

## Huge Information on Small Pox and its Transmission

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### DESCRIPTION

Smallpox is an acute infection that begins with a high fever, headache, and back pain, leading to a rash, or smallpox, that craters the face and limbs. For centuries, smallpox was one of the world's most feared diseases, killing 30% of its victims, mostly children. Those who survived were permanently immune to a second infection, but were lifelong deformed and in some cases blinded. It was also one of the first diseases to be combated by a vaccine, after extensive experiments. The disease was officially declared extinct. Smallpox is caused by infection with Variola major, a virus of the Poxviridae family. A less virulent form of smallpox called alastrim is caused by a closely related virus called the smallpox virus. There are no natural animal carriers or natural reproduction of smallpox outside the human body.

The earliest evidence of the disease dates back to around 1500 BC in Egyptian mummies. The disease has historically occurred in outbreaks. An estimated 400,000 people died of the disease each year in 18th century Europe, and smallpox accounted for one-third of his total blindness. Smallpox is estimated to have killed up to 300 million people in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and about 500 million in the last 100 years. Deaths so far include his six European monarchs. By 1967, there were 15 million cases annually. Vaccination against smallpox appears to have started in China around 1500. Europe he adopted this practice from Asia in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1796, Edward Jenner introduced the modern smallpox vaccine. In 1967, World Health Organisation (WHO) stepped up efforts to eradicate the disease. Smallpox is one of two epidemics to be eradicated, the other being rinderpest in 2011. The term "smallpox" was first used in England in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century to distinguish the disease from syphilis, and then known as "smallpox". Other historical names for the disease include smallpox, spotted monster, and red plague.

Smallpox is caused by the smallpox virus, which belongs to the Ortopoxvirus genus along with vaccinia, monkeypox, and cowpox. There are two types of variola virus: VARIOLA major

and VARIOLA minor. The former can lead to life-threatening conditions, while the latter is rarely fatal. People are the only known carriers of the variola virus. Other Ortopoxviruses are usually transmitted to humans from infected animals.

Smallpox is most contagious after the rash develops. Transmission occurs through:

- Prolonged personal contact with someone infected with the smallpox virus, which can be spread through saliva by coughing, sneezing, or talking
- Contact with bodily fluids of an infected person, especially from skin blisters
- The virus can survive outside the body for up to 24 hours when touching objects contaminated with the smallpox virus (fluid from scabs or wounds), such as blankets, towels, and clothing.
- Inhale the virus as it floats in the air and circulates through the ventilation system. B. In a small office, bus, or train

When smallpox occurs, smallpox patients are quarantined to try and stop the spread of the virus. People who came in contact with smallpox patients required smallpox vaccination. Vaccines can prevent or reduce the chance of getting sick if you get smallpox. The vaccine should be given before or one week after her exposure to the virus.

Two vaccines are available:

1. The ACAM2000 vaccine uses a live virus that resembles smallpox but is less harmful. It can cause serious side effects such as heart and brain infections. Therefore, the vaccine is not given to everyone. In the absence of smallpox outbreaks, the risks of vaccines outweigh the benefits for most people.
2. The second vaccine (Jynneos) uses a highly attenuated virus strain and is safer than ACAM2000. It can also be used by those who cannot take ACAM2000 due to a weakened immune system or skin condition.

The smallpox vaccine also provides protection against other similar viral infections such as monkey pox and cowpox.

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