

Smallpox

What is Smallpox?

Smallpox is a contagious illness caused by the variola virus. It gets its name from the Latin word which refers to the raised, pus-filled blisters that break out on the face and body of an infected person, (Dowshen, 2013). There are two common forms of smallpox namely: variola major and variola minor. Variola major is the most common type of smallpox. It is usually severe and potentially lethal with a more extensive rash and fever. Variola minor however, is a milder form of the disease.

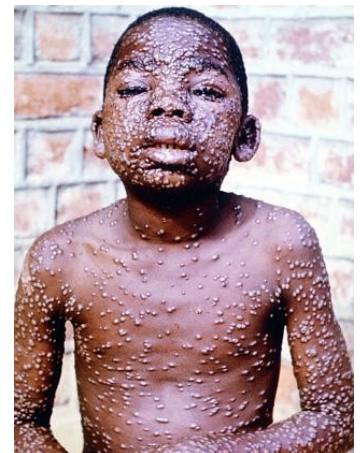
History and Prevalence

Smallpox is believed to have originated in India or Egypt 3,000 years ago. Until the development of modern medicine, the virus killed over 30 percent of its victims with some of the survivors becoming blind and sterile with deep scars on their skin. The earliest recorded evidence of a smallpox case comes from the dead Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses V in 1157 B.C. According to scientists, the Pharaoh's mummified remains had evidence of pockmarks and scars on his skin. Later, the virus spread through Asia, Africa, Europe and reached the Americas around 1500 A.D. The virus spread rapidly during the European colonization as the indigenous people they encountered had no natural immunity. An estimated 90 percent of indigenous people who were infected, died of the disease, (National Geographic, 2015).

Three decades ago, global immunization eradicated the spread of smallpox and the disease was considered gone for good. The last reported case of smallpox in the U.S. was in the year 1949, and the last reported case worldwide was in 1977, (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014).

Signs and Symptoms

The most common sign of smallpox are the small pus-filled blisters that appear on the face, arms and body. A person with smallpox usually manifests flu-like symptoms that include flu-like fatigue, headaches, body aches, high fever, mouth sores and blisters that spread into the throat, skin rashes that get worse, and in some cases, vomiting. The rash starts with flat red-colored sores that usually appear on the face, arms, and legs. After a few days, the rash becomes raised bumps that turn into fluid-filled blisters. The



blisters will be filled with pus then usually crust over during the second

Reading Sample



This page has been removed

With Purchase



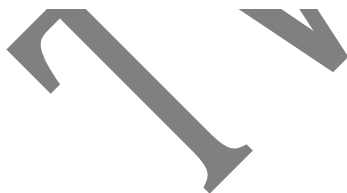
Google Access

Thank you for your purchase. Clicking the link button below will automatically create a copy of your resource inside your Google Drive. You'll find the file inside the 'Shared with me' section on the left side of your Drive.

Important: Before you click, make sure you're signed in to the Google account you'd like the resources placed into. If the resources are added to the wrong account, simply sign out and then into the correct one and repeat the process.

[Click here to place a copy directly into your Google Drive Account](#)

TWF



Complications

Patients that survive smallpox usually develop extensive scarring on the skin caused by the rash and blisters. Other complications may include serious eye problems such as ulceration of the cornea, eyelid and conjunctival infection and other complications that can lead to blindness. Also, swelling of the joints, pneumonia and osteomyelitis are some of the problems associated with smallpox disease.

Preventions

The disease was dealt a fatal blow with the introduction of the smallpox vaccination in 1789. The vaccine was so effective at preventing the illness that it was declared eradicated in 1980 and is no longer part of routine vaccinations (World Health Organization, 2014).



Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What are the two kinds of smallpox you can contract?
2. Why
3. What is
4. Describe
5. If you had smallpox, what would you do to help prevent its spread?
6. What is the most important thing to do for someone who has smallpox and what are some specific strategies mentioned in the article?
7. Do you agree
8. Without vaccinations, smallpox

Reading Sample



This page has been removed

With Purchase



Google Access

Thank you for your purchase. Clicking the link button below will automatically create a copy of your resource inside your Google Drive. You'll find the file inside the 'Shared with me' section on the left side of your Drive.

Important: Before you click, make sure you're signed in to the Google account you'd like the resources placed into. If the resources are added to the wrong account, simply sign out and then into the correct one and repeat the process.

[Click here to place a copy directly into your Google Drive Account](#)

TWF

References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015, September 8). Smallpox Cases by Year (1922-2014). Retrieved January 5, 2016, from <http://www.cdc.gov/smallpox/surv-reporting/cases-by-year.html>
- Dowshen, S. (2013). What Is Smallpox? Retrieved January 5, 2016, from http://kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/infection/smallpox.html
- MedlinePlus. (2015, December 30). Smallpox. Retrieved January 5, 2016, from <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/smallpox.html>
- National Geographic. (2015). Smallpox, Smallpox Information, Infection Facts, News, Photos. Retrieved January 5, 2016, from <http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/health-and-human-body/human-diseases/smallpox-article/>
- World Health Organization. (2015, September 21). Smallpox. Retrieved January 5, 2016, from <http://www.who.int/immunization/diseases/smallpox/en/>