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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Children

Updated: Feb 07, 2022 | Author: Robert J McGowan, DO; Chief Editor: David J Cennimo, MD, FAAP, FACP, FIDSA, AAHIVS [more...](#)



Practice Essentials

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an illness caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). In the United States and throughout the world, fewer cases of COVID-19 have been reported in children than in adults. Whereas children comprise about 22% of the US population, more than 17% of all cases of COVID-19 reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were among children (as of December 23, 2021).^[1] Most cases in children are mild, and treatment consists of supportive care.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) reports children represent 18.4% of all cases in the 49 states reporting by age; over 10.4 million children have tested positive in the United States since the onset of the pandemic as of January 20, 2022. This represents an overall rate of 14,087 cases per 100,000 children. During the 2-week period of January 6-20, 2022, there was a 25.2% increase in the cumulated number of children who tested positive, representing 2,132,031 new cases. In the week from January 13-20, 2022, cases in children numbered 1,150,153 and represented 25.5% of the new weekly cases. Children were 1.7-4.4% of total reported hospitalizations, and between 0.1-1.5% of all child COVID-19 cases resulted in hospitalization.^[2]

Exploring the Relationship of COVID-19 Vaccines and Fertility

Naveen Aman, MD; Faisal Islam, MD; Zaid Ulhaq Choudhry; and Zia Choudhry, MD, PhD
February 24, 2022



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Introduction

Amidst an aggressive vaccination campaign for COVID-19, misinformation has spread over the Internet, affecting public perception and making some people hesitant to participate in ongoing immunization campaigns. Of chief concern are issues pertaining to fertility or viability of sperm — information circulating on social networks posits that the coronavirus vaccine may influence [infertility](#) in men, which, according to physicians, is not grounded in reality.

From the perspective of evidence-based medicine, there is a dearth of information suggesting an untoward effect of the vaccine on male fertility. The risk of adverse reactions arising from approved vaccines is negligible, with mild, albeit controllable, side effects demonstrated by patients in clinical trials. Therefore, there is no plausible reason for the general public to avoid vaccinations.¹

Infertility Following Vaccination

The source of confusion can be traced back to a study conducted by researchers at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; the general public has conflated a side effect of the virus, namely, infertility and [erectile dysfunction](#), with that of the vaccine.² According to Ranjith Ramasamy, MD, director of the urology program at Miller, “We were the first to demonstrate that the COVID virus, itself, can affect male fertility and be a potential cause for erectile dysfunction. We are now the first to examine if there is any impact of the COVID vaccine on male fertility potential, which we did not find.”³

Coronavirus can indeed cause significant damage to the testicular tissue of infected men by means of mediating ACE2 expression on Leydig and Sertoli cells of the testis. It should be noted that COVID-19 may potentially attack any type of cell in the body that expresses the enzyme ACE2. However, it is particularly harmful to cells with high levels of expression of this enzyme, such as testicular cells. The spermatogenesis process can be affected, thereby posing a risk to male fertility.⁴

Expanding on the theme of fertility during the pandemic, a number of false claims⁵⁻⁷ about the vaccine and its overall effect on the placenta and fertility have also emerged as a contentious topic for debate on social media; doctors continue to explain why the theories are not reasonable or a cause for concern.

Duration of effectiveness of vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 disease: results of a systematic review and meta-regression

Daniel R Feikin, MD   • Melissa M Higdon, MPH  • Laith J Abu-Raddad, PhD • Nick Andrews, PhD • Rafael Araos, MD

Yair Goldberg, PhD • et al. [Show all authors](#) • [Show footnotes](#)

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Summary

Background

Knowing whether COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness wanes is crucial for informing vaccine policy, such as the need for and timing of booster doses. We aimed to systematically review the evidence for the duration of protection of COVID-19 vaccines against various clinical outcomes, and to assess changes in the rates of breakthrough infection caused by the delta variant with increasing time since vaccination.

Interpretation

COVID-19 vaccine efficacy or effectiveness against severe disease remained high, although it did decrease somewhat by 6 months after full vaccination. By contrast, vaccine efficacy or effectiveness against infection and symptomatic disease decreased approximately 20–30 percentage points by 6 months. The decrease in vaccine efficacy or effectiveness is likely caused by, at least in part, waning immunity, although an effect of bias cannot be ruled out. Evaluating vaccine efficacy or effectiveness beyond 6 months will be crucial for updating COVID-19 vaccine policy.

Moderna Makes Case for Fourth COVID Vaccine Booster This Year, Shares Jump

By Manas Mishra and Michael Erman
February 25, 2022



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(Reuters) - Moderna Inc executives said on Thursday they believe a fourth COVID-19 vaccine shot will be needed late this year due to waning protection from earlier doses, which could push up sales in the second half of 2022.

Chief Executive Stephane Bancel stressed that the company's current sales projections for its Spikevax COVID-19 shot - \$19 billion in 2022, up from its prior estimate of \$18.5 billion - does not include any additional sales to the United States this year.

