



Monoclonal Antibody for the Prevention of Respiratory Syncytial Virus in Infants and Children

¹ W.Bryson, ² W.J.Seog

^{1,2} California University of Science and Medicine

Correspondence : dr.glenn0192@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Background: The literature surrounding the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in infants and children has evolved significantly over recent years, focusing on the efficacy of monoclonal antibodies and maternal immunization strategies. **Literature Review:** Recent studies have proposed maternal immunization as a promising alternative to enhance passive immunity in infants through transplacental antibody transfer (Cai et al., 2019). This approach not only addresses the gap in protection for infants who do not qualify for monoclonal antibody prophylaxis but also has the potential to benefit a larger population. The introduction of novel long-acting monoclonal antibodies, such as nirsevimab, represents a significant advancement in RSV prevention (Voirin et al., 2022). Nirsevimab's extended half-life may improve compliance and efficacy, potentially reducing RSV-related hospitalizations and healthcare costs (Verwey et al., 2024). The comparative analysis of long-acting monoclonal antibodies and maternal vaccines indicates that both interventions could yield substantial health benefits, with the former providing immediate protection for infants (Hodgson et al., 2024). Furthermore, ongoing clinical research focusing on the structural analysis of RSV and its fusion glycoprotein is pivotal in developing effective vaccines and monoclonal antibodies (Gong et al., 2024). The safety and efficacy of nirsevimab in universal prevention programs emphasize its potential for broader application beyond high-risk populations (Consolati et al., 2024). **Conclusion:** In conclusion, the literature reflects a growing recognition of the importance of monoclonal antibodies and maternal immunization in the prevention of RSV in infants and children. The advancements in long-acting monoclonal antibodies and the exploration of maternal vaccination strategies signal a promising shift in the landscape of RSV prevention. Continued research and evaluation of these interventions are essential for addressing the significant morbidity associated with RSV and improving health outcomes for infants and children globally.

Keyword: Monoclonal Antibody, Prevention of Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Infants and Children

INTRODUCTION

The literature surrounding the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in infants and children has evolved significantly over recent years, focusing on the efficacy of monoclonal antibodies and maternal immunization strategies. In 2019, (Cai et al., 2019) highlighted the importance of maternal immunization as a practical approach to enhance protection against RSV through transplacental transfer of antibodies, building on the established efficacy of palivizumab, a prophylactic monoclonal antibody that has been pivotal in safeguarding high-risk infants from RSV-related hospitalizations ((Cai et al., 2019)).

By 2021, (Baral et al., 2021) expanded on the economic implications of RSV interventions, emphasizing the limited and costly nature of current preventative measures while advocating for the evaluation of monoclonal antibody strategies, which could offer a more cost-effective solution in low- and middle-income countries ((Baral et al., 2021)). Concurrently, (M. Maas et al., 2021) introduced novel RSV neutralizing monoclonal antibodies with extended efficacy, suggesting that innovative quantitative techniques are necessary to optimize clinical dosing and maximize preventative outcomes during RSV seasons ((M. Maas et al., 2021)).

The potential impact of nirsevimab, another monoclonal antibody, was further explored in 2022 by (Voirin et al., 2022), who modeled its effectiveness in reducing RSV-related medical visits in infants during their first RSV season, reinforcing the necessity of proactive measures in addressing the significant morbidity associated with RSV ((Voirin et al., 2022)). This was echoed by (P.S. Munro et al., 2023) in 2023, who provided a comprehensive overview of the global burden of RSV, noting the urgent need for effective prophylactic therapies, including long-acting monoclonal antibodies and maternal immunizations, to alleviate healthcare system strains ((P.S. Munro et al., 2023)).

(Verwey et al., 2024) discussed the historical context of RSV prevention, detailing the licensure of palivizumab and the recent approval of nirsevimab, which

signifies a notable advancement in the prevention landscape for high-risk groups, while also underscoring the importance of maternal vaccination strategies ((Verwey et al., 2024)). (Hodgson et al., 2024) conducted a comparative analysis of the cost-effectiveness of long-acting monoclonal antibodies and maternal vaccines, emphasizing the potential for these interventions to yield significant health benefits against RSV ((Hodgson et al., 2024)).

