Supplementary Material

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Supplementary Materials 1: Additional description of methods

1.1 Sample size calculations

We tested 490 left-over blood samples collected from the Allergy and Infection (ALL-IN) study at age 1 and 2 years old. We included all children who had sufficient serial samples remaining from the ALL-IN study at the two ages. 1 To determine a change in RSV antibody concentrations between age 1 and 2 years, we estimated a sample size of 276 children, based on detecting an increase in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) seroprevalence from 65% to 80% between 1 and 2 years old with 80% power.²

Assuming a difference in log₂ immunoglobulin G antibody against RSV postfusion protein F levels of 15% or greater³ we required 700 cord blood samples to detect a difference among children born preterm (<37 weeks gestation) and term-born children with 80% power. To examine maternal RSV antibody concentrations, we therefore tested an additional 210 cord samples from children in the original Born in Bradford (BiB) cohort. Among the 210 cord samples, we oversampled children born prematurely.

1.2 Deriving indicator of contact with healthcare

We used electronic health records (hospital admission, primary care and primary care prescribing records) to derive indicators of contact with healthcare due to respiratory tract infection (RTI) during peak RSV season as a proxy for likely symptomatic infection.5 Children were indicated as having RTIrelated contact with healthcare if any of the criteria listed below were met during peak RSV season (defined as 1^{st} November – 31^{st} January).

We used the same method to indicate children who had RTI-related contact with healthcare aged <6 months during RSV season (defined as 1^{st} October – $28^{th}/29^{th}$ February) for sensitivity analyses 1 and peak RSV season ($1st$ November – $31st$ January) for sensitivity analyses 2.

1.2.1 Hospital records

We derived an indicator of hospital contact via linkage to Bradford Royal Infirmary (the main hospital serving the city of Bradford) electronic hospital records. Records were deterministically linked to children in the cohort using National Health Service (NHS) number. Diagnostic information was recorded using International Classification of Diseases version 10 (ICD-10) codes.6

To identify RSV-related hospital admissions, we flagged hospital admissions where any of the diagnoses recorded during the admission included either of the following of the ICD-10 codes⁷:

- J21: Bronchiolitis
- J12.1: Respiratory syncytial virus pneumonia
- J20.5: Acute bronchitis due to respiratory syncytial virus
- B97.4: Respiratory syncytial virus as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters
- B34.9: Viral infection, unspecified and R06.2: Wheezing (recorded together during the same admission)

1.2.2 Primary care records

Primary care records were obtained through linkage to SystmOne, a database covering clinical codes and prescriptions recorded during appointments by General Practitioners (GP) and maintained by The Phoenix Partnership (TPP).^{6,8} Records were deterministically linked to BiB participants using their NHS number, surname, date of birth and sex. 97% of 13,857 children in BiB were linked to a primary care record. 9

Clinical information was recorded using Read medical codes version 3 (CTV3).⁹ To identify RSVrelated contact with primary care, we included 77 CTV3 Term ID codes, which we translated to 129 CTV3 concept IDs (listed in appendix table 1) for symptoms such as: fever, rigor, cough, and codes likely to indicate RSV infection (RSV, respiratory tract infection, bronchitis, bronchiolitis, chest infection, pneumonia).

Prescriptions issued in primary care are coded using sections of the British National Formulary (BNF). ¹⁰ We extracted prescriptions from BNF chapter 5.1 and indicated prescriptions for amoxicillin if drug name included "amoxicillin". We focus on amoxicillin as it is indicated for community acquired pneumonia, and it is the most commonly prescribed antibiotic for respiratory tract infections.11 Our previous research has demonstrated that the peak timing of amoxicillin prescribing coincides with the peak in RSV circulation in the UK.12

Supplementary Table S1 – Read codes used to identify RSV-related contacts with primary care

