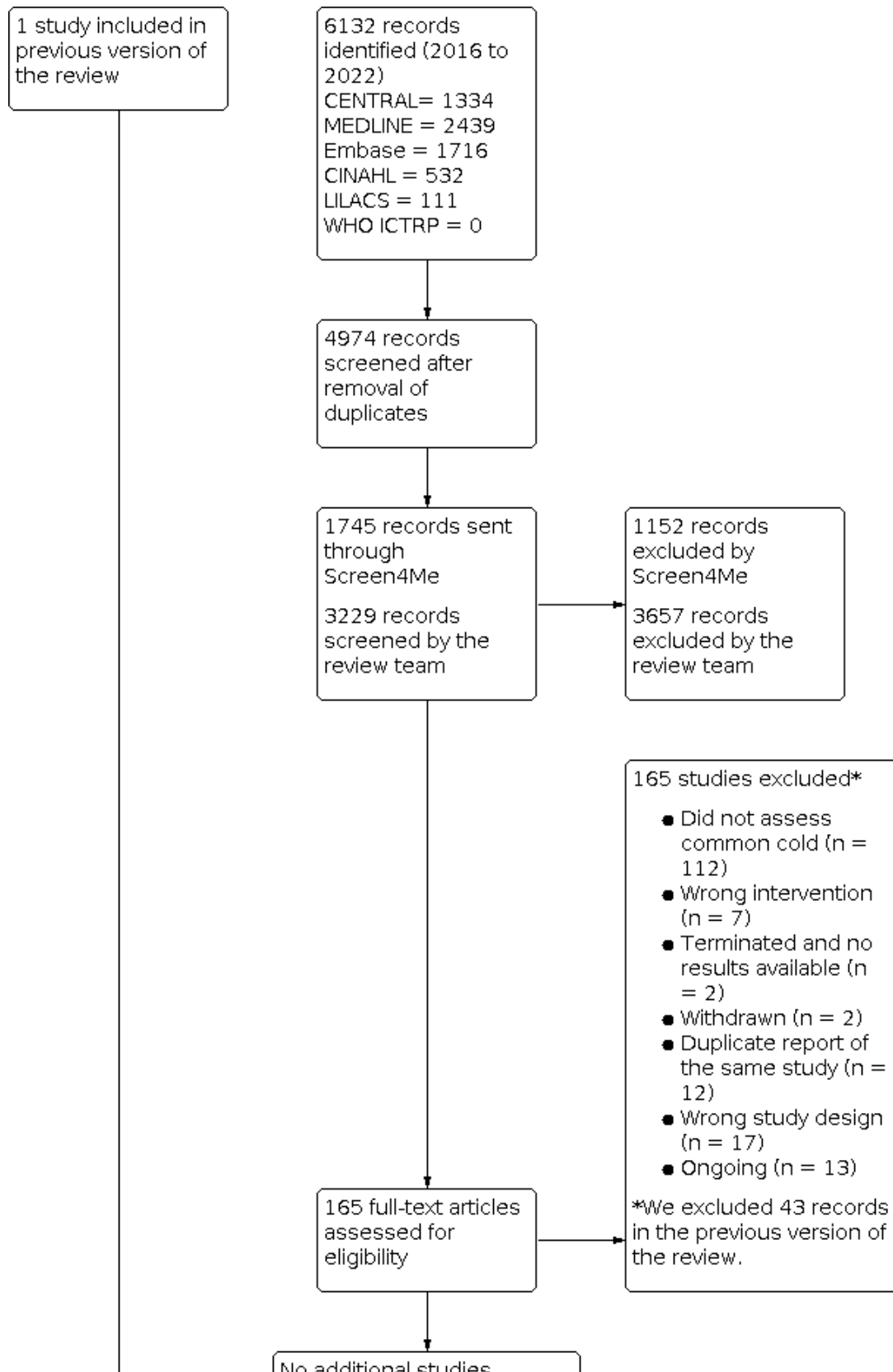
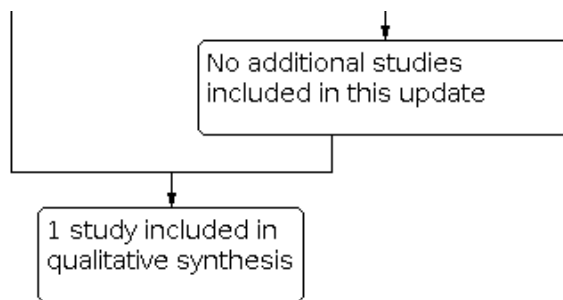


Figure 1. (Continued)



Data extraction and management

We used a data collection form for study characteristics and outcome data that had been piloted on at least one study in the review. Two review authors (DSR, CVG) extracted the following study characteristics from the included studies.

1. Methods: study design, total duration of the study, details of any 'run in' period, number of study centres and location, study setting, withdrawals, and date of the study.
2. Participants: N, mean age, age range, gender, severity of the condition, diagnostic criteria, baseline lung function, smoking history, inclusion criteria, and exclusion criteria.
3. Interventions: intervention, comparison, concomitant medications, and excluded medications.
4. Outcomes: primary and secondary outcomes specified and collected, and time points reported.
5. Notes: funding for the trial, and notable conflicts of interest of trial authors.

Two review authors (DSR, CVG) independently extracted outcome data from the included studies. We described in the [Characteristics of included studies](#) table if outcome data were not reported in a usable way. Any disagreements were resolved by consensus or by involving a third review author (RH). One review author (DSR) transferred data into the Review Manager 5 file ([Review Manager 2020](#)). We double-checked that the data had been entered correctly by comparing the data presented in the systematic review with the study report. A second review author (MJMZ) spot-checked study characteristics for accuracy against the trial report.

Assessment of risk of bias in included studies

Three review authors (DSR, CVG, RH) independently assessed risk of bias of the included studies using Cochrane's risk of bias tool RoB 1, according to the criteria in the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* ([Higgins 2022](#)). Any disagreements were resolved by discussion or by involving another review author (MJMZ). We assessed the risk of bias based on the following domains.

1. Random sequence generation.
2. Allocation concealment.
3. Blinding of participants and personnel.
4. Blinding of outcome assessment.
5. Incomplete outcome data.
6. Selective outcome reporting.
7. Other bias.

We graded each potential source of bias as low, high, or unclear and provided quotes from the study report together with a justification for our judgement in the risk of bias table. Where necessary, we considered blinding separately for different key outcomes.

Measures of treatment effect

We calculated the risk ratio (RR) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for incidence of the common cold. We added outcome data for the included study into a data table in Review Manager 5 to calculate treatment effects ([Review Manager 2020](#)). We used RR for dichotomous outcomes.

Unit of analysis issues

The unit of analysis was the participant. We collected and analysed a single measurement for each outcome from each participant.

Dealing with missing data

We had planned to contact investigators or study sponsors to verify key study characteristics and to obtain missing numerical outcome data where possible (e.g. when a study was identified only as an abstract); however, this was not needed.

Assessment of heterogeneity

We had planned to use the I² statistic to measure heterogeneity amongst trials in each analysis; however, we did not conduct a meta-analysis because only one trial satisfied the inclusion criteria.

Assessment of reporting biases

We did not assess publication bias using a funnel plot because we included only one trial. In future updates, we will attempt to assess whether the review is subject to publication bias by using a funnel plot if 10 or more trials are included.

Data synthesis

We carried out statistical analysis using Review Manager 5 software ([Review Manager 2020](#)). In future updates, we will summarise findings using a fixed-effect model following the guidance in the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* ([Higgins 2022](#)).

Subgroup analysis and investigation of heterogeneity

We did not perform a subgroup analysis. In subsequent updates of this review, when sufficient data are available, we will carry out the following subgroup analyses:

1. children and adults;

2. country of study; and
3. different responses in relation to different viral agents.

We will explore sources of heterogeneity in the assessment of the primary outcomes by subgroup analyses. Additionally, due to the limited number of included studies, we do not plan on performing a meta-regression in the future.

Sensitivity analysis

We did not perform a sensitivity analysis. In future updates, we plan to conduct sensitivity analyses comparing the results using all trials as follows.

1. Trials with high methodological quality (studies classified as having a 'low risk of bias' versus those identified as having a 'high risk of bias') (Higgins 2022).
2. Trials that performed intention-to-treat versus per-protocol analyses.
3. Parallel randomised clinical trials versus cluster-randomised clinical trials.

We will also evaluate the risk of attrition bias, as estimated by the percentage of participants lost. We will exclude trials with a total attrition of more than 30% or where differences between the groups exceeded 10%, or both, from meta-analysis, but will include these studies in the review.

Summary of findings and assessment of the certainty of the evidence

We created a summary of findings table using the following outcomes: incidence of the common cold, vaccine safety, and

mortality (all cause and vaccine related) (Summary of findings 1). We used the five GRADE considerations (study limitations, consistency of effect, imprecision, indirectness, and publication bias) to assess the certainty of the evidence as it relates to the study that contributed data (Atkins 2004). We used the methods and recommendations described in Section 8.5 and Chapter 12 of the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* (Higgins 2022), employing GRADEpro GDT software (GRADEpro GDT). We justified all decisions to down- or upgrade the certainty of the evidence using footnotes, and made comments to aid the reader's understanding of the review where necessary.

RESULTS

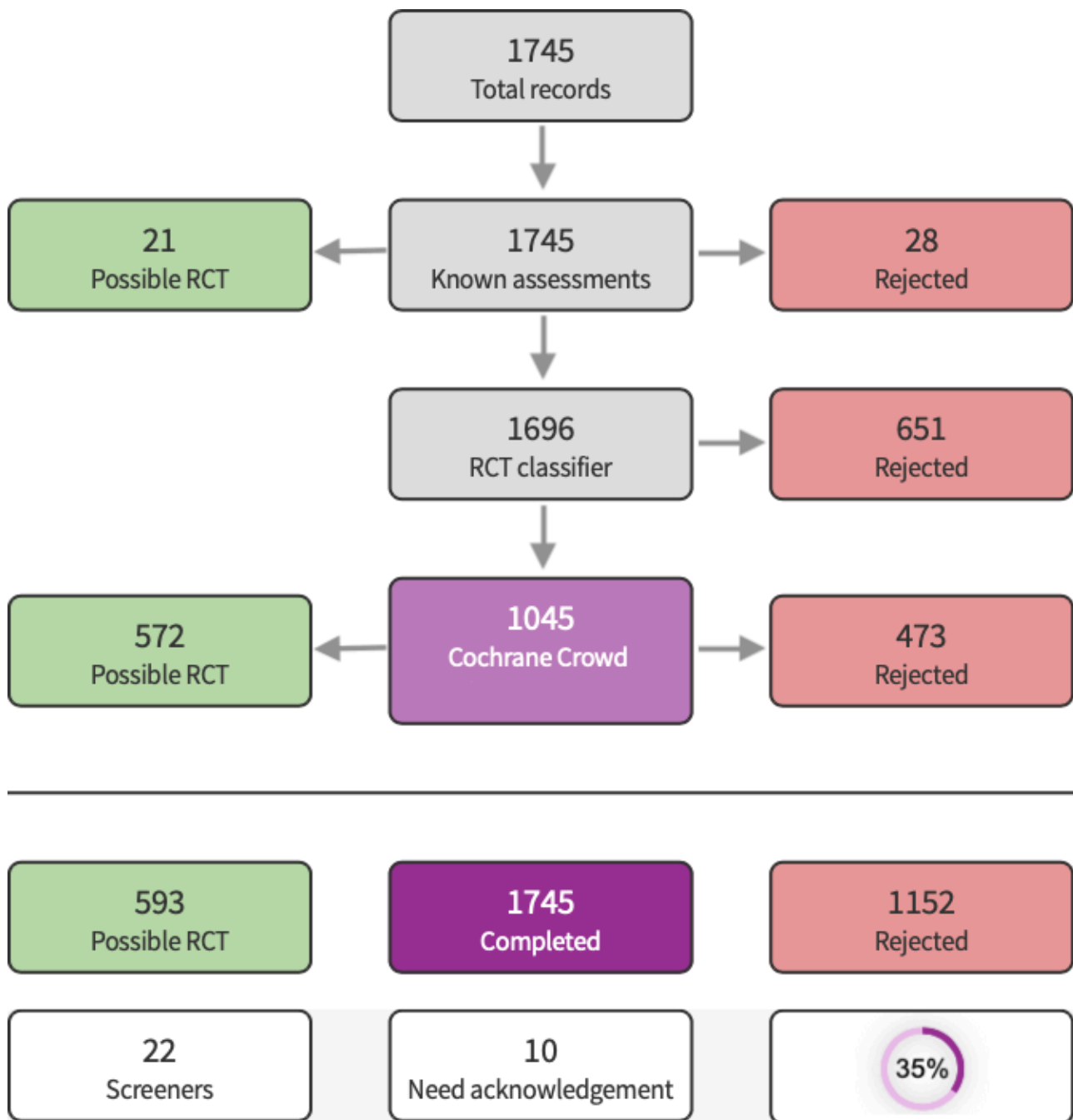
Description of studies

See [Characteristics of included studies](#), [Characteristics of excluded studies](#), and [Characteristics of ongoing studies](#) tables.

