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Commentary

Chicken pox complications and its preventive measures

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ABOUT THE STUDY

Chickenpox is a viral infection that causes fever and a leathery rash all over the body. The varicella-zoster virus is responsible for chickenpox. It is categorised by such an itchy rash with small, fluid-filled blisters. People who haven't had chickenpox or been immunised against are highly contagious.

Difference between smallpox and chickenpox

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Chickenpox and smallpox are both diseases that cause skin rashes, and they're not the same. For beginners, smallpox is a much more serious disease that can result in severe illness and death. They are caused by various viruses. While both diseases cause rashes, the rashes develop at different times and have different appearances. Smallpox pustules represent each other, while the chickenpox rash appears in waves. Individual spots do not look the same, and some form scabs while others continue to blister. There's another significant distinction. Smallpox has been eradicated thanks to a massive global vaccination campaign.

Symptoms

The symptoms of chickenpox are obvious.

• A skin rash that is itchy rashes and resembles a clusters of small blisters

• Bumpy regions filled with a liquid that resembles milky water

- · Scabs establish after the blisters rupture
- Skin that appears hyper pigmented
- · An intestinal cramps that lasts for a day or two
- Fever
- Headache
- · Tiredness and a general sense of being ill

Complications

Chickenpox is generally a viral illness. However, it can be

serious and lead to complications such as:

• Bacterial skin, soft tissue, bone, joint, or circulatory diseases

- Dehydration
- Pneumonia
- Inflammation of the brain

• Reye's syndrome is a condition that occurs in children and teenagers who take aspirin during chickenpox.

- · Toxic shock syndrome
- Death

Diagnosis

A physician can identify chickenpox by its symptoms, particularly the rash. Fluid from the blisters can be tested for the varicella-zoster virus if required for confirmation. Adults, new-borns, people with compromised immune systems, and pregnant women who suspect they have chickenpox should see a physician.

Prevention

The most effective method to avoid chickenpox is vaccination. According to CDC experts, the vaccine provides complete protection against the virus for nearly 98 percent of people who receive both recommended doses. When the vaccine does not provide complete protection, the severity of chickenpox is drastically decreased.

The chickenpox vaccine is advised for;

Adults who have never had chickenpox and are unvaccinated are at high risk of infection: Health care workers, teachers, child care workers, international travellers, military personnel, adults who live with young children, and all women of childbearing age are all included. Adults who have never had chickenpox or been immunised are usually given two doses of the vaccine four to eight weeks apart. A blood test can determine your immunity if you don't remember whether you had chickenpox or the vaccine.

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Older children who are unvaccinated: Children aged 7 to 12 years who have not yet been immunised should receive two catch-up doses of varicella vaccine at least three months apart. Children aged 13 and up who have not been immunised should receive two catch-up doses of the vaccine, at least four weeks apart.

Infants and toddlers: As part of the routine childhood vaccination schedule, children in the United States receive two

doses of the varicella vaccine, first one will be between the ages of 12 and 15 months, and the second will be between the ages of 4 and 6 years. The vaccine can be combined with the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine, but the combination may increase the risk of fever and seizure from the vaccine in some children aged 12 to 23 months. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of combining vaccines with your paediatrician.