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WEBINAR 10 HIGHLIGHTS

TREATING CHILDREN WITH RSV: FROM ETHANOL TO EDP-938

SUMMARY



On May 17th 2022, the 10th ReSViNET webinar was hosted by Prof. Dr. Louis Bont (Pediatrician Infectiologist Immunologist, Wilhelmina Children's Hospital, Utrecht, The Netherlands) with guest speaker, Reinout Bem (MD, PhD) (Pediatrician-intensivist, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Emma Children's Hospital, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam).

This webinar focused on past and current treatments for RSV lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI) in children.

INTRODUCTION

The burden of RSV for young children and health care systems around the world is high. In lower-middle income countries/developing regions RSV causes high mortality, while in high income countries/developed regions there is an increase in the hospital costs, mostly attributed to more pediatric ICU admissions every year in the last two decades. This forms an important rationale for the further development and improvement of both supportive and specific RSV treatments.

KEY FINDINGS

Since the initial comprehensive description of bronchiolitis in children by Hubble and Osborn in 1941, there has been only a modest progress in the (supportive) treatment of RSV-LRTI in children. Except for major progress in the field of general pediatric ICU care, which is responsible for a substantial decrease in mortality, the therapeutic entities within the four pillars of RSV treatment from 1941 ("1. the infection; 2. the obstructive dyspnea; 3. the cyanosis and 4. the collapse") have largely been unchanged. In the last decade, antivirals targeting RSV cell entry and replication and synthesis are of increasing interest, but unfortunately the development of many of these compounds have been stopped. EDP-938 is one of the most recent promising antivirals reducing RSV viral load and clinical upper respiratory tract disease in adults experimentally challenged with RSV.

AIM



To provide an overview of historical and current treatments for RSV infection, including developments in the field of RSV antiviral compounds in the last years.

DISCUSSION



Until we have effective clinical programs of RSV prevention by immunotherapy/vaccines, development and improvement of (supportive) treatments for RSV-LRTI in children is urgently needed. Antivirals will meet with many challenges, one of the most important being that they should effectively operate within a small therapeutic window given the very rapid deterioration of children with RSV-LRTI.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Given the high burden caused by RSV-LRTI worldwide, and so far uncertainty of effectiveness of preventive clinical programs, further effort, time and financial resources should be directed to developing and improving our treatments for this important pediatric disease.



NEXT WEBINAR



NEXT WEBINAR: SEPTEMBER, 2022

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