Results of the search

In the current update we identified a total of 4974 search results (Figure 1). We used Cochrane's Screen4Me workflow to help identify potential reports of randomised trials. The results of the Screen4Me assessment process are shown in Figure 2. We assessed 6132 records and excluded 3657 records based on title and abstract screening. We assessed the full texts of 165 studies, and did not include any new studies in this update. We included only one trial in the review (Griffin 1970).

Figure 2. Screen4Me summary diagram.



Included studies

We included one RCT involving 2307 healthy young men (Griffin 1970). Griffin 1970 compared the effect of three adenovirus vaccines (live, inactivated type 4, and inactivated type 4 and 7) to placebo (an injection of physiological saline for the parenterally administered vaccines, and an identical-appearing inert gelatin capsule for the orally administered vaccines). See [Characteristics of included studies](#).

Excluded studies

We excluded 43 studies in the previous publication of this review (Belshe 1982; Belshe 1992; Belshe 2004a; Belshe 2004b; Clements 1991; DeVincenzo 2010; Doggett 1963; Dudding 1972; Falsey 1996; Falsey 2008; Fulginiti 1969; Glenn 2016; Gomez 2009; Gonzalez 2000; Greenberg 2005; Hamory 1975; Karron 1995a; Karron 1995b; Karron 1997; Karron 2003; Karron 2005; Karron 2015; Kumpu 2015; Langley 2009; Lee 2001; Lee 2004; Lyons 2008; Madhi 2006; Munoz 2003; Murphy 1994; Paradiso 1994; Piedra 1995; Pierce 1968; Power 2001; Ritchie 1958; Simoes 2001; Tang 2008; Top 1971; Tristram 1993; Watt 1990; Welliver 1994; Wilson 1960; Wright 1976).

We excluded 109 new studies in this update (Abarca 2020; Ahmad 2022; Aliprantis 2018; Aliprantis 2020; Ascough 2019; August 2017; Beran 2018; Bourne 1946; Cicconi 2020; Cunningham 2019; DeVincenzo 2019; Domachowske 2017; Domachowske 2018; Esposito 2019; EUCTR2008-001714-24-GB; EUCTR2012-001107-20-GB; EUCTR2013-004036-30-GB; EUCTR2014-005041-41-GB; EUCTR2015-004296-77-GB; EUCTR2016-000117-76-ES; EUCTR2016-000117-76-PL; EUCTR2016-001135-12-FR; EUCTR2016-002733-30-ES; EUCTR2018-001340-62-FI; Falloon 2017a; Falloon 2017b; Fries 2019; Israel 2016; Karppinen 2019; Karron 2020a; Karron 2020b; Langley 2016; Langley 2017; Langley 2018; Leroux-Roels 2019; Madhi 2020; McFarland 2018; McFarland 2020a; McFarland 2020b; Munoz 2019; NCT00139347; NCT00308412; NCT00345670; NCT00345956; NCT00363545; NCT00366782; NCT00383903; NCT00420316; NCT00496821; NCT00641017; NCT00686075; NCT00767416; NCT01021397; NCT01139437; NCT01254175; NCT01290419; NCT01475305; NCT01709019; NCT01852266; NCT01905215; NCT02115815; NCT02266628; NCT02296463; NCT02419391; NCT02440035; NCT02472548; NCT02479750; NCT02491463; NCT02561871;

NCT02593071; NCT02601612; NCT02624947; NCT02794870; NCT02830932; NCT02864628; NCT02873286; NCT02890381; NCT02926430; NCT02952339; NCT03026348; NCT03049488; NCT03191383; NCT03303625; NCT03334695; NCT03392389; NCT03403348; NCT03473002; NCT03572062; NCT03674177; NCT03814590; NCT04071158; NCT04086472; NCT04752644; NTR7173; Philpott 2016; Philpott 2017; Ruckwardt 2021; Sadoff 2021a; Sadoff 2021b; Samy 2020; Scaggs Huang 2021; Schwarz 2019; Shakib 2019; Shaw 2019; Swamy 2019; Van Der Plas 2020; Verdijk 2020; Williams 2020; Yu 2020). We identified 13 ongoing studies (NCT01893554; NCT03387137; NCT03422237; NCT03596801; NCT03916185; NCT04032093; NCT04126213; NCT04138056; NCT04681833; NCT04732871; NCT04980391; NCT05127434; NCT05238025). We contacted the authors of the ongoing trials; however, no preliminary results have been shared with us.

Risk of bias in included studies

Griffin 1970 had overall low methodological quality. See Figure 3 and Figure 4.

Figure 3. Risk of bias graph: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item presented as percentages.

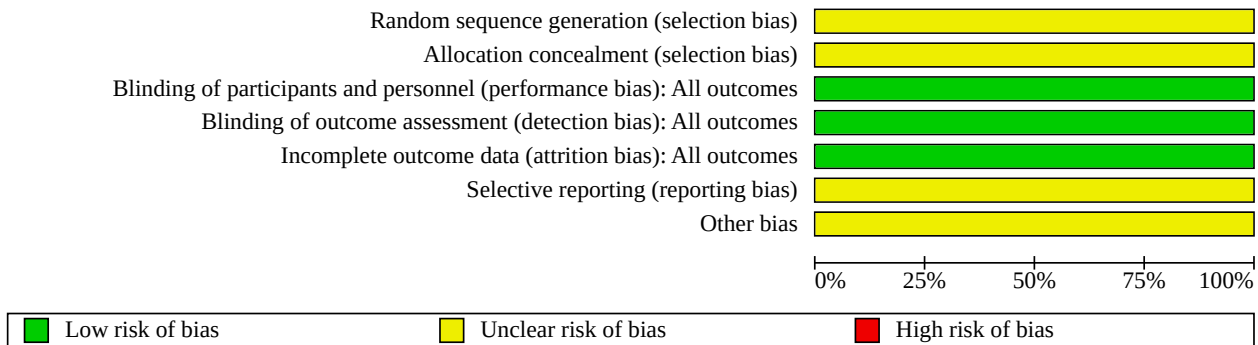
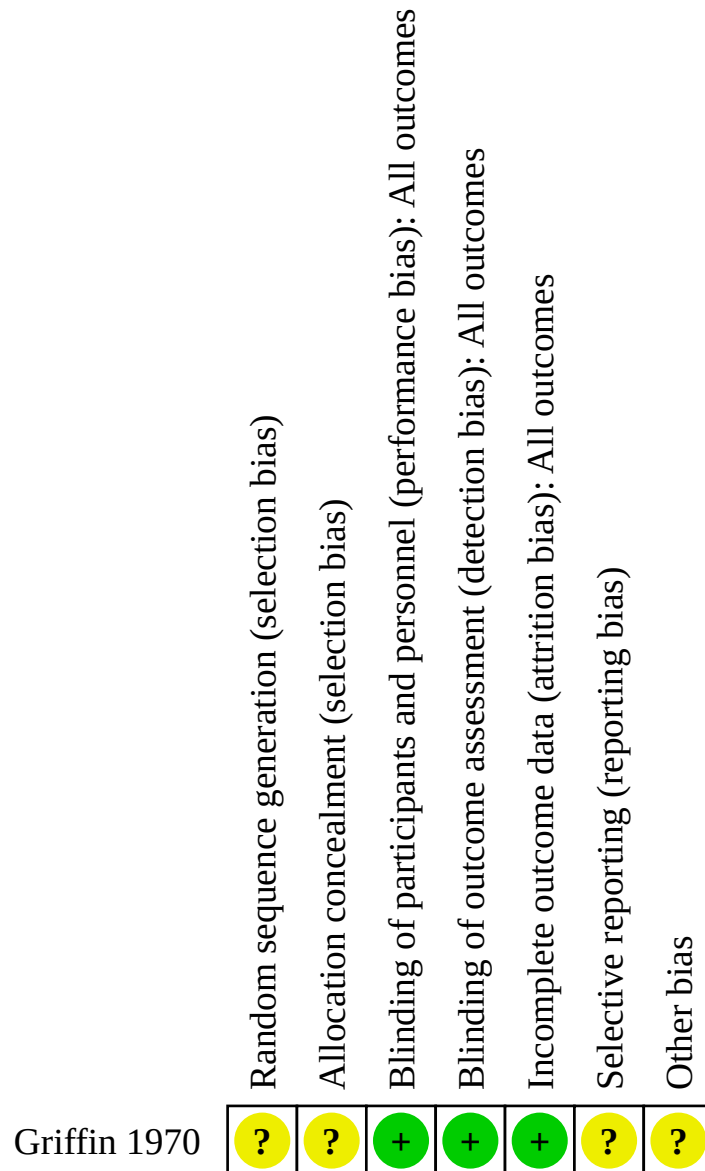


Figure 4. Risk of bias summary: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item for the included study.



Allocation

We assessed [Griffin 1970](#) as at unclear risk of bias for random sequence generation and allocation concealment as inadequate information prevented a judgement for this domain.

Blinding

We assessed [Griffin 1970](#) as at low risk of bias for blinding of participants and personnel and blinding of outcome assessment.

Incomplete outcome data

We assessed [Griffin 1970](#) as at low risk of attrition bias as there were no losses.

Selective reporting

We assessed [Griffin 1970](#) as at unclear risk of reporting bias. The study protocol was not available, but it was clear that the published reports include all expected outcomes. However, some of the

outcomes were described in a narrative fashion and did not specify incidence for each group.

Other potential sources of bias

We assessed [Griffin 1970](#) as at unclear risk of other bias. The baseline characteristics of participants were not described, and there was no detailed information relating to assessment of selection bias, preventing an evaluation of whether both groups were comparable.

Effects of interventions

See: [Summary of findings 1 Virus vaccines compared to placebo for preventing the common cold in healthy people](#)

Our results are based on one RCT with 2307 healthy people, which we assessed as providing very low-certainty evidence ([Griffin 1970](#)). See [Summary of findings 1](#).

Primary outcomes

1. Incidence of the common cold

We do not know if there is a difference between the adenovirus vaccine and placebo in reducing the incidence of the common cold (risk ratio 0.95, 95% confidence interval 0.45 to 2.02; 1 RCT, 2307 participants, 27 events; [Analysis 1.1](#)) ([Griffin 1970](#)). We downgraded the certainty of the evidence to very low due to unclear risk of bias; indirectness because the population of this study was only young and healthy men; and imprecision because confidence intervals were wide, and the number of events was low.

2. Vaccine safety

[Griffin 1970](#) reported that there were no differences in adverse events between live vaccine preparation and placebo. We downgraded the certainty of the evidence to very low due to unclear risk of bias; indirectness because the population of this study was only young men; and imprecision because confidence intervals were wide, and the number of events was low.

3. Mortality

[Griffin 1970](#) did not assess either vaccine-related or all-cause mortality.

DISCUSSION

Summary of main results

One RCT met our inclusion criteria ([Griffin 1970](#)). The incidence of the common cold in [Griffin 1970](#) was very low, probably due to the fact that only cases resulting in admission to the medical dispensary or hospital were included. Furthermore, the trial authors stated that more common cold cases were diagnosed incidentally when people were hospitalised for other causes, therefore mild cases of illness were not included.

Critical appraisal of [Griffin 1970](#) did not support the use of any vaccine for preventing the common cold in healthy people. We did not find significant differences in the incidence of the common cold in people treated with adenovirus vaccines compared with placebo. [Griffin 1970](#) did not evaluate main clinical outcomes such as mortality related to the vaccine. No differences in adverse events were reported. The relative effect of any of the vaccines for viruses that cause the common cold remains unclear.