The ongoing clinical research highlighted by (Gong et al., 2024) further illustrates the advancements in RSV prevention, particularly through the structural analysis of the virus's fusion glycoprotein, which has been critical in developing effective vaccines and monoclonal antibodies ((Gong et al., 2024)). Finally, the safety and efficacy of nirsevimab in a universal prevention program, as reported by (Consolati et al., 2024), demonstrates the potential for broader application of monoclonal antibodies in preventing RSV infections beyond high-risk populations, addressing the high incidence of RSV among otherwise healthy infants ((Consolati et al., 2024)).

This literature review aims to synthesize these findings, providing a comprehensive overview of the advancements and ongoing challenges in the prevention of RSV in infants and children through monoclonal antibodies and maternal vaccination strategies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The article "2781. Statistical Modeling to Predict Maternal RSV Vaccine Efficacy from Neutralizing Titers" by (Cai et al., 2019) presents a compelling exploration of the potential for maternal immunization as a strategy to enhance protection against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in infants. The authors highlight the significant burden of RSV in the United States, where it is the leading cause of respiratory-related hospitalizations among infants, emphasizing the urgent need for effective preventive measures.

A key point of the article is the established efficacy of palivizumab, a prophylactic monoclonal antibody, which has been shown to significantly reduce the incidence of RSV disease in high-risk infants. This provides a proof of concept for the protective role of serum neutralizing antibodies against RSV ((Cai et al.,

2019)). The authors effectively argue that while palivizumab has proven benefits, its use is limited to select high-risk populations, thereby leaving a substantial number of infants vulnerable to RSV.

The authors propose maternal immunization as a viable alternative to enhance the protective antibody levels transferred to infants via the placenta. This approach is particularly appealing due to its potential for broader application, as it could protect a larger cohort of infants, including those who do not qualify for monoclonal antibody prophylaxis. The statistical modeling presented in the article provides a framework for predicting the efficacy of maternal RSV vaccines based on neutralizing titers, which is crucial for guiding future clinical trials and vaccine development strategies.

However, the article could benefit from a more detailed discussion on the practical implementation of maternal immunization programs, including considerations of vaccine accessibility, maternal health, and public health policy implications. Additionally, while the modeling offers valuable insights, it is essential to validate these predictions through empirical studies to ensure their reliability in real-world settings.

The article "Impact and cost-effectiveness of potential interventions against infant respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in 131 low-income and middle-income countries using a static cohort model" by (Baral et al., 2021) provides a comprehensive analysis of the potential benefits and economic implications of monoclonal antibody (mAb) interventions for preventing respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in infants and children.

The authors highlight the significant burden of RSV, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, where access to healthcare resources is often limited. Their study employs a static cohort model to simulate the impact of mAb interventions, revealing that while these therapies can be costly, their implementation could lead to substantial reductions in RSV-related morbidity and mortality. The findings suggest that mAb administration could be a viable strategy for mitigating the effects of RSV, particularly in high-risk populations, such as preterm infants or those with underlying health conditions.

A critical aspect of the research is its focus on cost-effectiveness, which is essential for policymakers in resource-constrained settings. The authors provide a detailed analysis of the cost per quality-adjusted life year (QALY) gained, which is a standard measure used to assess the value of medical interventions. Their results indicate that the mAb intervention could be cost-effective under certain conditions, particularly when considering the long-term health benefits and potential reduction in healthcare costs associated with RSV hospitalizations.

However, the study also acknowledges the limitations inherent in its static model, including assumptions about disease transmission dynamics and healthcare utilization patterns. These factors can vary significantly across different regions and populations, which may affect the generalizability of the findings. Furthermore, the authors emphasize the need for ongoing research to refine these models and incorporate real-world data to better understand the long-term implications of mAb use for RSV prevention.

The article by (M. Maas et al., 2021) provides a comprehensive examination of the efficacy of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) in the prophylaxis of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in infants and children. The authors emphasize the critical role of RSV as a leading cause of acute respiratory infections and hospitalizations in this vulnerable population, particularly during the winter months when the virus is most prevalent.

One of the key insights presented in the article is the introduction of novel long-acting RSV neutralizing mAbs, such as MK-1654, which demonstrate promising potential for preventing RSV infection with a single dose lasting throughout the winter season. This development is particularly significant given the high morbidity associated with RSV infections in infants. The authors discuss the need for innovative translational approaches that can predict the efficacy of these mAbs based on quantitative human data, which could enhance clinical dose prediction and optimize prophylactic strategies.

