



Vaccine Combines Hepatitis B With Pollen to Combat Hay Fever

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Researchers have developed a promising new vaccine against grass pollen, which can cause hay fever, New Scientist reports. The Vienna, Austria-based firm Biomay combined pollen molecules and proteins from the hepatitis B virus (HBV). The vaccine allows the hepatitis protein to block some of the immune system's immunoglobulin E (IgE) antibodies, which can cause an excessive immune response against pollen in people who get hay fever. Researchers claim a recent trial of 180 patients proved the vaccine is safe, effective and faster than other current therapies. Successful larger trials could make the vaccine available within four years.

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