Overall completeness and applicability of evidence

The included trial did not detect statistically significant differences between treatment groups ([Griffin 1970](#)).

When considering such neutral results, it is important to keep in mind that 'absence of evidence' is not 'evidence of absence' ([Alderson 2004](#); [Altman 1995](#); [Westerterp 2020](#)). The fact that this review did not detect any differences between intervention groups does not imply that placebo and adenovirus vaccine have the same effect on preventing the common cold.

The first possible explanation for not detecting any differences between intervention groups could be the lack of an appropriate sample size ([Green 2002](#); [Schulz 1995](#)), which resulted in small differences in the incidence of the common cold and few events in the comparison groups. A remarkable paper from [Freiman 1978](#) suggested that "many of the therapies labelled as 'no different from control' in trials using inadequate samples, have not received a fair test" and that "concern for the probability of missing an important therapeutic improvement because of small sample sizes deserves more attention in the planning of clinical trials". Moreover, most trials with negative results usually have insufficiently large sample sizes to detect at least 50% relative difference ([Moher 1998](#); [Sully 2014](#)). It has also been suggested that the most important therapies adopted in clinical practice have only shown modest benefits ([Kirby 2002](#)).

Certainty of the evidence

The results for the primary outcomes of incidence of the common cold and vaccine safety were based on very low-certainty evidence due to imprecision because confidence intervals were wide and the number of events was low; indirectness (the RCT considered in our review included only young, healthy men); and methodological limitations. Random sequence generation, allocation, sample size, and baseline characteristics of participants were not reported. Adverse events were not reported individually for each group. Overall, due to a lack of evidence, the balance between the benefits and harms of cold vaccines is uncertain.

Potential biases in the review process

Whilst performing a systematic review, several biases can emerge, such as 'significance-chasing' biases ([Ioannidis 2010](#)). This group of biases include publication bias, selective outcome reporting bias, selective analysis reporting bias, and fabrication bias ([Ioannidis 2010](#)). Publication bias represents a major threat to the validity of systematic reviews, particularly those reviews that include small trials. However, in this systematic review we performed an exhaustive search and attempted to locate all studies to include new RCTs. The current evidence does not evaluate common cold outcomes.

Agreements and disagreements with other studies or reviews

Most studies on vaccines for the common cold evaluate respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines, followed by studies on adenovirus vaccines; only a few published studies evaluate human rhinovirus (HRV) and parainfluenza vaccines. In addition, these studies mainly aim to reduce lower respiratory tract infections or focus on immunological outcomes. For instance, [Buchholz 2018](#) and [McFarland 2020b](#) are two RCTs of live-attenuated RSV

vaccines that focus on upper respiratory tract infections; however, these studies assessed immunological outcomes such as vaccine shedding, serum RSV antibodies, anti-RSV F immunoglobulin G, surveillance period, adverse events, and reactogenicity. There is no general consensus on the outcomes to be considered in evaluating the efficacy of a vaccine. In this review we assessed the following outcomes: incidence of common cold after vaccination, vaccine safety, and mortality (all cause and vaccine related), which were not considered in most RCTs assessed for inclusion by full text. We focused on these outcomes due to the impact that the common cold has at the population level, with a high estimated economic loss due to missed working days (Kardos 2017; Tsuzuki 2020). Other systematic reviews on vaccines for preventing upper respiratory tract infection have assessed outcomes similar to those included in this review (Hao 2015; Thomas 2013).

We excluded 11 non-RCTs that evaluated vaccines for upper respiratory tract infections (Belshe 1982; Clements 1991; Doggett 1963; Dudding 1972; Fulginiti 1969; Hamory 1975; Karron 1997; Ritchie 1958; Watt 1990; Wilson 1960; Wright 1976). Only one study evaluated the incidence of the common cold (Ritchie 1958), whilst the others focused on immunologic outcomes. The study conducted by Ritchie 1958 prepared an "autologous vaccine" developed from the nasal secretions of 125 healthy volunteers, who were then inoculated with this product, whilst 75 healthy volunteers served as a control. The results showed a lower incidence of common cold in the vaccine group than in the control group. This study was not an RCT and was thus excluded from our review.

AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS

Implications for practice

This Cochrane Review update found very limited evidence on the effects of vaccines for the common cold in healthy people. We included only one randomised controlled trial, which did not report differences between comparison groups. Our findings were based on only one trial with very low-certainty evidence with an unclear risk of bias, indirectness, and imprecision. Griffin 1970 involved 2307 participants and assessed adenovirus vaccines compared with placebo, and showed that there may be no difference between the adenovirus vaccine and placebo in reducing the incidence of the common cold.

Implications for research

This 2022 update highlights the need for well-designed, high-quality randomised clinical trials to assess the effectiveness and safety of vaccines to prevent the common cold in healthy people. Future trials should include outcomes such as common cold incidence, vaccine safety, mortality, and adverse events related to vaccine administration. Inert placebo use would also be beneficial to avoid dampening adverse events following immunisation. Future trials should be conducted by independent researchers and

reported according to CONSORT guidelines (Moher 2012; PCORI 2012), and should adhere to the Foundation of Patient-Centered Outcomes Research recommendations (Gabriel 2012).

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The following people conducted the editorial process for this 2022 update.

1. Sign-off Editors (final editorial decision): Mark Jones (Bond University, Australia); Mieke van Driel (The University of Queensland, Australia).
2. Managing Editors (provided editorial guidance to authors, edited the review, selected peer reviewers, and collated peer-reviewer comments): Liz Dooley (Bond University, Australia); Fiona Russell (Bond University, Australia).
3. Contact Editor (provided comments and recommended an editorial decision): Meenu Singh (Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India).
4. Statistical Editor (provided comments): Menelaos Konstantinidis (University of Toronto, Canada)
5. Copy Editor (copy-editing and production): Lisa Winer, Cochrane Copy Edit Support

Peer reviewers (provided comments and recommended an editorial decision):

1. Clinical/content review: Roger E Thomas (University of Calgary, Canada).
2. Consumer review: Theresa Wrangham (USA).
3. Methods review: Rachel Richardson (Associate Editor, Cochrane, UK).
4. Search review: Justin Clark (Institute for Evidence-Based Healthcare, Bond University, Australia).
5. One peer reviewer preferred to remain anonymous.

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NCT00366782 {published data only}

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NCT00383903 {published data only}

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NCT00496821. Intranasal ALN-RSV01 administered to adult volunteers experimentally inoculated with respiratory syncytial virus [A study to investigate the safety and efficacy of intranasal ALN-RSV01 administered to adult volunteers experimentally inoculated with respiratory syncytial virus]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00496821 (first received 4 July 2007).

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NCT00641017. Safety of and immune response to recombinant live-attenuated parainfluenza type 1 virus vaccine [A phase I study of the safety and immunogenicity of the recombinant live-attenuated human parainfluenza type 1 virus vaccine, rHPIV1 84/del170/942A, lot PIV1 #104A, delivered as nose drops to adults 18 to 49 years of age, HPIV1-seropositive children 15 to 59 months of age, and hpiV1-seronegative infants and children 6 to 59 months of age]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00641017 (first received 21 March 2008).

NCT00686075 {published data only}

NCT00686075. A study to evaluate the safety, tolerability, immunogenicity and vaccine-like viral shedding of MEDI-534, against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and parainfluenza virus type 3 (PIV3), in healthy 6 to < 24 month-old children and in 2 month-old infants [A phase 1/2a, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, dose-escalation study to evaluate the safety, tolerability, immunogenicity and vaccine-like viral shedding of MEDI-534, a live, attenuated intranasal vaccine against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and parainfluenza virus type 3 (PIV3), in healthy 6 to < 24 month-old children and in 2 month-old infants]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00686075 (first received 29 May 2008).

NCT00767416 {published data only}

NCT00767416. A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to evaluate safety of MEDI-559 in healthy 1 to < 24 month-old children [A phase 1/2a, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the safety, tolerability, immunogenicity, and viral shedding of MEDI-559, a live attenuated intranasal vaccine against respiratory syncytial virus

in healthy 1 to < 24 month-old children]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00767416 (first received 7 October 2008).

NCT01021397 {published data only}

NCT01021397. Safety of and immune response to recombinant live attenuated parainfluenza type 3 virus vaccine in healthy infants and children [Phase I study to determine the safety, infectivity, and tolerability of 2 doses of live attenuated recombinant cold-passaged (cp) 45 human parainfluenza type 3 virus vaccine, rHPIV3cp45, lot PIV3#102A, delivered as nose drops to HPIV3-seronegative infants and children 6 to 36 months of age, at a 6 month interval]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01021397 (first received 30 November 2009).

NCT01139437 {published data only}

NCT01139437. Safety of a live attenuated human parainfluenza virus type 2 (HPIV2) vaccine for adults, children, and infants [A phase I study of the safety and immunogenicity of the recombinant live-attenuated human parainfluenza type 2 virus vaccine, rHPIV2 15C/948L/Δ1724 lot PIV2#109C, delivered as nose drops to adults 18 to 49 years of age, HPIV2-seropositive children 15 to 59 months of age, and HPIV2-seronegative infants and children 6 to 59 months of age]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01139437 (first received 8 June 2010).

NCT01254175 {published data only}

NCT01254175. Evaluating the safety and immunogenicity of a human parainfluenza type 3 (HPIV3) virus vaccine in infants and children [Phase 1 study to determine the safety, infectivity, immunogenicity and tolerability of 2 doses of live attenuated recombinant cold-passaged (cp) 45 human parainfluenza type 3 virus vaccine, rHPIV3cp45, lot PIV3#102A, delivered as nose drops to HPIV3-seronegative infants and children 6 to 36 months of age, at a 6 month interval]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01254175 (first received 6 December 2010).

NCT01290419 {published data only}

NCT01290419. Safety study of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)-fusion (F) protein particle vaccine [A phase 1 randomized, observer-blinded, placebo-controlled trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of a recombinant respiratory syncytial virus f protein particle vaccine in healthy adults]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01290419 (first received 7 February 2011).

NCT01475305 {published data only}

NCT01475305. Intranasal challenge of healthy adults with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) [A phase 1 randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of MEDI-557 in healthy adults intranasally challenged with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01475305 (first received 21 November 2011).

NCT01709019 {published data only}

NCT01709019. RSV-F vaccine and influenza vaccine co-administration study in the elderly [A phase I randomized, observer-blinded, dose-ranging study to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of an RSV-F protein nanoparticle vaccine, with or without aluminum adjuvant, and co-administered with a licensed inactivated influenza vaccine, in

healthy subjects \geq 60 years of age]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01709019 (first received 17 October 2012).

NCT01852266 {published data only}

NCT01852266. Evaluating the safety and immune response to a single dose of a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine in RSV-seronegative infants and children [A phase I study of the safety and immunogenicity of a single dose of the recombinant live-attenuated respiratory syncytial virus vaccine RSV cps2, lot RSV#005A, delivered as nose drops to RSV-seronegative infants and children 6 to 24 months of age]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01852266 (first received 13 May 2013).

NCT01905215 {published data only}

NCT01905215. Study to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) biologicals' investigational respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines [An observer-blind study to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of GSK biologicals' respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) investigational vaccine (GSK3003891A) in healthy men]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01905215 (first received 23 July 2013).

NCT02115815 {published data only}

NCT02115815. A study to evaluate the safety of the respiratory syncytial virus vaccine MEDI7510 in older adults [A phase 1a study to evaluate the safety of the respiratory syncytial virus vaccine MEDI7510 in older adults]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02115815 (first received 16 April 2014).

NCT02266628 {published data only}

NCT02266628. Placebo-controlled study to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of the RSV-F vaccine in elderly adults [A phase II randomized, observer-blind, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) F vaccine in healthy elderly subjects and to estimate the incidence rate of medically-attended RSV disease in vaccine and placebo recipients]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02266628 (first received 17 October 2014).

NCT02296463 {published data only}

NCT02296463. A phase I randomized, observer-blinded, dose-ranging study in healthy subjects 24 to < 72 months of age [A phase I randomized, observer-blinded, dose-ranging study to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) recombinant fusion (F) nanoparticle vaccine, with or without aluminum adjuvant, in healthy subjects 24 to < 72 months of age]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02296463 (first received 20 November 2014).

NCT02419391 {published data only}

NCT02419391. Trial to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of the recombinant MVA BN[®] RSV vaccine [A randomized, single-blind, placebo-controlled phase I trial to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of the recombinant MVA BN[®] RSV vaccine in healthy adult subjects]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02419391 (first received 17 April 2015).