The article critically evaluates existing methodologies for predicting the effectiveness of mAb prophylaxis against RSV, highlighting the limitations of current models that often rely on animal studies rather than human data. The authors argue for the necessity of integrating reverse translational approaches that utilize

clinical outcomes to refine predictions for mAb dosing. This shift could lead to more accurate and effective prevention strategies tailored to the unique immune responses of infants.

Furthermore, the authors provide a detailed analysis of the mechanisms of action of these mAbs, elucidating how they neutralize the virus and prevent its entry into host cells. This mechanistic understanding is crucial for developing effective therapeutic interventions and underscores the importance of ongoing research in this area.

The article "Potential Impact of Nirsevimab on RSV Transmission and Medically Attended Lower Respiratory Tract Illness Caused by RSV: A Disease Transmission Model" by (Voirin et al., 2022) presents a comprehensive analysis of the potential benefits of nirsevimab, a monoclonal antibody, in preventing respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections in infants during their first RSV season. The authors employ a disease transmission model to evaluate the implications of nirsevimab administration on the incidence of medically-attended lower respiratory tract infections caused by RSV (RSV-MALRTI) in the United States.

The study highlights the significant morbidity associated with RSV, which poses a substantial health risk to infants, particularly during their first exposure to the virus. The authors effectively contextualize the need for preventive strategies, emphasizing that RSV is a leading cause of hospitalization among young children. Their approach to modeling the transmission dynamics of RSV in relation to nirsevimab administration is methodologically sound, allowing for a nuanced understanding of how prophylactic treatment could alter disease incidence.

One of the key insights from the article is the projected reduction in RSV-MALRTI episodes due to nirsevimab. The authors present data suggesting that widespread use of this monoclonal antibody could significantly decrease the burden of RSV-related illnesses, thereby reducing healthcare costs and improving outcomes for infants. The implications of these findings are particularly relevant given the ongoing public health challenges posed by respiratory viruses.

Critically, while the model provides valuable predictions, it is essential to consider the limitations inherent in disease transmission models, including assumptions made about population behavior and the virus's epidemiology. The

authors acknowledge these limitations, yet the robustness of their findings offers compelling evidence for the potential role of nirsevimab in RSV prevention strategies.

The article "The disease burden of respiratory syncytial virus in Infants" by (P.S. Munro et al., 2023) provides a comprehensive overview of the significant impact of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) on infants globally. The authors effectively highlight the morbidity and mortality associated with RSV, emphasizing its status as a leading cause of severe respiratory illness and hospitalization in this vulnerable population. This focus on the health implications of RSV underscores the urgent need for effective prevention strategies.

A critical evaluation of the article reveals that it successfully contextualizes the disease burden within the framework of healthcare resources and economic costs. The authors argue that the absence of effective therapeutics for healthy infants has been a major barrier to managing RSV, which contributes to the strain on healthcare systems. This perspective is crucial as it not only addresses the clinical aspects of RSV but also the broader implications for public health policy and resource allocation.

The discussion on new prophylactic therapies, particularly long-acting monoclonal antibodies and maternal immunizations, is particularly noteworthy. The authors suggest that these advancements could significantly alter the landscape of RSV prevention, potentially reducing hospitalization rates and associated healthcare costs. This forward-looking approach is commendable, as it provides hope for improved outcomes for infants at risk of severe RSV disease.

Moreover, the article effectively synthesizes existing data on RSV prevalence and the associated healthcare burden, making a strong case for the urgency of developing and implementing new monoclonal antibody therapies. However, while the authors present a compelling argument for the need for new interventions, the article could benefit from a more detailed exploration of the specific mechanisms by which these monoclonal antibodies function and their expected efficacy in diverse populations of infants.

The article "Approaches to the Prevention and Treatment of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection in Children: Rationale and Progress to Date" by (Verwey

et al., 2024) provides a comprehensive overview of the current strategies for preventing and managing Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infections in pediatric populations. The authors emphasize the significance of RSV as the leading cause of lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI) in children, highlighting its potential long-term pulmonary consequences.