"What is not clear today is what will the U.S. government decide to do for 2022. Will it be a private market, or a mix of private and free vaccines," Bancel said.

The company said it was in talks with countries for more vaccine orders this year.

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ICD-11 2022 Release

“Better Health with Better Information”



World Health Organization



New in ICD-11 2022

- 35 countries are using ICD-11.
- Current implemented uses of ICD-11 include causes of death, primary care, cancer registration, patient safety, dermatology, pain documentation, allergology, reimbursement, clinical documentation, data dictionaries for WHO guidelines*, digital documentation of COVID-19 vaccination status and test results, and more.
- [French](#) language is now available alongside [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), & [Spanish](#). Russian and 20 more languages are underway.
- Integration in DHIS2.
- Terminology coding with the coding tool and API.
- Rare diseases coding.
- Support for perinatal and maternal coding.
- 900 proposals were processed based on input from early adopters, translators, scientists, clinicians and partners.
- Grade and stage coding for cancers.
- Clinical Descriptions and Diagnostic Requirements for mental health.

** WHO SMART Guidelines include Antenatal Care (ANC) Family Planning (FP), Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH), HIV, Immunizations (EIR), Child Health in Emergency Settings (Em Care).*

More Than Half of US Abortions Now Done With Pills, Not Surgery

Lindsey Tanner, AP Medical Writer

February 24, 2022



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AP

More than half of U.S. abortions are now done with pills rather than surgery, an upward trend that spiked during the pandemic with the increase in telemedicine, a report released Thursday shows.

In 2020, pills accounted for 54% of all U.S. abortions, up from roughly 44% in 2019.

The preliminary numbers come from the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights. The group, by contacting providers, collects more comprehensive abortion data than the U.S. government.

Use of abortion pills has been rising since 2000 when the Food and Drug Administration approved mifepristone — the main drug used in medication abortions.

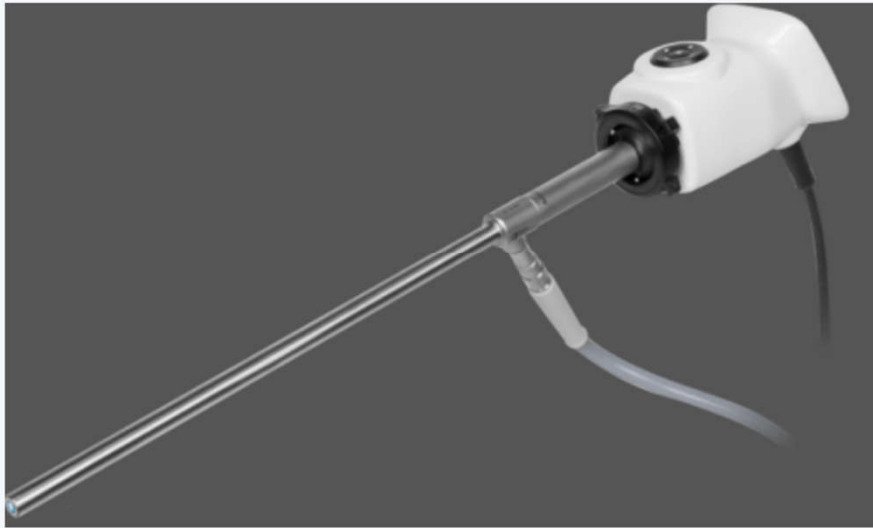
The FDA made the change permanent last December, meaning millions of women can get a prescription via an online consultation and receive the pills through the mail. That move led to stepped-up efforts by abortion opponents to seek additional restrictions on medication abortions through state legislatures.

The procedure includes **mifepristone**, which blocks a hormone needed for pregnancy to continue, followed one or two days later by misoprostol, a drug that causes cramping that empties the womb. The combination is approved for use within the first 10 weeks of pregnancy, although some health care providers offer it in the second trimester, a practice called off-label use.

So far this year, 16 state legislatures have proposed bans or restrictions on medication abortion, according to the Guttmacher report.

It notes that in 32 states, medication abortions must be prescribed by physicians even though other health care providers including physician assistants can prescribe other medicines. And mailing abortion pills to patients is banned in three states — Arizona, Arkansas and Texas, the report says.

According to the World Health Organization, about 73 million abortions are performed each year. About 630,000 abortions were reported to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2019 although information from some states is missing. Guttmacher's last comprehensive abortion report dates to 2017; the data provided Thursday comes from an update due out later this year.



NEWS

Endoscopy Devices Market Share, Size, Future Growth and Opportunities by 2021-2026

February 21, 2022 / kamal

According to the latest report by IMARC Group, titled “[Endoscopy Devices Market Share: Global Industry Trends, Size, Growth, Opportunity and Forecast 2021-2026](#)”, the global endoscopy devices market reached a value of US\$ 37 Billion in 2020. Looking forward, IMARC Group expects the market to grow at a CAGR of 6.3% during 2021-2026.

