

Disease-Specific Questions

Are there risk groups or vulnerable groups?

Although the disease can affect anyone, children, elderly individuals, and people with weakened immune systems may experience more severe symptoms due to their bodies' lower resilience against dehydration and intestinal inflammation. There are also indications that people with prior gastrointestinal problems, such as chronic gastritis or irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) might develop more severe symptoms, though research is not conclusive yet. It is important to note that while some groups have a higher chance of experiencing severe symptoms, everyone's vulnerability to contracting marhinitis is the same.

Can you die from marhinitis?

Death is very rare, but not impossible. In severe cases, complications such as extreme dehydration or intestinal damage could be life-threatening without proper medical attention.

What is the mortality rate?

The estimated mortality rate is below 0.5%. Most cases resolve with rest and proper hydration, but cases with severe symptoms might need medical treatment.

How long do symptoms of marhinitis last?

Like most viruses causing gastrointestinal symptoms, the symptoms only last a relatively short amount of time. Mild to moderate symptoms typically last 3 to 5 days, while severe cases can stretch up to 10 days or more.

Are there long-term effects of the disease?

While most recover completely, in rare cases people may suffer from lingering digestive issues or fatigue for **several weeks**. Chronic effects are extremely rare but not impossible.

Is the virus more prevalent in certain seasons?

Like most gastrointestinal viruses, marhinitis is slightly more prevalent in the colder months, from November to April. It is important to note that this difference is only small, and you can get infected with marhinitis throughout the whole year.

How prevalent is the disease over different age groups?

The virus spreads easier in spaces where many people are confined to small spaces, such as kindergardens, schools, universities or nursing homes. Thus, age groups that tend to frequent those spaces have a slightly higher infection rate. When looking at people from those age groups not frequenting those spaces, the infection rate is the same as that of the general population.

How long has the virus been around? When was it discovered?

The marhinovirus was first identified about 4 years ago during a cluster of gastrointestinal illnesses in Copenhagen. It is yet unclear if Copenhagen is its place of origin.

Where did the virus originate?

It is believed that the virus first appeared in contaminated water sources, which were used to water produce. Eating unwashed produce like lettuce and other vegetables is believed to be the reason for the first human infections. There are no indications that the virus is of zoonogenic nature (meaning transmitted to humans by infected animals).

How long is the incubation period?

The incubation period is 1 to 3 days, meaning symptoms typically appear within that time after exposure.

Which diseases are similar to marhinitis?

Marhinitis is caused by the marhinovirus, which is part of the picornaviridae virus family. It is distinct from all other viruses currently causing illness in humans. But in regard to symptoms, one can draw comparisons to norovirus or rotavirus, which cause similar gastrointestinal symptoms.

Can one get immune to the virus after being infected once?

As with many gastrointestinal viruses, there is sometimes a temporary and partial immunity after infection. This immunity typically lasts a couple of months and protects against some strains of the virus, while others can still cause an infection.

What do we know about viruses of the picornaviridae family?

They are small RNA viruses, often highly infectious, and typically cause gastrointestinal illnesses. They spread easily via contact and surfaces.

How does a marhinovirus normally move through a community?

It spreads primarily through **hand contact with contaminated surfaces**, shared objects, and person-to-person interaction. It often sparks **community outbreaks** in close-contact environments like schools and workplaces.

Vaccine-Specific Questions

How long do the side effects of the vaccine last?

Side effects, when they occur, usually last 12 to 48 hours. More severe reactions can persist for up to 3 days, but these are very rare and tend to happen in people with weakened immune systems.

How exactly has the vaccine been tested? What studies have been conducted?

The vaccine underwent three clinical trial phases involving over 12,000 participants. It was evaluated for safety, immune response, and real-world effectiveness, with results reviewed by independent health authorities.

Who invented the vaccine?

The vaccine was developed by the company NoviPharm, in collaboration with national health agencies and a collaboration group of different universities.

What kind of vaccine is it? An mRNA vaccine, or an inactivated vaccine?

It is an inactivated virus vaccine, using a chemically deactivated form of marhinovirus to trigger an immune response without causing illness.

Does the vaccine protect against different strains?

Yes. The vaccine has been developed to protect against all strains of the marhinovirus, which makes it far more effective than the partial immunity after an infection.

How long did the development of the vaccine take?

From early research to approval, development took **about 3 years**. Fast-tracked due to community spread, it was prioritized for rapid deployment. Many different countries provided funding to make the fast development possible.

What kind of arguments against the vaccine are currently being discussed by sceptics?

Skeptics claim side effects are underestimated or that the vaccine was developed too quickly.

Some falsely believe it causes long-term gut problems or doesn't prevent infection effectively. These claims are not supported by scientific evidence.

How long does the protection from the vaccine last?

Currently, the vaccine is believed to protect against infection for up to 5-10 years. The need for booster shots after that time period is currently being researched.

Where can one report new vaccine side effects?

Side effects not yet listed can be reported to the **National Vaccine Monitoring Authority** via their official website or through your local healthcare provider. It is important to note that the vaccine has been administered to over 100.000 people, and the chance of new, not yet reported side effects is very small.

Social and Political Context

How is the disease and vaccine portrayed in media?

In mainstream media, the disease is treated seriously, with emphasis on **public health and** vaccination benefits. However, some social media platforms have seen the spread of misinformation and fear-mongering.

Are there currently demonstrations underway?

Small demonstrations against perceived vaccine pressure and government health policy have occurred in some urban centers, but they remain peaceful and not widespread.

How much does the vaccine cost the state?

Each vaccine dose costs the government approximately **€28**, including logistics and healthcare labor. Large-scale contracts helped lower the price per dose. Governments calculated that the treatment of infected patients and the economic consequences of sick leaves would cost the state double that amount per person.

How is the healthcare system dealing with the endemic?

The healthcare system is managing the situation, with clinics and hospitals offering treatment and vaccination. There is no widespread overload, but during peak outbreaks, the healthcare system does get burdened. This leads to longer waiting times at doctors offices and hospitals, as well as causing strain on healthcare workers.

Is the healthcare system currently overburdened or at the risk of collapsing because of the virus?

No, the system is stable, although localized strain is possible during high transmission periods, especially in under-resourced regions and hospitals in big cities that serve large communities.

Is there social pressure to get the vaccine?

Yes, there's **strong social encouragement**, especially in schools, workplaces, and online communities. While not mandatory, there's a general sense that getting vaccinated is the responsible thing to do.