A critical evaluation of the article reveals a well-structured analysis of existing therapeutic options, particularly the role of monoclonal antibodies in RSV prevention. The authors note that Palivizumab (Synagis™), licensed since 1998, has been a cornerstone in the prevention of RSV among high-risk infants. This monoclonal antibody specifically targets the RSV F protein site II, which is crucial for viral entry into host cells. The longevity of Palivizumab's use underscores its efficacy, although the authors point out that its application is limited to a select group of high-risk patients, indicating a need for broader preventive measures.

The introduction of Nirsevimab (Beyfortus™), a newer monoclonal antibody with an extended half-life, marks a significant advancement in RSV prophylaxis. The article discusses its recent licensure by the US Food and Drug Administration and registration in the European Union, suggesting a promising future for its widespread use. The extended half-life of Nirsevimab may improve compliance and efficacy in preventing RSV infections, thus potentially reducing hospitalizations and associated healthcare costs.

Moreover, the authors highlight the innovative approach of developing a pre-fusion sub-unit protein vaccine, Abrysvo™ (Pfizer), intended for administration to pregnant women. This strategy aims to confer passive immunity to infants, thereby protecting them during their vulnerable early months. The authors assert that this vaccine represents a paradigm shift in RSV prevention, as it targets a broader population and could lead to a significant decrease in RSV-related morbidity and mortality.

The article concludes with an optimistic outlook on the future of RSV management, noting the ongoing research into new vaccine candidates and monoclonal antibodies that could enhance prevention strategies. The authors effectively articulate the potential for these advancements to transform the

landscape of LRTI management in children, particularly in reducing the burden of RSV.

The article "Protecting infants against RSV disease: an impact and cost-effectiveness comparison of long-acting monoclonal antibodies and maternal vaccination" by (Hodgson et al., 2024) presents a comprehensive evaluation of two novel interventions aimed at preventing Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infections in infants and young children. The study systematically compares a single-dose long-acting monoclonal antibody (la-mAB) and a maternal vaccine (MV) in terms of their cost-effectiveness and health outcomes.

One of the key insights of the article is the emphasis on the health benefits associated with the la-mAB and MV. The authors utilize a model-based approach to assess the potential impact of each intervention on RSV-related morbidity and mortality. The findings suggest that the la-mAB could significantly reduce the incidence of severe RSV disease, thereby alleviating the burden on healthcare systems and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations. The study highlights that while both interventions offer substantial benefits, the long-acting monoclonal antibody may provide a more immediate protective effect for infants, as it directly targets the virus.

In terms of cost-effectiveness, (Hodgson et al., 2024) provide a detailed analysis that incorporates various economic factors, including the costs of treatment, hospitalization, and long-term health implications of RSV infections. The authors argue that the implementation of la-mAB could be justified economically, particularly in high-risk populations where the incidence of RSV is elevated. They also note that the maternal vaccine could play a crucial role in broader public health strategies, especially in settings where access to healthcare is limited.

A critical evaluation of the material reveals that while the study presents robust modeling and comprehensive data analysis, it is essential to consider the long-term implications of widespread deployment of these interventions. The authors acknowledge potential challenges, such as vaccine hesitancy and the need for ongoing surveillance of RSV strains, which could affect the effectiveness of both the la-mAB and MV. Furthermore, the study could benefit from a more in-

depth exploration of the ethical considerations regarding access to these interventions, particularly in low-resource settings.

The article titled "Clinical research on RSV prevention in children and pregnant women: progress and perspectives" by (Gong et al., 2024) provides a comprehensive overview of the advancements in the prevention of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), particularly focusing on its implications for infants and children. The authors effectively highlight RSV as a major contributor to respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis and pneumonia in this vulnerable population, underscoring the urgent need for effective preventive measures.

A significant portion of the article is dedicated to discussing the structural analysis of the surface fusion glycoprotein of RSV, which has been identified as a critical target for vaccine development. This advancement is pivotal, as it lays the groundwork for creating more effective vaccines that can elicit robust immune responses in infants, who are particularly susceptible to severe RSV infections. The authors provide a detailed examination of the various types of RSV vaccines being developed, emphasizing those aimed at inducing maternal immunity. This approach is particularly relevant, as maternal antibodies can provide passive immunity to infants during the early months of life when they are most vulnerable to RSV.