NCT02440035 {published data only}

NCT02440035. A study to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of Ad35.RSV.FA2 regimens boosted with Ad26.RSV.FA2 in healthy adult participants [Phase 1, first in human study to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of Ad35.RSV.FA2 regimens boosted with Ad26.RSV.FA2 in healthy adult volunteers]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02440035 (first received 17 April 2015).

NCT02472548 {published data only}

NCT02472548. A study to evaluate the safety and reactogenicity of DPX-RSV(A), a respiratory syncytial virus [A phase I randomized, observer-blind, controlled, dose escalation trial of the safety and tolerability of two intramuscular doses of DPX-RSV(A), a respiratory syncytial virus vaccine containing respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) SHe antigen and a novel adjuvant DepoVaxTM, or SHe a antigen co-administered with aluminum hydroxide, or placebo to healthy adults \geq 50-64 years of age]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02472548 (first received 16 June 2015).

NCT02479750 {published data only}

NCT02479750. Evaluation of ColdZyme[®] on experimentally induced common cold [Evaluation of ColdZyme[®] on experimentally induced common cold - a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study in healthy volunteers]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02479750 (first received 24 June 2015).

NCT02491463 {published data only}

NCT02491463. A study to assess the safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) biologicals' RSV investigational vaccine (ChAd155-RSV) (GSK3389245A) in healthy adults [A study to evaluate safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of GSK biologicals' RSV investigational vaccine based on viral proteins encoded by chimpanzee-derived adenovector (ChAd155-RSV) (GSK3389245A) in healthy adults]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02491463 (first received 8 July 2015).

NCT02561871 {published data only}

NCT02561871. A study to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of Ad26.RSV.FA2 followed by Ad35.RSV.FA2 in healthy adult volunteers [Phase 1, first in human study to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of Ad26.RSV.FA2 followed by Ad35.RSV.FA2 in healthy adult volunteers]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02561871 (first received 28 September 2015).

NCT02593071 {published data only}

NCT02593071. Safety and immunogenicity of the RSV-F vaccine in older adults previously treated with the same vaccine or placebo in the prior year [A phase II randomized, observer-blind, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) recombinant F nanoparticle vaccine in healthy older adult subjects previously treated with the same vaccine, or placebo, in the prior year; and to estimate the incidence rate of RSV disease and vaccine efficacy in subjects based on their RSV F vaccine experience over two consecutive years]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02593071 (first received 30 October 2015).

Vaccines for the common cold (Review)

NCT02601612 {published data only}

NCT02601612. Safety and immunogenicity of the RSV D46cpΔM2-2 Vaccine in RSV-seropositive children and RSV-seronegative infants and children [A phase I study of the safety and immunogenicity of a single dose of the live recombinant RSV D46cpΔM2-2 vero grown virus vaccine (lot RSV #008A), delivered as nose drops to RSV-seropositive children 12 to 59 months of age and RSV-seronegative infants and children 6 to 24 months of age]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02601612 (first received 10 November 2015).

NCT02624947 {published data only}

NCT02624947. A study to determine the safety and efficacy of the RSV F vaccine to protect infants via maternal immunization [A phase 3, randomized, observer-blind, placebo-controlled study to determine the immunogenicity and safety of a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) F nanoparticle vaccine with aluminum in healthy third-trimester pregnant women; and safety and efficacy of maternally transferred antibodies in preventing rsv disease in their infants]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02624947 (first received 9 December 2015).

NCT02794870 {published data only}

NCT02794870. Evaluating the infectivity, safety and immunogenicity of a recombinant live-attenuated respiratory syncytial virus vaccine in RSV-seronegative infants 6 to 24 months of age [Phase I placebo-controlled study of the infectivity, safety and immunogenicity of a single dose of a recombinant live-attenuated respiratory syncytial virus vaccine, LID ΔM2-2 1030s, lot RSV#010A, delivered as nose drops to RSV-seronegative infants 6 to 24 months of age]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02794870 (first received 9 June 2016).

NCT02830932 {published data only}

NCT02830932. Dose-ranging trial of safety & immunogenicity of an oral adenoviral-vector based RSV vaccine (VXA-RSV-f) [A phase 1, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, dose-ranging trial to determine the safety and immunogenicity of an adenoviral-vector based respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) F protein vaccine (VXA-RSV-f) expressing protein F and dsRNA adjuvant administered orally to healthy volunteers]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02830932 (first received 13 July 2016).

NCT02864628 {published data only}

NCT02864628. RSV-MVA-BN vaccine phase I trial, intranasal application in adults [A partially randomized, partly placebo controlled phase I trial to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of the recombinant MVA-BN[®] RSV vaccine after intranasal and intramuscular administration]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02864628 (first received 12 August 2016).

NCT02873286 {published data only}

NCT02873286. RSV-MVA-BN vaccine phase II trial in ≥ 55 year old adults [A randomized, single-blind, placebo controlled, dose-ranging phase II trial in ≥ 55 year old adults to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of the recombinant MVA-BN-RSV vaccine]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02873286 (first received 19 August 2016).

NCT02890381 {published data only}

NCT02890381. Evaluating the infectivity, safety and immunogenicity of a recombinant live-attenuated respiratory syncytial virus vaccine (RSV LID cp ΔM2-2) in RSV-seronegative infants 6 to 24 months of age [Phase I placebo-controlled study of the infectivity, safety and immunogenicity of a single dose of a recombinant live-attenuated respiratory syncytial virus vaccine, LID cp ΔM2-2, lot RSV#009B, delivered as nose drops to RSV-seronegative infants 6 to 24 months of age]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02890381 (first received 7 September 2016).

NCT02926430 {published data only}

NCT02926430. A study to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of two vaccinations of Ad26.RSV.preF one year apart in adults aged 60 years and older in stable health [A randomized, double-blind, first-in-human phase 1 study to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of two vaccinations of Ad26.RSV.preF one year apart in adults aged 60 years and older in stable health]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02926430 (first received 6 October 2016).

NCT02952339 {published data only}

NCT02952339. Evaluating the infectivity, safety and immunogenicity of a recombinant live-attenuated respiratory syncytial virus vaccine (RSV LID cp ΔM2-2) in RSV-seronegative infants 6 to 24 months of age [Phase I placebo-controlled study of the infectivity, safety and immunogenicity of a single dose of a recombinant live-attenuated respiratory syncytial virus vaccine, LID ΔM2-2 1030s, lot RSV#010A, delivered as nose drops to RSV-seronegative infants and children 6 to 24 months of age]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02952339 (first received 2 November 2016).

NCT03026348 {published data only}

NCT03026348. Safety and immunogenicity study to evaluate single- or two-dose regimens of RSV F vaccine with and without aluminum phosphate or Matrix-M1[™] adjuvants in clinically-stable older adults. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03026348 (first received 20 January 2017).

NCT03049488 {published data only}

NCT03049488. Dose, safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of a stabilized prefusion RSV F subunit protein vaccine, VRC-RSVRGP084-00-VP (DS-Cav1), alone or with alum adjuvant, in healthy adults [VRC 317: a phase I randomized, open-label clinical trial to evaluate dose, safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of a stabilized prefusion RSV F subunit protein vaccine, VRC-RSVRGP084-00-VP (DS-Cav1), alone or with alum adjuvant, in healthy adults]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03049488 (first received 10 February 2017).

NCT03191383 {published data only}

NCT03191383. A study to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of the GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) biologicals' respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) investigational vaccine (GSK3003891A) in healthy pregnant women and infants born to vaccinated mothers [An observer-blind study to assess the safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of GSK biologicals' investigational RSV vaccine (GSK3003891A), in healthy pregnant women and infants born to vaccinated mothers].

clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03191383 (first received 19 June 2017).

NCT03303625 {published data only}

NCT03303625. A study to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of an investigational RSV vaccine candidate (Ad26.RSV.preF) in adults 18 to 50 years of age, and RSV-seropositive toddlers 12 to 24 months of age [A randomized, double-blind, phase 1/2a study to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of Ad26.RSV.preF in adults 18 to 50 years of age, RSV-seropositive toddlers 12 to 24 months of age]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03303625 (first received 6 October 2017).

NCT03334695 {published data only}

NCT03334695. An exploratory study to evaluate the prophylactic efficacy of a single immunization of Ad26.RSV.preF against respiratory syncytial virus infection in a virus challenge model in healthy 18 to 50 year-old adults [An exploratory, phase 2a, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the prophylactic efficacy of a single immunization of Ad26.RSV.preF against respiratory syncytial virus infection in a virus challenge model in healthy 18 to 50 year-old adults]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03334695 (first received 17 November 2017).

NCT03392389 {published data only}

NCT03392389. Safety, reactogenicity, and immunogenicity of mRNA-1653 in healthy adults [A phase 1, randomized, observer-blind, placebo-controlled, dose-ranging study to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity, and immunogenicity of mRNA-1653, a combined human metapneumovirus and human parainfluenza virus type 3 vaccine, when administered to healthy adult]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03392389 (first received 8 January 2018).

NCT03403348 {published data only}

NCT03403348. A first-in-human study of orally administered JNJ-64417184 to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of single and multiple ascending doses, and the antiviral activity of multiple doses in a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) challenge study in healthy participants [A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, first-in-human, 6-part study of orally administered JNJ-64417184 to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of single and multiple ascending doses, and the antiviral activity of multiple doses in a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) challenge study in healthy subjects]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03403348 (first received 18 January 2018).

NCT03473002 {published data only}

NCT03473002. A safety and immunogenicity study of intranasal sendai virus vectored respiratory syncytial virus (SeVRSV) vaccine in healthy adults [A phase I double-blind placebo controlled trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of intranasal sendai virus vectored respiratory syncytial virus (SeVRSV) vaccine in healthy adults]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03473002 (first received 21 March 2018).

NCT03572062 {published data only}

NCT03572062. A study to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of an adjuvanted RSV vaccine in healthy older adults [A phase 1/2, placebo-controlled, randomized, observer-blind, dose-finding, first-in-human study to describe the safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity of an adjuvanted respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine in healthy older adults]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03572062 (first received 28 June 2018).

NCT03674177 {published data only}

NCT03674177. A study to evaluate different dose levels of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) biologicals' investigational respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine (GSK3888550A), based on the vaccine safety and the antibodies (body defences) produced following vaccine administration [A study to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of GSK biologicals' investigational unadjuvanted RSV maternal vaccine compared to placebo when administered to healthy non-pregnant women]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03674177 (first received 17 September 2018).

NCT03814590 {published data only}

NCT03814590. A study to assess the safety, reactogenicity and immune response of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) biologicals' investigational respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine (GSK3844766A) in older adults [Phase I/II, observer-blind, safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity study of GSK biologicals' respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine GSK3844766A in subjects aged 18-40 or 60-80 years]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03814590 (first received 24 January 2019).

NCT04071158 {published data only}

NCT04071158. A study of a RSV vaccines when given together with TDAP in healthy non-pregnant women aged between 18 to 49 years [A phase 2b, placebo-controlled, randomized, observer-blind study to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity of a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine when administered concomitantly with tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis vaccine (TDAP) in healthy nonpregnant women 18 through 49 years of age]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04071158 (first received 28 August 2019).

NCT04086472 {published data only}

NCT04086472. Phase 2a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) human challenge study of MK-1654 in healthy participants (MK-1654-005) [A phase 2a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of MK-1654 in healthy participants inoculated with experimental respiratory syncytial virus]. clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04086472 (first received 11 September 2019).

NCT04752644 {published data only}

NCT04752644. Phase 2a study of MVA-BN-RSV vaccination and RSV challenge in healthy adults [A phase 2a, randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled study to assess the safety, immunogenicity and efficacy of the recombinant MVA-BN®-RSV vaccine against respiratory syncytial virus infection in the virus challenge model in healthy adult participants].

