

## Changing the Way We Work

March 21, 2025: Infectious Disease & Dermatology Treatments

Panelists: Dr. Gerald Evans, Dr. Juthika Thakur

Moderator: Dr. Ali Damji

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*Curated answers from CoP guests, panelists and co-hosts to the top five in-session questions posed by participants, based on current guidance and information available at the time.*

**A lot of my cohort (born in 1970) had one MMR vaccine and then got a measles booster (i.e. not mumps/rubella). Should these people get a MMR booster? Also, what about people born before 1970? If they weren't born in Canada does this change your approach?**

1. If persons in that cohort had a monovalent measles booster, they would not need to have an MMR now.
2. Measles was highly prevalent globally prior to 1970, so like Canadians born prior to that year, one can presume they had measles as a child.

**Parents with infants under 12 months are asking for a dose of MMR even if they are not traveling. Would this be covered by OHIP and is there any harm in this?**

I am uncertain about OHIP coverage. There appears to be no discernible harms to MMR vaccination in infants under 12 months of age, but the amount of evidence is less than that for those greater than that age.

**Could you comment on when you would give an MMR booster to someone on an immunosuppressant?**

In general, live virus vaccines like MMR are contraindicated in patients on

**Should babies under 6 months receive the MMR vaccine if they are travelling to a high-risk area?**

We do not recommend the MMR vaccine for children under 6 months of age, as the immune response elicited at that age is not considered to be sufficiently protective.

**If a child has gotten a booster because they are travelling, do they continue the immunizations as scheduled?**

Yes.

*These additional questions and comments were answered live during the session. To view responses, please refer to the session recording.*

- Can you please let us know your opinion on bird flu, how likely is it to become a pandemic? Is it being downplayed as low risk to Canadians?
- Dr. Evans, when do you wear a facemask these days?
- When will this spring's COVID-19 vaccine be available for seniors and other high-risk patients?
- Can you please review who needs an MMR booster and when?
- What are you recommending for toddlers under 4 who have a newborn sibling at home? Should they be receiving their MMR booster early? Is there any downside to giving it early, for example when a toddler is 2-3?
- What precautions would you recommend for our patients who are not immune to measles and are immunocompromised?
- Given the situation in the USA, can we still be confident with new CDC guidelines?
- Who needs a measles booster? Would you check measles antibodies first, or just provide a booster?
- The guidelines say those born before 1970 are presumed immune to measles and don't need a booster. I know for a fact I didn't have measles. I received one vaccine, and I was born in 1966. Ten years ago, my titers were positive. Is it not worth getting a booster in this situation?
- I don't understand why we should only recommend patients under one and the elderly the MMR vaccine if they are travelling. Isn't there still risk in Ontario, so why not recommend it even if they have no travel plans?
- Can you comment on why some people do not develop a positive titer after two MMR vaccines?
- Should we stop offering RSV vaccine to older adults, and Beyfortus to infants? Has RSV season officially ended?
- What's the recommended treatment for acne for people trying to get pregnant, pregnant, or breastfeeding?
- Can you comment on the cost of these new topical treatments? I have had patients prescribed them by a Dermatologist but are unable to afford them.
- Can you explain why you're using topical retinoid with Winlevi?
- How expensive are these creams?
- Can Winlevi be used by young boys? Any hormonal systemic side effects?
- Can you use Cabtreo and Winlevi together?
- A recently told me that BPOs break down to benzene and are carcinogenic. Is this true?
- Can Zoryve help with seborrheic dermatitis?
- What are the treatments for vitiligo? Are any of them covered under ODB?
- It's very challenging these days to get dermatology consults for alopecia (even alopecia areata). Any insights into why this is?

- Please comment on oral treatments for psoriasis and when to offer it.
- Please comment on optimal treatment for dyshidrotic eczema.
- Can you comment on differences between Epuris and Accutane?
- Are people using oral Minoxidil?
- Please comment on finasteride usage for androgenic alopecia. I find that young men are asking for it despite of risks.
- Are foams or creams more effective for psoriasis?
- How effective is light therapy/UV therapy for psoriasis?