RSV= respiratory syncytial virus

1.3 Deriving RSV infection status using finite mixture models

We applied finite mixture models (FMM) to the log RSV IgG post-F levels at age 1 and 2 years old to classify children as RSV infected at age <1 year and 1-2 years respectively according to their antibody concentration levels. *A priori* we decided to fit a model with 2 classes (infected / not-infected). The model was as follows:

$$
f(\ln(\text{RSV IgG post-F})) = \pi_1 \times f_1(\ln(\text{RSV IgG post-F})) + \pi_2 \times f_2(\ln(\text{RSV IgG post-F}))
$$

where π_1 and π_2 are the probabilities of observation belonging to each class, f_1 and f_2 are conditional probability density functions for observed antibody concentrations in each class.

For antibody levels at age 2 years old, we considered a model with no covariates for class probabilities π_1, π_2 (model 1), and a model allowing the probabilities of infection π_1, π_2 to depend on observed antibody concentrations at age 1 (model 2). We considered this covariate in the model as IgG post-F concentrations were likely to remain at a higher level following infection at age 1-2 years in children who were first infected in infancy. We compared latent class marginal mean IgG post-F levels, marginal posterior probabilities and Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC) for the two models. We used model 2 in the final analyses as it had lower AIC (supplementary table 2).

Supplementary Table S2 - Model selection for finite mixture model at age 2 years old.

AIC = Akaike's Information Criterion, CI=confidence interval, IgG post-F = immunoglobulin G antibody against postfusion protein F.

The two latent classes (RSV infected vs not infected) were well defined – 475 (97%) children at age 1 and 474 (97%) children at age 2 a posterior probability of infection either <10% or >90% (supplementary figure 1). 5 children were classified as not infected at age 2 years old, but infected at age 1 year old.

Supplementary Figure S1 – Posterior probabilities of RSV infection at age 1 and 2 years old according to IgG post-F antibodies

IgG post-F = immunoglobulin G antibody against postfusion protein F, RSV= respiratory syncytial virus

Appendix 2:

Supplementary Materials 2: Additional results

2.1 Comparison of study cohort and the ALL-IN study participants

Supplementary Table S3 – Baseline characteristics of children with cord blood samples, sub-sample of children with additional blood samples at age 1 and 2 years old compared to all participants of the ALL-IN study.

ALL-IN = Allergy and Infection study. Columns 2, 3 and 5 present number and % of children in ALL-IN study, sampled children with cord bloods and with all 3 blood measurements, respectively, tabulated by each risk factor category. Columns 3 and 5 show p-values for Chi squared test comparing children with blood samples with ALL-IN participants, excluding missing data category. *We oversampled children born prematurely **Hypertension included any mention of history of hypertension/pregnancy induced hypertension/ preeclampsia

Supplementary Table S4 – Comparison of questionnaire responses at age 1 and 2 years old in the study sub-cohort with blood samples measured at age 1 and 2, and all participants in the ALL-IN study

ALL-IN = Allergy and Infection study, CI=confidence interval. RTI=respiratory tract infections. Columns 2, 3, 5 and 6 present number and % of children according to their categorical responses to questionnaires and means with 95% CIs for continuous responses for children in ALL-IN study and among sampled children with blood measurements at age 1 and 2 years old, respectively. Columns 4 and 7 show p-values for Chi squared test for categorical variables and t-test for continuous variables, comparing distribution of risk factors in sampled children vs ALL-IN participants, excluding missing data category. *Detailed questionnaire data about the family and home environment was collected from 2,562 children at age 1 and 2067 children at age 2 years.

2.2 Descriptive analyses

Supplementary Table S5 – Distribution of mean maternally derived log RSV IgG post-F antibody levels by risk factor category.