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CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDIES

Characteristics of included studies [ordered by study ID]

Griffin 1970

Study characteristics

Methods	Design: double-blind RCT (2 arms)
	Country: USA (1 site)
	Clinical setting: Great Lakes Naval Training Center
	Follow-up: 9 weeks' basic-training period
	Intention-to-treat: yes
	Randomisation unit: participant

Vaccines for the common cold (Review)

Griffin 1970 (Continued)

Analysis unit: participant

Participants	<p>Great Lakes Naval Training Center, new recruits</p> <p>Randomised: 2307 participants</p> <p>Vaccines group: 1139 (49.3%) Placebo group: 1168 (50.7%) Participants receiving intervention: 1139</p> <p>Vaccines group: 1139 (49.3%) Placebo group: 1168 (50.7%)</p> <p>Lost postrandomisation: 0%</p> <p>Analysed participants:</p> <p>Vaccines group: 1139 (49.3%) Placebo group: 1168 (50.7%) Age median (mean (SD)): did not report</p> <p>Gender (number of men): 2307</p> <p>Inclusion criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aged 17 to 20 years 2. Great Lakes Naval Training Center, new recruits <p>Exclusion criteria: not reported</p>
Interventions	<p>Experimental group: the vaccines used were composed of orally administered live adenovirus 4, parenterally administered inactivated adenovirus 4, and parenterally administered inactivated adenovirus 4 and 7 preparations</p> <p>Control group: placebo</p> <p>Co-interventions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1.2 million units of benzathine penicillin G 2. polyvalent influenza vaccine
Outcomes	<p>This RCT did not specify primary or secondary outcomes.</p> <p>Incidence of admissions of participants with respiratory illness (not only hospitalised participants):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acute undifferentiated respiratory disease 2. Common cold syndrome: an acute inflammation of the upper respiratory tract with coryza as a prominent feature and temperature, taken orally, of 100 °F or less on admission 3. Exudative pharyngitis 4. Atypical pneumonia 5. Viral exanthem <p>Toxic effects</p>
Notes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trial registration: not reported 2. A priori sample size estimation: not reported 3. Conducted: 19 February to 16 April, with observations continued to 20 June 1965 4. Funder: "This investigation was supported in part by the Department of the Navy, research project MF 022.03.07-4014, and in part by the Public Health Service Vaccine Development Branch, contract 43-65-1031" (p 981) 5. Role of funder: "Capt. Robert O. Peckinpaugh, MC, USN; LCDR Wayne E. Frazier, MC, USN; and Willard E. Pierce aided in the design, conduct, and statistical interpretation of this investigation" (p 981)

Griffin 1970 (Continued)

6. Declared conflicts of interest: "The opinions and assertions contained here in are those of the authors and are not to be construed as official or as reflecting the views of the Navy Department or the Naval Service at large." (p 981)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Epidemiologic design of this study consisted of the random assignment of one half of the recruits ..." (p 982) Insufficient information to permit a judgement
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to permit a judgement
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "Double-blind procedure was followed with paramedical personnel administering the appropriate vaccine or placebo to recruits on their third day after arrival at Great Lakes, just prior to initiation of basic training" (p 982) Quote: "Placebo for the parenterally administered vaccines consisted of an injection of physiological saline, and that for the orally administered vaccine consisted of an identical appearing inert gelatin capsule" (p 982) Comment: blinding of participants and key study personnel ensured, and it is unlikely that the blinding could have been broken
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Comment: blinding of outcome assessment was performed with the use of placebo
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	No losses to follow-up
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: the study protocol is not available, but it is clear that the published reports include all expected outcomes. However, some outcomes are described in a narrative fashion and not per group. Quote: "... there was no observable toxic reaction to this new live vaccine preparation within the study design." (p 985)
Other bias	Unclear risk	The sample size was not reported. There is no table with baseline characteristics of the participants.

RCT: randomised controlled trial

SD: standard deviation

Characteristics of excluded studies [ordered by study ID]

Study	Reason for exclusion
Abarca 2020	Phase I study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Ahmad 2022	Phase 2a - did not assess incidence of common cold
Aliprantis 2018	Phase I study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold

Vaccines for the common cold (Review)

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Study	Reason for exclusion
Aliprantis 2020	Phase I study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Ascough 2019	Phase I study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
August 2017	Phase II study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Belshe 1982	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Belshe 1992	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Belshe 2004a	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
Belshe 2004b	Phase II study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Beran 2018	Phase II study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Bourne 1946	Assessed common cold symptoms caused by bacterial infections
Cicconi 2020	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold
Clements 1991	Wrong design, not RCT
Cunningham 2019	Phase I study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
DeVincenzo 2010	Wrong design, experimental infection
DeVincenzo 2019	Duplicate record - conference abstract of Sadoff 2021a
Doggett 1963	Wrong study design, not RCT
Domachowske 2017	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
Domachowske 2018	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
Dudding 1972	Wrong design, not RCT
Esposito 2019	Assessed common cold symptoms caused by bacterial infections
EUCTR2008-001714-24-GB	Phase I study - did not assess incidence of common cold
EUCTR2012-001107-20-GB	Phase II study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
EUCTR2013-004036-30-GB	Phase II study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
EUCTR2014-005041-41-GB	Phase II study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
EUCTR2015-004296-77-GB	Phase II study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
EUCTR2016-000117-76-ES	Phase I/II study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
EUCTR2016-000117-76-PL	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
EUCTR2016-001135-12-FR	Phase II study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
EUCTR2016-002733-30-ES	Phase I/II study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold

Vaccines for the common cold (Review)

Study	Reason for exclusion
EUCTR2018-001340-62-FI	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Falloon 2017a	Phase I study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Falloon 2017b	Phase II study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Falsey 1996	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Falsey 2008	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Fries 2019	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
Fulginiti 1969	Wrong study design, not RCT
Glenn 2016	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
Gomez 2009	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
Gonzalez 2000	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Greenberg 2005	Phase II study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Hamory 1975	Wrong study design, not RCT
Israel 2016	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Karpinen 2019	Assessed respiratory symptoms caused by bacterial infections
Karron 1995a	Phase I study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Karron 1995b	Phase I study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Karron 1997	Wrong study design, not RCT
Karron 2003	Wrong study design, not RCT
Karron 2005	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Karron 2015	Phase I study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Karron 2020a	Wrong study design, not RCT
Karron 2020b	Phase I study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Kumpu 2015	Assessed respiratory symptoms caused by bacterial infections
Langley 2009	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Langley 2016	Duplicate record - clinical trial register of Langley 2018
Langley 2017	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
Langley 2018	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
Lee 2001	Did not assess incidence of common cold or vaccine safety

Study	Reason for exclusion
Lee 2004	Wrong study design, not RCT
Leroux-Roels 2019	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
Lyons 2008	Phase I study - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Madhi 2006	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Madhi 2020	Phase III - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
McFarland 2018	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
McFarland 2020a	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
McFarland 2020b	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Munoz 2003	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Munoz 2019	Phase II - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Murphy 1994	Wrong study design, not RCT
NCT00139347	Wrong intervention, this study assessed human rotavirus associated with gastroenteritis
NCT00308412	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
NCT00345670	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
NCT00345956	Wrong intervention, this study assessed human rotavirus associated with gastroenteritis
NCT00363545	Wrong intervention, this study assessed human rotavirus associated with gastroenteritis
NCT00366782	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT00383903	Wrong intervention, this study assessed human rotavirus associated with gastroenteritis
NCT00420316	Wrong intervention, this study assessed human rotavirus causing gastroenteritis
NCT00496821	Duplicate record - clinical trial register of DeVincenzo 2010
NCT00641017	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT00686075	Did not assess incidence of common cold or vaccine safety
NCT00767416	Phase I and II - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT01021397	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT01139437	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT01254175	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT01290419	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT01475305	Terminated, and no results available

Study	Reason for exclusion
NCT01709019	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT01852266	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT01905215	Duplicate record - clinical trial register of Langley 2017
NCT02115815	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT02266628	Phase II - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT02296463	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT02419391	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT02440035	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT02472548	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT02479750	Wrong intervention, not a vaccine
NCT02491463	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT02561871	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT02593071	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
NCT02601612	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
NCT02624947	Duplicate record - clinical trial register of Madhi 2020
NCT02794870	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT02830932	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT02864628	Withdrawn, no reasons specified
NCT02873286	Phase II - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT02890381	Duplicate record - clinical trial register of Cunningham 2019
NCT02926430	Phase II - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT02952339	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
NCT03026348	Phase II - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT03049488	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT03191383	Withdrawn due to instability of the PreF antigen during manufacturing
NCT03303625	Phase I and II - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT03334695	Duplicate record - clinical trial register of Sadoff 2021a
NCT03392389	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold

Study	Reason for exclusion
NCT03403348	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT03473002	Duplicate record - clinical trial register of Scaggs 2020
NCT03572062	Terminated
NCT03674177	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT03814590	Phase I and II - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT04071158	Phase II - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
NCT04086472	Wrong study design, not RCT
NCT04752644	Phase IIa - did not assess incidence of common cold
NTR7173	Duplicate record - clinical trial register of Verdijk 2020
Paradiso 1994	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Philpott 2016	Duplicate record - conference abstract of Philpott 2017
Philpott 2017	Wrong intervention, study assessed influenza
Piedra 1995	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Pierce 1968	Did not assess incidence of common cold or vaccine safety
Power 2001	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Ritchie 1958	Wrong design, not RCT
Ruckwardt 2021	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold
Sadoff 2021a	Phase II - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Sadoff 2021b	Phase II - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Samy 2020	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Scaggs Huang 2021	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Schwarz 2019	Phase II - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Shakib 2019	Did not assess incidence of common cold or vaccine safety
Shaw 2019	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Simoes 2001	Wrong study design, not RCT
Swamy 2019	Duplicate record - conference abstract of Madhi 2020
Tang 2008	Unknown phase - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Top 1971	Did not assess incidence of common cold or vaccine safety

Study	Reason for exclusion
Tristram 1993	Assessed lower respiratory tract infection
Van Der Plas 2020	Duplicate record - conference abstract of Verdijk 2020
Verdijk 2020	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Watt 1990	Wrong study design, not RCT
Welliver 1994	Did not assess incidence of common cold or vaccine safety
Williams 2020	Phase I - did not assess incidence of common cold, did not define common cold
Wilson 1960	Wrong study design, not RCT
Wright 1976	Wrong study design, not RCT
Yu 2020	Did not assess incidence of common cold or vaccine safety

RCT: randomised controlled trial

Characteristics of ongoing studies [ordered by study ID]

[NCT01893554](#)

Study name	Evaluating the safety and immune response to a single dose of a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine in infants and children
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	105
Interventions	Biological: RSV ΔNS2 Δ1313 I1314L vaccine; other: placebo
Outcomes	Frequency and severity of vaccine-related solicited AEs; proportion of participants that develop 4-fold or greater rises in RSV neutralising antibody titre following vaccination
Starting date	June 2013
Contact information	Jocelyn San Mateo; 410-614-4306; jsanmate@jhsph.edu
Notes	

[NCT03387137](#)

Study name	Evaluating the infectivity, safety, and immunogenicity of a respiratory syncytial virus vaccine (RSV 6120/ΔNS2/1030s) in RSV-seropositive children and RSV-seronegative infants and children
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	45
Interventions	Biological: RSV 6120/ΔNS2/1030s; other: placebo

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NCT03387137 (Continued)

Outcomes	Grades of: study product-related solicited AEs (RSV-seropositive participants); study product-related solicited AEs (RSV-seronegative participants); study product-related unsolicited AEs (RSV-seropositive participants); study product-related unsolicited AEs (RSV-seronegative participants); study product-related SAEs (RSV-seropositive participants). Frequency of infection with: RSV (RSV-seropositive participants); with RSV (RSV-seronegative participants). Peak titre of vaccine virus shed (RSV-seropositive participants). Duration of virus shedding in nasal washes (RSV-seropositive participants). RSV-neutralising serum antibody titre (RSV-seropositive participants). IgG serum antibody titres to RSV F glycoprotein ELISA (RSV-seropositive participants)
Starting date	13 October 2017
Contact information	Ruth A Karron
Notes	

NCT03422237

Study name	Evaluating the infectivity, safety, and immunogenicity of the recombinant live-attenuated RSV vaccines RSV ΔNS2/Δ1313/11314L or RSV 276 in RSV-seronegative infants and children 6 to 24 months of age
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	80
Interventions	Biological: RSV ΔNS2/Δ1313/11314L; biological: RSV 276; other: placebo
Outcomes	Grades of: study product-related solicited AEs; product-related unsolicited AEs; product-related SAEs; number of participants infected with RSV; peak titre of vaccine virus shed; duration of virus shedding in nasal washes. Frequency of: ≥ 4-fold rise in RSV serum neutralising antibody titre; RSV neutralising antibody responses; ≥ 4-fold rise in serum antibody titres to RSV F glycoprotein; antibody responses to RSV F glycoprotein
Starting date	4 October 2017
Contact information	Ruth A Karron
Notes	