We are regularly tracking the direct effect of COVID-19 on the market, along with the indirect influence of associated industries. These observations will be integrated into the report.

Endoscopy is a nonsurgical procedure that helps in the detailed examination of an internal organ or tissue. Endoscopy devices are flexible and long tubes that are inserted in the body through an incision or mouth to precisely study the interior of nose, esophagus, ears, throat and other parts. These equipment help in evaluating various conditions, such as stomach pain, ulcers, gastritis, digestive tract bleeding, cancerous growth in the colon, and changes in bowel habits.

A significant increase in the prevalence of cancer and gastrointestinal disorders is majorly propelling the growth of the global endoscopy devices market. In line with this, the rising preference for minimally invasive (MI) surgeries is contributing to the market growth. Since MI surgeries involve shorter hospital stays with better efficacy and significantly less postoperative complications, this is contributing to the market growth. Other factors such as technological advancements and rise in the geriatric population, are creating a positive outlook for the market.

FDA clears Ambu's single-use gastroscope and next-gen display unit

FEBRUARY 4, 2022 BY SEAN WHOOLEY



Ambu announced today that it received FDA 510(k) clearance for its Ambu aScope Gastro and Ambu aBox 2 platforms.

Ballerup, Denmark-based Ambu designed the aScope Gastro as its first sterile, single-use gastroscope with new advanced imaging and design features in a combined offering with next-generation display and processor technology. The aBox 2 includes HD capabilities to improve image quality at the heart of Ambu's endoscopy ecosystem.



[Image from Ambu]

According to a news release, the launch of the aScope Gastro platform allows Ambu to enter into the gastroscopy segment with a single-use scope, offering advanced technology, portability and cost-effectiveness compared to the reusable endoscopes that dominate the space.

The company said aScope Gastro will support healthcare systems in reducing waiting lists and overcoming staff shortages, too, amid issues that have persisted since the COVID-19 pandemic began. It also provides a solution to cross-contamination risks, particularly in vulnerable patients, Ambu added.

Ambu plans to follow the FDA clearance by proceeding straight away with commercialization for the aScope Gastro and aBox 2 in the U.S.

"Gastroscopy is not only one of the largest segments in endoscopy, but also has all the conditions to benefit from single-use endoscopy. There is a clear need for more convenience, flexibility, and infection control, which are all addressed with the introduction of our aScope Gastro," Ambu CEO Juan Jose Gonzalez said in the release. "The technology in our aScope Gastro and aBox 2 will set a new benchmark in terms of image quality and functionality and will power all of our next-generation launches. Our expansion within GI will extend Ambu's position as the world's most innovative single-use endoscopy player."

New Data Support Lowering Screening Age to 45 for Colorectal Cancer

By Reuters Staff
January 14, 2022



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NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - A new study confirms an increasing incidence of young-onset precancerous colorectal neoplasia among adults younger than age 50 and supports updated recommendations to start colorectal cancer (CRC) screening at age 45 for all average-risk individuals, researchers say.

"Colon cancer used to be considered a disease of old age, and that is no longer true. The data confirm what we have been seeing in the clinic - that 45 is now the new 50," Dr. Steven Itzkowitz of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, in New York City, said in a news release.

"Our findings also suggest that messaging aimed at young individuals should begin in the years leading up to this new screening age. We know that most patients do not call their doctors on their 50th birthday to schedule a colonoscopy, so we will need to be diligent to reach this much younger cohort before they turn 45," Dr. Itzkowitz added.

The researchers analyzed findings from more than 562,000 high-quality colonoscopies performed at 123 endoscopy centers across 29 states that report their results to the GI Quality Improvement Consortium registry. About 131,000 of the colonoscopies were performed in adults age 40 to 49 years old.

Colonoscopies performed for surveillance or therapeutic reasons were excluded, as were higher-risk patients with a personal history of polyps, colorectal cancer, or a hereditary colorectal syndrome.

Increasing age, male sex, white race, family history of CRC or polyps and bleeding or screening as the indication for colonoscopy were all associated with higher likelihood of advanced premalignant lesions (APLs), the researchers report in *Gastroenterology*.

Among patients aged 45 to 49, 32% had any neoplasia, 7.5% had APLs, and 0.58% had CRC. Rates were almost as high in those aged 40 to 44, they report.

Among all age groups, the prevalence of any neoplasia and APL gradually increased between 2014 and 2020.

"Many clinicians are surprised when they find a precancerous polyp in someone younger than age 45," Dr. Itzkowitz said in the release.

"Our data provide new insights into how common these lesions are. Our data also suggest that clinically important lesions occur about five years earlier in individuals with a family history of colorectal cancer, compared to those without a family history. That is why it is very important to take a good family history," he said.



Cảm ơn quý vị !