

BABIES BORN WITH HIV AND THE CHICKENPOX VACCINE

Antibodies help our immune system protect us against viruses. All healthy children make antibodies against chickenpox after they get two doses of the vaccine. Studies have shown that some HIV-infected children do not make enough of these antibodies after being vaccinated. In this study, we looked at factors that help children with HIV make long-lasting antibodies so that they stay protected against chickenpox.

WHO PARTICIPATED

653 youth in
AMP
Ages 10 - 21



There were two groups: 432 youth born with HIV, and 221 youth without HIV who were born to mothers with HIV. All youth had given blood samples at their study visits around October 31, 2012, which were stored for later use.

WHAT WE DID



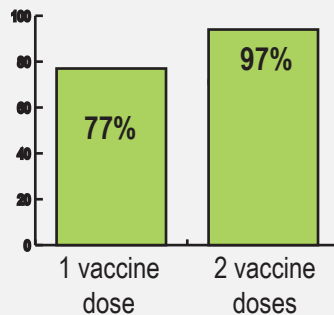
The youth were from
14 clinical sites around the country

We tested the stored blood samples for antibodies to chickenpox. We measured antibodies made during the time between when youth were vaccinated and when we tested their blood.

We then did an analysis to find out which factors were important in helping youth make and keep antibodies in their system after vaccination.

WHAT WE FOUND

Antibody levels for youth with HIV
7 years after vaccination



All youth who received at least one dose of the vaccine were protected from chickenpox for at least 3 years. However, only 77% of the youth who received just one vaccine dose still had antibodies after 7 years. This means they were less protected against chickenpox than youth without HIV.

The youth with HIV who received 2 or more doses of vaccine were much better protected. 97% of them still had antibodies after 7 years.

WHAT WE LEARNED



Children with HIV are best protected against chickenpox when they receive at least two doses of the vaccine. Their first dose of the vaccine should be given at least 3 months after starting antiretroviral treatment. Children should continue on antiretroviral treatment long-term so their bodies can keep making antibodies to protect them from chickenpox.