NCT03596801

Study name	Evaluating the infectivity, safety and immunogenicity of respiratory syncytial virus vaccines, RSV 6120/ΔNS1 and RSV 6120/F1/G2/ΔNS1, in RSV-seropositive children and RSV-seronegative infants and children
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	75
Interventions	Biological: RSV 6120/ΔNS1; biological: RSV 6120/F1/G2/ΔNS1; other: placebo
Outcomes	Grades of study product-related: solicited AEs; unsolicited AEs; SAEs. Frequency of infection with RSV. Peak titre of vaccine virus shed. Duration of virus shedding in nasal washes. Frequency of ≥ 4-

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NCT03596801 (Continued)

fold rise in RSV-neutralising antibody titre. Frequency of ≥ 4 -fold rise in IgG antibody responses to RSV F glycoprotein. Frequency of symptomatic, medically attended respiratory and febrile illness in the RSV-seronegative (group 2) vaccine and placebo recipients who experience natural infection with wt RSV during the RSV season. Severity of symptomatic, medically attended respiratory and febrile illness in the RSV-seronegative (group 2) vaccine and placebo recipients who experience natural infection with wt RSV during the RSV season. Frequency of antibody responses in the RSV-seronegative vaccine and placebo recipients who experience natural infection with wt RSV during the RSV season. Measurement of mucosal antibody titres to vaccine

Starting date	25 June 2018
Contact information	Kristi Herbert; 410-502-3333; kherber1@jhu.edu
Notes	

NCT03916185

Study name	Safety and immunogenicity of a single dose of the recombinant live-attenuated RSV vaccines RSV Δ NS2/ Δ I1313/I1314L, RSV 6120/ Δ NS2/1030s, RSV 276 or placebo, delivered as nose drops to RSV-seronegative children 6 to 24 months of age
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	160
Interventions	Biological: RSV Δ NS2/ Δ I1313/I1314L vaccine; RSV 6120/ Δ NS2/1030s vaccine; RSV 276 vaccine; other: placebo
Outcomes	<p>Primary: frequency of Grade 1 or higher solicited AEs [Time Frame: measured through Day 28]; frequency of Grade 2 or higher lower respiratory illnesses [Time Frame: measured through Day 28]; frequency of serious AEs [Time Frame: measured through Day 56]; frequency of ≥ 4-fold rise in serum RSV-neutralising antibody titre [Time Frame: measured through Day 56]</p> <p>Secondary: frequency of ≥ 4-fold rise in serum RSV F IgG [Time Frame: measured through Day 56]; titre of serum RSV F IgG [Time Frame: measured at the Day 56 visit]; titre of serum RSV-neutralising antibodies [Time Frame: measured at the Day 56 visit]; frequency of RSV-MAARI [Time Frame: measured through the last day of the RSV season, which will occur between 5 and 12 months after study entry, depending on when the participant enrolls in the study]; maximum grade (if more than 1 illness within a participant) of RSV-MAARI [Time Frame: measured through the last day of the RSV season, which will occur between 5 and 12 months after study entry, depending on when the participant enrolls in the study]; frequency of RSV-MAALRI [Time Frame: measured through the last day of the RSV season, which will occur between 5 and 12 months after study entry, depending on when the participant enrolls in the study]; maximum grade (if more than 1 illness within a participant) of RSV-MAALRI [Time Frame: measured through the last day of the RSV season, which will occur between 5 and 12 months after study entry, depending on when the participant enrolls in the study]</p>
Starting date	16 May 2019
Contact information	Coleen Cunningham and Ruth Karron
Notes	

NCT04032093

Study name	A phase 2B placebo-controlled, randomised study of a RSV vaccine in pregnant women
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	650
Interventions	Biological: RSV vaccine; other: placebo
Outcomes	Percentage of participants reporting: local reactions and systemic events from day of vaccination (Day 1) until Day 7; AEs within 1 month after vaccination; obstetric complications, MAEs and SAEs throughout the study. Percentage of infant participants: with specific birth outcomes; with AE from birth to 1 month of age; with SAE, AE of special interest (congenital anomalies, developmental delay), and MAE through 12 months of age. Immune responses measured by RSV neutralising antibody titres in maternal participants. Geometric mean ratio for RSV neutralising antibody titres in maternal participants
Starting date	7 August 2019
Contact information	Pfizer
Notes	

NCT04126213

Study name	Study of safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of GlaxoSmithKline's (GSK) respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) maternal unadjuvanted vaccine in healthy pregnant women (aged 18 to 40 years) and their infants
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	420
Interventions	Biological: RSVPreF3 formulation 2; biological: RSVPreF3 formulation 3; other: placebo
Outcomes	Percentage of maternal participants reporting: solicited administration site events; solicited systemic events; with haematological and biochemical laboratory abnormality at baseline; with haematological and biochemical laboratory abnormality at Day 8; unsolicited AEs; at least 1 SAE; with AEs leading to study withdrawal; with at least 1 MAE; pregnancy outcomes; pregnancy-related AESIs; neonatal AESIs; at least 1 SAE; AEs leading to study withdrawal; at least 1 MAE. RSVPreF3 IgG-specific antibody concentration in terms of GMCs at Day 1, before vaccination for each group, and by age category. RSVPreF3 IgG antibody GMCs at Day 31. RSVPreF3 IgG antibody GMCs at delivery. RSV-A neutralising antibody GMTs at Day 1, before vaccination. RSV-A neutralising antibody GMTs at Day 31. RSV-A neutralising antibody GMTs at delivery. RSVPreF3 IgG antibody GMCs in infants born to maternal participants. RSV-A neutralising antibody GMTs in infants born to maternal participants. Geometric mean ratio between cord blood and maternal RSVPreF3 IgG-specific antibody concentrations
Starting date	5 November 2019
Contact information	GlaxoSmithKline
Notes	

NCT04138056

Study name	A study of a vaccine against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) when given alone and together with a vaccine against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (Tdap) viruses followed by a 2nd dose of the RSV vaccine to healthy non-pregnant women
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	509
Interventions	Biological: RSVPreF3 formulation 3; biological: RSVPreF3 formulation 2; biological: Boostrix-ex-US; other: placebo
Outcomes	Percentage of participants with: at least 1 solicited local AE for each study group, after the 1st vaccination; at least 1 solicited general AE for each study group, after the 1st vaccination. Percentage of participants with: any unsolicited AEs for each study group, after the 1st vaccination; at least 1 SAE for each study group, after the 1st vaccination; at least 1 solicited local AE for each study group, after the 2nd vaccination; at least 1 solicited general AE for each study group, after the 2nd vaccination; any unsolicited AEs for each study group, after the 2nd vaccination; at least 1 SAE for each study group, after the 2nd vaccination. Humoral immune response in terms of RSV A neutralising antibody GMTs for each group, at screening. RSV A neutralising antibody GMTs for each group at Day 8, after the 1st vaccination. RSV A neutralising antibody GMTs for each group at Day 31, after the 1st vaccination. Humoral immune response in terms of RSV PreF3 IgG antibody GMCs for each group, at screening. RSV PreF3 IgG GMCs for each group, at Day 8, after the 1st vaccination. RSV PreF3 IgG GMCs for each group, at Day 31, after the 1st vaccination
Starting date	5 November 2019
Contact information	GlaxoSmithKline
Notes	

NCT04681833

Study name	Safety and efficacy of BARS13 in the elderly
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	120
Interventions	Drug: recombinant respiratory syncytial virus vaccine (BARS13)/placebo; drug: recombinant respiratory syncytial virus vaccine (BARS13); drug: placebo
Outcomes	Incidence and severity of vaccine-related AEs including the following solicited AEs; incidence and severity of vaccine-related AEs including the following solicited AEs; incidence and severity of vaccine-related AEs including the following solicited AEs; occurrence of any SAE; occurrence of any clinically significant clinical laboratory abnormalities
Starting date	24 May 2021
Contact information	Xuefen Huai: +8618351991682; xuefenhuai@advaccine.com Alex Cheng: +86 17600221846; alexcheng@advaccine.com
Notes	

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NCT04732871

Study name	A phase 3, randomised, open-label, multi-country study to evaluate the immunogenicity, safety, reactogenicity and persistence of a single dose of the RSVPreF3 OA investigational vaccine and different revaccination schedules in adults aged 60 years and above
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	1720
Interventions	Biological: RSVPreF3 OA investigational vaccine
Outcomes	Humoral immune response in terms of RSV-A neutralising antibody GMTs; RSV-A neutralising antibody GMTs; humoral immune response in terms of RSV-B neutralising antibody titres; humoral immune response in terms of RSV-B neutralising antibody titres; humoral immune response in terms of RSVPreF3 IgG antibody GMCs; humoral immune response in terms of RSV-A neutralising antibody GMTs; cell-mediated immune response in terms of frequency of RSVPreF3-specific cluster of differentiation (CD)4+ and/or CD8+ T cells expressing at least 2 activation markers; number of participants with at least 1 solicited administration-site event and solicited systemic event; number of participants with SAEs; number of participants with a fatal SAE, related SAE, and related pIMDs
Starting date	15 February 2021
Contact information	GlaxoSmithKline
Notes	

NCT04980391

Study name	A phase III, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity and immune response of a single intramuscular dose of unadjuvanted RSV maternal vaccine, in high-risk pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years and infants born to the vaccinated mother
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	353
Interventions	Biological: RSV MAT; drug: placebo
Outcomes	Percentage of maternal participants reporting solicited administration site events; percentage of maternal participants reporting solicited systemic events; percentage of maternal participants reporting unsolicited AEs; percentage of maternal participants reporting SAEs, (S)AEs leading to study withdrawal, and medically attended adverse events; percentage of maternal participants reporting pregnancy outcomes; percentage of maternal participants reporting pregnancy-related AESIs; humoral immune response in terms of RSV MAT IgG-specific antibody concentrations at pre-dosing (Day 1) for maternal participants; geometric mean ratio between cord blood and maternal RSV MAT IgG-specific antibody concentrations; humoral immune response in terms of RSV-A neutralising antibody titres at delivery for infant participants
Starting date	3 August 2021
Contact information	GlaxoSmithKline
Notes	

NCT05127434

Study name	A phase 2/3, randomised, observer-blind, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of mRNA-1345, an mRNA vaccine targeting respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), in adults \geq 60 years of age
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	34,000
Interventions	mRNA-1345; placebo
Outcomes	Number of participants with solicited local and systemic adverse reactions up to 7 days postinjection; number of participants with unsolicited AEs up to 28 days postinjection; number of participants with medically attended AEs, AESIs, SAEs, and AEs leading to withdrawal up to 24 months postinjection; VE of mRNA-1345 to prevent a first episode of RSV-LRTD within the period of 14 days postinjection up to 12 months postinjection; VE of mRNA-1345 to prevent RT-PCR confirmed protocol-defined RSV-LRTD, defined as $100 \times (1 - RR)$, where RR is the ratio of attack rates in the mRNA-1345 group and the placebo group; VE of mRNA-1345 to prevent a first episode of RSV-ARD within the period of 14 days postinjection up to 12 months postinjection; VE of mRNA-1345 to prevent RT-PCR confirmed protocol-defined RSV-ARD, defined as $100 \times (1 - RR)$, where RR is the ratio of attack rates in the mRNA-1345 group and the placebo group; VE of mRNA-1345 to prevent hospitalisations associated with RSV-ARD or RSV-LRTD within the period of 14 days postinjection up to 12 months postinjection; VE of mRNA-1345 to prevent RT-PCR confirmed protocol-defined RSV-ARD or RSV-LRTD, defined as $100 \times (1 - RR)$, where RR is the ratio of attack rates in the mRNA-1345 group and the placebo group; GMT of serum RSV neutralising and binding antibodies (Abs); geometric mean fold-rise of postbaseline/baseline Ab titres; proportion of participants with \geq 4-fold increases in Ab titres from baseline
Starting date	17 November 2021
Contact information	Moderna Clinical Trials Support Center: 1-877-777-7187; clinicaltrials@modernatx.com
Notes	