The review further summarizes the current clinical research endeavors focusing on RSV vaccination in pregnant women and evaluates the protective efficacy of these vaccines for their infants. The authors present a critical analysis of the existing studies, discussing both the successes and limitations encountered in the quest for effective vaccination strategies. They point out that while progress has been made, the absence of a definitive treatment for RSV remains a significant challenge, highlighting the need for continued research and innovation in this field.

The article "Safety and Efficacy of Nirsevimab in a Universal Prevention Program of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Bronchiolitis in Newborns and Infants in the First Year of Life in the Valle d'Aosta Region, Italy, in the 2023–2024 Epidemic Season" by (Consolati et al., 2024) presents a significant advancement in the preventive measures against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in infants. The authors highlight the limitations of the current standard of care, which predominantly relies on palivizumab, a monoclonal antibody reserved for a small

percentage of high-risk infants. This approach has been constrained by both its limited eligibility criteria and high costs, which restrict its accessibility to the broader pediatric population.

The article underscores the fact that while RSV is a prevalent pathogen, infecting over 60% of children by their first birthday, only a fraction (4-6%) of infants qualify for palivizumab prophylaxis ((Consolati et al., 2024)). This gap in preventive care emphasizes the urgent need for alternative strategies that can provide broader protection against RSV. The introduction of nirsevimab is particularly noteworthy as it represents a paradigm shift in RSV prophylaxis. By specifically targeting the fusion (F) protein of the virus, nirsevimab shows promise in enhancing the effectiveness of RSV prevention efforts.

Moreover, the authors detail the potential benefits of nirsevimab, such as its longer half-life compared to palivizumab, which may reduce the frequency of administration and improve adherence to prophylactic measures. This aspect is critical, especially during peak epidemic seasons when the risk of infection is heightened. The article effectively conveys the ongoing research efforts aimed at understanding RSV pathogenesis and transmission dynamics, which are essential for developing effective preventive strategies.

In their evaluation, (Consolati et al., 2024) provide a comprehensive overview of the implications of nirsevimab within a universal prevention program, suggesting that its adoption could significantly alleviate the burden of RSV-related illnesses in infants. The research presented in this article is crucial not only for clinicians but also for policymakers who are tasked with making informed decisions regarding RSV prevention strategies.

CONCLUSION

The literature on the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in infants and children highlights significant advancements and ongoing challenges in the field, particularly concerning monoclonal antibodies and maternal immunization strategies. The introduction of monoclonal antibodies, such as palivizumab, has established a foundation for preventing severe RSV disease in high-risk infants (Cai et al., 2019). However, the limitations of palivizumab, which

is restricted to specific populations, underscore the need for broader preventive measures.

Recent studies have proposed maternal immunization as a promising alternative to enhance passive immunity in infants through transplacental antibody transfer (Cai et al., 2019). This approach not only addresses the gap in protection for infants who do not qualify for monoclonal antibody prophylaxis but also has the potential to benefit a larger population. The economic implications of RSV interventions, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, have been evaluated, suggesting that monoclonal antibody strategies could be a cost-effective solution (Baral et al., 2021).

The introduction of novel long-acting monoclonal antibodies, such as nirsevimab, represents a significant advancement in RSV prevention (Voirin et al., 2022). Nirsevimab's extended half-life may improve compliance and efficacy, potentially reducing RSV-related hospitalizations and healthcare costs (Verwey et al., 2024). The comparative analysis of long-acting monoclonal antibodies and maternal vaccines indicates that both interventions could yield substantial health benefits, with the former providing immediate protection for infants (Hodgson et al., 2024).

Furthermore, ongoing clinical research focusing on the structural analysis of RSV and its fusion glycoprotein is pivotal in developing effective vaccines and monoclonal antibodies (Gong et al., 2024). The safety and efficacy of nirsevimab in universal prevention programs emphasize its potential for broader application beyond high-risk populations (Consolati et al., 2024).

In conclusion, the literature reflects a growing recognition of the importance of monoclonal antibodies and maternal immunization in the prevention of RSV in infants and children. The advancements in long-acting monoclonal antibodies and the exploration of maternal vaccination strategies signal a promising shift in the landscape of RSV prevention. Continued research and evaluation of these interventions are essential for addressing the significant morbidity associated with RSV and improving health outcomes for infants and children globally.

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