CI=confidence interval, IgG post-F=immunoglobulin G antibody against RSV post-fusion protein F, log = natural logarithm (base e), RSV=respiratory syncytial virus. Column 2 presents mean maternal log RSV post-F antibody levels. Column 3 presents p-values for one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) comparing mean maternal log RSV IgG post-F by risk factor categories, excluding missing data category. *Hypertension included any mention of history of hypertension/pregnancy induced hypertension/ preeclampsia

Supplementary Table S6 – Distribution of risk factors in children with primary RSV infection vs never infected at age 1 and 2 years old

CI=confidence interval, RSV=respiratory syncytial virus. Columns 2, 3, 5 and 6 present the distribution of risk factors according to infection status at age 1 and 2 years old (number and % of children according to categorical risk factors and mean and 95% CI for continuous variables). Columns 4 and 7 show p-values for Chi squared test for categorical variables and t-test for continuous variables, comparing distribution of risk factors by infection status at ages 1 and 2 years old, excluding missing data category.

2.3 Sensitivity analyses

Supplementary Table S7 – Risk ratios for primary RSV infection at age 1 year old according to risk factors of interest – comparison of main results and 3 sensitivity analyses

CI = confidence interval, RTI = respiratory tract infection, RSV = respiratory syncytial virus, SD = standard deviation. All columns present adjusted risk ratios for primary RSV infection by each risk factor at age <1, estimated from Poisson regression models with robust error variances calculated using sandwich estimator.

Supplementary Table S8 – Risk ratios for primary RSV infection at age 2 years old according to risk factors of interest – comparison of main results and 3 sensitivity analyses

CI = confidence interval, RTI –respiratory tract infection, RSV = respiratory syncytial virus, SD = standard deviation. All columns present risk ratios for primary RSV infection by each risk factor at age 1 and 2 years old, respectively, estimated from Poisson regression models with robust error variances calculated using sandwich estimator.

2.4 Secondary analyses using RSV Immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibodies against proteins Ga and Gb

2.4.1 Maternal RSV antibody concentrations

Supplementary Table S9 – Risk factors associated with increase in mean maternal RSV IgG Ga and Gb antibody levels

CI=confidence interval, IgG Ga and Gb = immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibody against attachment protein G for RSV strands A and B, RSV=respiratory syncytial virus. Columns 2 and 3 present exponentiated results from the log-linear model, reflecting proportional change in maternal RSV IgG Ga and GB levels, respectively, for each risk factor category vs the baseline.

2.4.2 RSV antibody concentrations at ages 1 and 2 years old

The distribution of IgG Ga and Gb at age 1 did not show a clear bimodal pattern unlike IgG post-F (supplementary figure 2), indicating an overlap in distributions of antibody concentrations in RSVinfected and never infected children. This led to less extreme values of probabilities of infection and more uncertainty around the derived infection status (supplementary figure 3).

Definition of "RSV infection" using each of the 3 antibody types agreed for 58% of children, and further 33% showed agreement between IgG post-F and either Ga or Gb antibodies (supplementary table 10). Since IgG Ga and Gb antibodies are less immunogenic than IgG post-F, resulting in lower sensitivity and specificity,⁴ we did not re-calculate risk ratios based on infection indicator from these models. At age 2 years, the distribution of IgG Ga and Gb proteins was approximately normal (supplementary figure 2), therefore we did not fit FMM to samples at that age.

Supplementary Figure S2 – Distribution of log RSV IgG Ga and Gb at birth, age 1 and 2 years old

IgG Ga and Gb = immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibody against attachment protein G for RSV strands A and B, RSV=respiratory syncytial virus. Note that figures A and D are based on 700 blood samples, and figures B, C, E and F are based on 490 blood samples. IgG Ga and Gb concentrations were quantified in arbitrary units/ml.

Supplementary Figure S3 – Posterior probabilities of RSV infection at age 1 and 2 years old according to IgG antibodies Ga and Gb

IgG Ga and Gb = immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibody against attachment protein G for RSV strands A and B, RSV=respiratory syncytial virus.

IgG post-F=immunoglobulin G antibody against RSV post-fusion protein F, IgG Ga and Gb = immunoglobulin G antibody against attachment protein G for RSV strands A and B, RSV=respiratory syncytial virus.

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