NCT05238025

Study name	A randomised, double-blind, phase 3 trial to assess clinical efficacy, safety and reactogenicity of the recombinant MVA-BN [®] -RSV vaccine in adults \geq 60 years of age
Methods	Randomised clinical trial; parallel assignment
Participants	20,000
Interventions	Biological: MVA-BN-RSV vaccine; biological: Tris buffered saline
Outcomes	Occurrence of LRTD; occurrence of ARD; occurrence of any SAEs; occurrence of complications and hospitalisations; occurrence of any grade 3 or higher adverse events; RSV-specific T-cell responses; RSV-specific serum neutralising antibody titres; RSV-specific serum IgG antibody titres; occurrence of solicited systemic adverse events
Starting date	April 2022
Contact information	Heinz Weidenthaler: 004989255446 ext 300; hwe@bavarian-nordic.com
Notes	

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AEs: adverse events
 AESIs: adverse events of special interest
 ARD: acute respiratory disease
 ARs: adverse reactions
 CS: clinically significant
 ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
 GMCs: geometric mean concentrations
 GMTs: geometric mean titres
 IgG: immunoglobulin G
 LRTD: lower respiratory tract disease
 MAE: medically attended adverse event
 pIMDs: potential immune-mediated disorders
 RSV: respiratory syncytial virus
 RSV-ARD: respiratory syncytial virus-associated acute respiratory disease
 RSV-LRTD: respiratory syncytial virus-associated lower respiratory tract disease
 RSV-MAARI: respiratory syncytial virus-associated medically attended acute respiratory illness
 RSV-MAALRI: respiratory syncytial virus-associated medically attended acute lower respiratory illness
 RT-PCR: reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction
 SAEs: serious adverse events
 Tdap: diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus
 VE: vaccine efficacy
 wt RSV: wild-type respiratory syncytial virus

DATA AND ANALYSES

Comparison 1. Adenovirus vaccines versus placebo

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1.1 Incidence of the common cold	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only

Analysis 1.1. Comparison 1: Adenovirus vaccines versus placebo, Outcome 1: Incidence of the common cold

Study or Subgroup	Vaccines		Placebo		Risk Ratio	Risk Ratio
	Events	Total	Events	Total	M-H, Fixed, 95% CI	M-H, Fixed, 95% CI
Griffin 1970	13	1139	14	1168	0.95 [0.45 , 2.02]	
Test for subgroup differences: Not applicable						

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Glossary

Term	Definition	Reference
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(Continued)

Common cold	The common cold is a self-limiting acute upper respiratory tract infection characterised by rhinorrhoea, nasal congestion, sneezing, cough, sore throat, fever, and malaise.	Heikkinen 2003
Vaccination	Inoculation with a vaccine, i.e. a preparation of microbial antigen often combined with adjuvants administered to an individual in order to induce protective immunity against microbial infections. The antigen may be in the form of live, avirulent micro-organisms or purified macromolecular components of micro-organisms.	Abbas 2001
Immune system	The collection of cells, tissues, and molecules that mediate resistance to infections	Abbas 2001
Cell-mediated immunity	The arm of the adaptative immune response whose role is to combat infections by intracellular microbes. This type of immunity is mediated by T lymphocytes.	Abbas 2001
Antigenic variability	Microbes have evolved mechanisms to evade immunity. Many bacteria and viruses mutate their antigenic surface molecules and can no longer be recognised by antibodies produced in response to previous infection.	Abbas 2001
Serotypes	An antigenically distinct subset of a species of an infectious organism that is distinguished from other subsets by serologic (i.e. serum antibody) tests. Humoral immune response to one serotype of microbes, e.g. influenza virus, may not be protective against another serotypes.	Abbas 2001
Immune responses	Once a foreign organism has been recognised, the immune system enlists the participation of a variety of cells and molecules to mount an appropriate response in order to eliminate or neutralise the organism.	Goldsby 2000
Antigenic molecules	Any molecule capable of being recognised by an antibody or T-cell receptor. Any substance that elicits an immune response	Goldsby 2000; Roitt 2004
Allergens	An antigen that elicits an immediate hypersensitivity (allergic) reaction. Allergens are proteins, or chemicals bound to proteins, that induce immunoglobulin E antibody production in atopic individuals.	Abbas 2001
Immunopotentialiation	<p>Non-specific immunostimulation given by various agents that can stimulate the immune response. It is believed that the mechanism of action is through some modification of local cytokines or growth of innate immune mechanisms.</p> <p>An increase in the functional capacity of the immune response</p>	Gorczyński 2007
Opsonisation	<p>The process by which particulate antigens are rendered more susceptible to phagocytosis</p> <p>The process of attaching opsonins, such as immunoglobulin G or complement fragments, to microbial surfaces to target microbes for phagocytosis</p>	Abbas 2001; Goldsby 2000
Phagocytosis	<p>Macrophages are capable of ingesting and digesting exogenous antigens, such as whole micro-organisms and insoluble particles, and endogenous matter, such as injured or dead host cells, cellular debris, and activated clotting factors.</p> <p>The process by which certain cells of the innate immune system, including macrophages and neutrophils, engulf large particles (> 0.5-micrometre diameter), such as intact microbes. The cell surrounds the particle by a cytoskele-</p>	Abbas 2001; Goldsby 2000

(Continued)

ton-dependent process, leading to formation of an intracellular vesicle called a phagosome, which contains the ingested particle.

Appendix 2. Differences between clinical characteristics of the common cold and influenza

Feature	Common cold	Influenza	References
Aetiological agent	> 100 viral strains; rhinovirus most common	3 strains of influenza virus: influenza A, B, C	Czubak 2021;
Site of infection	Upper respiratory tract	Entire respiratory system	DDCP 2010; Gwaltney 1967; Gwaltney 2000;
Symptom onset	Gradual: 1 to 3 days	Sudden: within a few hours	Heikkinen 2003;
Fever, chills	Occasional, low grade (< 100 °F)	Fever is usually present with the flu (up to 80% of all flu cases). A temperature of 100 °F or higher for 3 to 4 days is typically associated with the flu.	Roxas 2007; Thompson 2003
Headache	Frequent, usually mild	Characteristic, more severe	
General aches, pains	Mild, if any	Characteristic, often severe and affecting the entire body	
Cough, chest congestion	Mild to moderate, with hacking cough	Common, may become severe	
Sore throat	Common, usually mild	Sometimes present	
Runny, stuffy nose	Very common, accompanied by bouts of sneezing	Sometimes present	
Fatigue, weakness	Mild, if any	Usual, may be severe and last 2 to 3 weeks	
Extreme exhaustion	Never	Frequent, usually in early stages of illness	
Season	Year around, peaks in winter months	Most cases between November and February	
Antibiotics helpful	No, unless secondary bacterial infection develops	No, unless secondary bacterial infection develops	

Appendix 3. Viral causes of the common cold

Virus	Estimated annual proportion of cases	References
Rhinoviruses	30% to 50%; during autumn 80%. Once considered to be limited to the upper airway, now recognised as an important cause of lower respiratory infections	Arruda 1997; Gwaltney 1985; Heikkinen 2003; Lemanske 2005; Mäkelä 1998; Monto 1993; Regamey 2008

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(Continued)

Coronaviruses	7% to 18% in adults with upper respiratory infections. Responsible for 2.1% of hospital admissions for acute respiratory tract infections in all age groups	Larson 1980; Lau 2006; Mäkelä 1998; Nicholson 1997
Influenza viruses	5% to 15%	Heikkinen 2003
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	<p>In low-income countries, 15% to 20%</p> <p>In hospital the proportion of children aged between birth and 5 months with RSV acute lower respiratory tract infections ranged between 9% and 87%.</p> <p>Amongst children up to at least 5 years of age reported with RSV, on average 39% (range 20% to 62%) were < 6 months old; on average 24% of cases (range 14% to 38%) were children aged 6 to 11 months, thus an average of 63% of children were under 1 year of age. On average 20% (range 13% to 29%) of children were between 1 and 2 years of age.</p> <p>RSV accounts for approximately 10,000 deaths annually in people over the age of 65 years in the USA.</p> <p>RSV in adults, 5% infection annually</p>	Berman 1991; Falsey 2005; Thompson 2003
Parainfluenza viruses	<p>Acute respiratory infections cause 3% to 18% of all admissions to paediatric hospitals; however, this might vary at different times of the year.</p> <p>Parainfluenza viruses account for 17% of hospitalised illness-associated virus isolation.</p> <p>In low-income countries, 7% to 10%</p> <p>Parainfluenza viruses cause 50% to 74.2% of croup cases.</p>	Berman 1991; Denny 1983; Henrickson 2003
Adenoviruses	In low-income countries, 2% to 4%	Berman 1991
Metapneumovirus	10% short epidemic	Esper 2003; Kahn 2003; Nissen 2002; Risnes 2005
Unknown	20% to 30%	Mäkelä 1998; Monto 1993

Appendix 4. CENTRAL search strategy

- #1 mh "Common Cold"
- #2 "common cold*":ti,ab
- #3 "coryza":ti,ab
- #4 (acute near/5 ("upper respiratory infection*" or "upper respiratory tract infection*" or urti or uri)):ti,ab
- #5 mh "Picornaviridae Infections"
- #6 mh Rhinovirus
- #7 rhinovir*
- #8 "hrv":ti,ab
- #9 mh "Paramyxoviridae Infections"

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- #10 mh "parainfluenza virus 1, human" or mh "parainfluenza virus 3, human"
- #11 mh "parainfluenza virus 2, human" or mh "parainfluenza virus 4, human"
- #12 "parainfluenza*":ti,ab
- #13 mh coronavirus or mh "coronavirus 229e, human" or mh "coronavirus oc43, human"
- #14 mh "Coronavirus Infections"
- #15 coronavir*
- #16 mh adenoviridae or mh "adenoviruses, human"
- #17 mh adenoviridae or mh "adenoviruses, human"
- #18 adenovir*
- #19 mh "respiratory syncytial viruses" or mh "respiratory syncytial virus, human"
- #20 mh "Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infections"
- #21 ("respiratory syncytial virus*" or rsv):ti,ab
- #22 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12 or #13 or #14 or #15 or #16 or #17 or #18 or #19 or #20 or #21
- #23 mh Vaccines
- #24 mh Vaccination
- #25 (vaccin* or inocul* or immuni*):ti,ab
- #26 #23 or #24 or #25
- #27 #22 and #26 with Cochrane Library publication date Between Sep 2016 and April 2022

Appendix 5. MEDLINE (Ovid) search strategy

- 1 Common Cold/
- 2 common cold*.tw.
- 3 coryza.tw.
- 4 (acute adj5 (upper respiratory infection* or upper respiratory tract infection* or urti or uri)).tw.
- 5 Picornaviridae Infections/
- 6 Rhinovirus/
- 7 rhinovir*.tw.
- 8 hrv.tw.
- 9 Paramyxoviridae Infections/
- 10 parainfluenza virus 1, human/ or parainfluenza virus 3, human/
- 11 parainfluenza virus 2, human/ or parainfluenza virus 4, human/
- 12 parainfluenza*.tw.
- 13 coronavirus/ or coronavirus 229e, human/ or coronavirus oc43, human/
- 14 Coronavirus Infections/
- 15 coronavir*.tw.
- 16 exp adenoviridae/ or adenoviruses, human/

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- 17 Adenovirus Infections, Human/
- 18 adenovir*.tw.
- 19 respiratory syncytial viruses/ or respiratory syncytial virus, human/
- 20 Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infections/
- 21 (respiratory syncytial virus* or rsv).tw.
- 22 or/1-21
- 23 exp Vaccines/
- 24 exp Vaccination/
- 25 (vaccin* or inocul* or immuni*).tw.
- 26 or/23-25 (724637)
- 27 randomized controlled trial.pt.
- 28 controlled clinical trial.pt.
- 29 randomi?ed.ab.
- 30 placebo.ab.
- 31 drug therapy.fs.
- 32 randomly.ab.
- 33 trial.ab.
- 34 groups.ab.
- 35 27 or 28 or 29 or 30 or 31 or 32 or 33 or 34
- 36 exp animals/ not humans.sh.
- 37 35 not 36
- 38 22 and 26 and 37
- 39 limit 38 to dt=20160901-20220426

