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Queensland researchers develop 'vaccination patch', backed by Bill Gates' foundation

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Published: 18/03/2020 Updated: Thursday, 19 March 2020 10:56 AM AEDT

Vaccinations during future pandemics could be delivered quicker and less painfully thanks to an invention by Queensland researchers which has the backing of Bill Gates.

Brisbane company Vaxxas has developed a vaccination patch which has been found to be more effective than a needle.

Watch the video above

The vaccination works by pressing a patch containing 3,000 micro-needles against the skin for 10 seconds, which deposits the vaccine into the abundance of immune cells immediately below the surface of the skin.

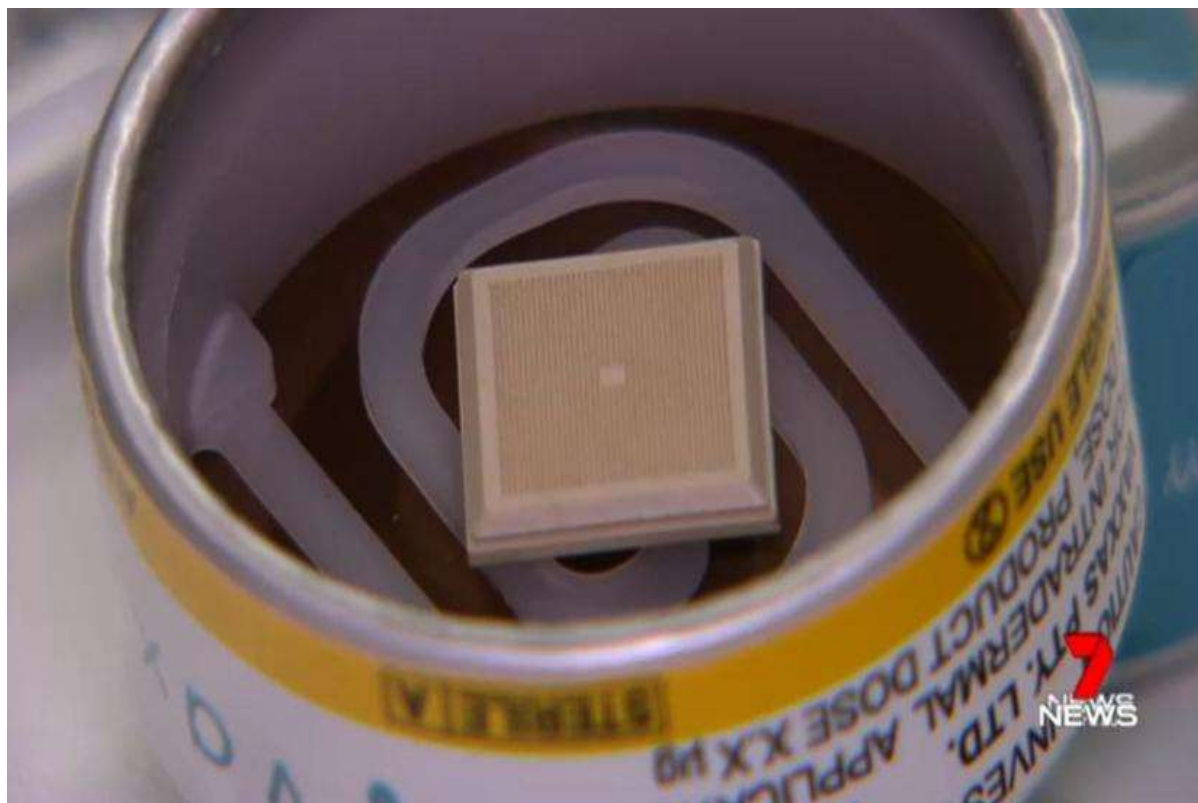
Researchers described the sensation as low-pain and similar to being flicked by a rubber band.

"Applying vaccines to the skin is a very efficient way of giving a vaccination," said Angus Forster, spokesman for the Brisbane company behind the invention Vaxxas.

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The vaccination patch by Brisbane company Vaxxas. Credit: 7NEWS

“A lot of vaccines were originally given by scrapping the skin surface and applying the vaccine into that area.”

During a clinical study involving 210 people who were administered the flu vaccine, researchers found immune responses were significantly higher after seven days than vaccines administered by needle and syringe.

A comparable immune response was also generated using one-sixth of the dose of a standard intra-muscular needle.

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The vaccination patch being administered. Credit: 7NEWS

The study further found the vaccine remained stable for a year in temperatures up to 40 degrees, opening up the possibility of delivering vaccinations through the mail, without the need to visit a doctor or pharmacist.

“You could imagine in a pandemic situation in the future, a vaccine technology which could be mailed out to individual homes, where people may be locked down or quarantined,” Forster said.

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A \$7.5 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will see next patch vaccinations for measles and rubella trialled.

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