Appendix 6. Embase (Elsevier) search strategy

- #28 #27 AND (2016:py OR 2017:py OR 2018:py OR 2019:py OR 2020:py OR 2021:py OR 2022:py)
- #27 #23 AND #26
- #26 #24 OR #25
- #25 random*:ab,ti OR placebo*:ab,ti OR factorial*:ab,ti OR crossover*:ab,ti OR 'cross over':ab,ti OR 'cross-over':ab,ti OR volunteer*:ab,ti OR assign*:ab,ti OR allocat*:ab,ti OR (((singl* OR doubl*) NEAR/1 blind*):ab,ti)
- #24 'randomized controlled trial'/exp OR 'single blind procedure'/exp OR 'double blind procedure'/exp OR 'crossover procedure'/exp
- #23 #18 AND #22
- #22 #19 OR #20 OR #21
- #21 'vaccination'/de
- #20 vaccin*:ab,ti OR immuni*:ab,ti OR inocul*:ab,ti
- #19 'vaccine'/exp

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- #18 #1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16 OR #17
- #17 'respiratory syncytial virus':ab,ti OR 'respiratory syncytial viruses':ab,ti OR rsv:ab,ti
- #16 'respiratory syncytial pneumovirus'/de OR 'respiratory syncytial virus infection'/de
- #15 adenovir*:ab,ti
- #14 'adenovirus'/exp OR 'human adenovirus infection'/de
- #13 coronavir*:ab,ti
- #12 'coronavirus'/de OR 'coronavirus infection'/de
- #11 parainfluenza*:ab,ti
- #10 'parainfluenza virus 1'/de OR 'parainfluenza virus 2'/de OR 'parainfluenza virus 3'/de OR 'parainfluenza virus 4'/exp
- #9 'parainfluenza virus'/exp
- #8 'paramyxovirus infection'/de
- #7 rhinovir*:ab,ti OR hrv:ab,ti
- #6 'rhinovirus infection'/de OR 'human rhinovirus'/de
- #5 coryza:ab,ti
- #4 'acute upper respiratory infection':ab,ti OR 'acute upper respiratory infections':ab,ti OR 'acute upper respiratory tract infection':ab,ti OR 'acute upper respiratory tract infections':ab,ti OR ((acute NEAR/5 (urti OR uri)):ab,ti)
- #3 'viral upper respiratory tract infection'/de OR 'upper respiratory tract infection'/de
- #2 'common cold':ab,ti OR 'common colds':ab,ti
- #1 'common cold'/de OR 'common cold symptom'/de

Appendix 7. CINAHL (EBSCO) search strategy

- S34 S23 AND S33 Limiters - Published Date: 20160101-20220426
- S33 S24 OR S25 OR S26 OR S27 OR S28 OR S29 OR S30 OR S31 OR S32
- S32 (MH "Quantitative Studies")
- S31 TI placebo* or AB placebo*
- S30 (MH "Placebos")
- S29 TI random* or AB random*
- S28 TI (singl* mask* or doubl* mask* or tripl* mask* or trebl* mask*) or AB (singl* mask* or doubl* mask* or tripl* mask* or trebl* mask*)
- S27 TI (singl* blind* or doubl* blind* or trebl* blind* or tripl* blind*) or AB (singl* blind* or doubl* blind* or trebl* blind* or tripl* blind*)
- S26 TI clinic* w1 trial* or AB clinic* w1 trial*
- S25 PT clinical trial
- S24 (MH "Clinical Trials+")
- S23 S18 AND S22
- S22 S19 OR S20 OR S21
- S21 TI (vaccin* or immuni* or inocula*) or AB (vaccin* or immuni* or inocula*)
- S20 (MH "Immunization")

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- S19 (MH "Vaccines+")
- S18 S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8 OR S9 OR S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR S15 OR S16 OR S17
- S17 TI (respiratory syncytial virus* or rsv) or AB (respiratory syncytial virus* or rsv)
- S16 (MH "Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infections")
- S15 (MH "Respiratory Syncytial Viruses")
- S14 TI adenovir* or AB adenovir*
- S13 TI coronavir* or AB coronavir*
- S12 (MH "Coronavirus+")
- S11 (MH "Coronavirus Infections")
- S10 TI parainfluenza* or AB parainfluenza*
- S9 (MH "Paramyxovirus Infections")
- S8 (MH "Paramyxoviruses")
- S7 TI hrv or AB hrv
- S6 TI rhinovir* or AB rhinovir*
- S5 (MH "Picornavirus Infections")
- S4 TI (upper respiratory tract infection* or upper respiratory infection*) or AB (upper respiratory tract infection* or upper respiratory infection*)
- S3 TI coryza or AB coryza
- S2 TI common cold* or AB common cold*
- S1 (MH "Common Cold")

Appendix 8. LILACS (BIREME) search strategy

((mh:"Common Cold" OR "common cold" OR "common colds" OR coryza OR "Resfriado Común" OR "Resfriado Comum" OR "Coriza Aguda" OR "Upper Respiratory Tract Infections" OR "upper respiratory tract infection" OR "Infecciones del Tracto Respiratorio Superior" OR "Infecciones de las Vías Respiratorias Superiores" OR "Infecções do Trato Respiratório Superior" OR "Infecções das Vias Respiratórias Superiores" OR "Infecções das Vias Aéreas Superiores" OR "Infecções do Sistema Respiratório Superior" OR mh:"Picornaviridae Infections" OR "Infecciones por Picornaviridae" OR "Infecções por Picornaviridae" OR "Picornavirus Infections" OR mh:rhinovirus OR rhinovir* OR "Virus de la Coriza" OR "Virus del Resfriado Común" OR "Vírus da Coriza" OR "Vírus do Resfriado Comum" OR hrv OR mh:"Paramyxoviridae Infections" OR parainfluenza* OR mh:"Parainfluenza Virus 1, Human" OR mh:"Parainfluenza Virus 2, Human" OR mh:"Parainfluenza Virus 3, Human" OR mh:"Parainfluenza Virus 4, Human" OR mh:"Coronavirus Infections" OR coronavir* OR mh:coronavirus OR mh:"Coronavirus 229E, Human" OR mh:"Coronavirus OC43, Human" OR mh:"Coronavirus NL63, Human" OR mh:adenoviridae OR mh:"Adenoviruses, Human" OR mh:"Adenovirus Infections, Human" OR adenovir* OR mh:"Respiratory Syncytial Viruses" OR "Virus Sincitiales Respiratorios" OR "Vírus Sincitiais Respiratórios" OR "Virus Sincicial Respiratorio" OR "Virus Sincicial Respiratório" OR mh:"Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Human" OR "respiratory syncytial virus" OR "Virus Humano Respiratorio Sincicial" OR mh:"Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infections" OR "Infecciones por Virus Sincicial Respiratorio" OR "Infecções por Vírus Respiratório Sincicial" OR rsv) AND (mh:vaccines OR vaccin* OR vacunas OR vacinas OR mh:d20.215.894* OR mh:vaccination OR vacunación OR vacinação OR mh:"Mass Vaccination" OR mh:immunization OR inmunización OR imunização OR mh:e02.095.465.425.400* OR mh:e05.478.550* OR mh:n02.421.726.758.310* OR mh:n06.850.780.200.425* OR mh:n06.850.780.680.310* OR mh:sp2.026.182.113* OR mh:sp8.946.819.838* OR immuni* OR inmuni* OR imuni*) AND (db:("LILACS") AND type_of_study:(("clinical_trials")) AND (year_cluster:[2016 TO 2022])

WHAT'S NEW

Date	Event	Description
26 April 2022	New search has been performed	We did not identify any new trials for inclusion in this update. We excluded 109 new studies and identified 13 ongoing studies. We

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Date	Event	Description
		recruited two new authors to update this review, and one of the previous review authors did not take part in this update.
26 April 2022	New citation required but conclusions have not changed	Our conclusions remain unchanged.

HISTORY

Protocol first published: Issue 3, 2000

Review first published: Issue 6, 2013

Date	Event	Description
2 September 2016	New citation required but conclusions have not changed	We recruited three new authors to update this review.
2 September 2016	New search has been performed	We updated our searches and excluded three new trials (Glenn 2016 ; Karron 2015 ; Kumpu 2015).
22 January 2015	New search has been performed	Searches conducted.
16 March 2011	New citation required and major changes	Protocol taken over by a new team of review authors.
26 February 2009	Amended	Protocol withdrawn (Issue 3, 2009).

CONTRIBUTIONS OF AUTHORS

1. Conceiving the review: DSR
2. Designing the review: DSR, CVG, MLF, RH
3. Co-ordinating the review: DSR, CMG
4. Data collection for the review: DBG, CMG
5. Screening search results: MLF, MJMZ, CMG, DBG
6. Appraising quality of papers: DSR, CVG, RH, MJMZ
7. Extracting data from papers: DSR
8. Writing to authors of papers for additional information: CMG
9. Obtaining and screening data on unpublished studies: MLF, MJMZ
10. Data management for the review: DSR
11. Entering data into Review Manager 5: DSR, MJMZ
12. Interpretation of data: all authors
13. Providing a methodological perspective: MJMZ, DBG, CMG, DSR
14. Providing a clinical perspective: CVG, MLF, RH
15. Writing the review: CMG, DBG, MJMZ, DSR
16. All authors contributed to the improvement of this updated review and approved the final version of the review.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Camila Montesinos-Guevara: declared that they have no conflict of interest.

Diana Buitrago-Garcia: declared that they have no conflict of interest.

Maria L Felix: declared that they have no conflict of interest.

Claudia V Guerra: declared that they have no conflict of interest.

Vaccines for the common cold (Review)

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Ricardo Hidalgo: declared that they have no conflict of interest.
 Maria José Martínez-Zapata: declared that they have no conflict of interest.
 Daniel Simancas-Racines: declared that they have no conflict of interest.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Internal sources

- Cochrane Ecuador, Ecuador
 - Methodological
- Centro de Investigación en Salud Pública y Epidemiología Clínica (CISPEC). Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud Eugenio Espejo, Universidad UTE., Ecuador
 - Methodological

External sources

- Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Spain
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DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PROTOCOL AND REVIEW

2022 update:

1. Two new authors contributed to the 2022 update: Diana Buitrago-García and Camila Montesinos-Guevara.
2. *Changes to outcomes:* We split the outcome of mortality into: 1) due to all causes, and 2) vaccine related.
3. *Studies' search and selection:* We used Cochrane's Screen4Me workflow to help assess the initial search results. We only included randomised controlled trials that reported data on the incidence of common cold, thus we excluded early-phase studies which did not assess the incidence of common cold.
4. *Unit of analysis issues:* In future updates in which multi-arm studies are included, differences between the study arms should be explored, compared to placebo. If no differences are found, data of all active arms should be pooled and compared with a placebo. If differences are found in one arm, results should be compared separately with placebo. In addition, for future updates with cluster-randomised controlled trials, if the sample size has been adequately calculated, data should be pooled using the generic inverse-variance approach. If sample size is incorrect, 'effective sample size' should be calculated following the recommendations in the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* (Higgins 2021).
5. *Dealing with missing data:* In future updates, we will undertake a complete-case analysis and an intention-to-treat analysis in the case of available data, or perform multiple imputation methods if needed. If numerical outcome data are missing, such as standard deviations or correlation coefficients, and these could not be obtained from the authors, we will calculate them from other available statistics such as P values, following the methods in the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*.
6. *Assessment of heterogeneity:* If in future updates we identify substantial heterogeneity as per the *Cochrane Handbook* (50% to 90%), we will explore this by performing a prespecified subgroup analysis (Higgins 2022).
7. *Subgroup analysis and investigation of heterogeneity:* Due to the limited number of included studies, we do not plan to perform a meta-regression in the future.
8. *Sensitivity analysis:* In future updates, we will perform a sensitivity analysis comparing parallel randomised clinical trials versus cluster-randomised clinical trials.

2016 update:

1. Three new authors contributed to the 2016 update: Juan VA Franco, María L Felix, and María José Martínez-Zapata.
2. We considered risk of bias for blinding as unclear in the 2013 publication of this review. In the 2016 update, we reassessed this as low because the study used a placebo.
3. We added two additional primary outcomes, vaccine safety and vaccine-related mortality, to the summary of findings table.

2014 update:

1. We did not search Scirus for this update as the service became unavailable in 2014.

INDEX TERMS**Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)**

*Adenovirus Vaccines [adverse effects]; *Common Cold [prevention & control]; Incidence; Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic; Systematic Reviews as Topic; Vaccines, Attenuated [adverse effects]

MeSH check words

Child; Humans; Male