



## Rotavirus - Rotarix™

The rotavirus vaccine protects against 5 different types of the rotavirus vaccine (G1, G2, G3, G4, & G9).

### Who should get this vaccine? <sup>1</sup>

The vaccine is routinely given to all infants at ages 2 and 4 months of age. This is an oral vaccine.

### How well does this vaccine work? <sup>1</sup>

- 74-87% of infants who are fully vaccinated are protected from diarrhea of any severity.
- 85-98% of infants who are fully vaccinated are protected from severe diarrhea.

### Is there an alternative to this vaccine?

At this time there are no other ways to prevent this disease. Hand washing is one of the best ways to stop the spread of disease. Proper hand washing includes rubbing all parts of your hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds. You may also use an alcohol based hand rub.

### Is this vaccine safe?

The risk of a serious reaction or side effect from this vaccine is much less than the risk of rotavirus.

If you experience any side effect worse than what is listed below, please seek medical advice and notify the health unit.

### Common side effects of this vaccine <sup>1</sup>

- Infants rarely have side effects with the rotavirus vaccine.
- Intussusception (blocked bowel) is a rare condition in infants (34 out of 100,000 per year). A very small number of these cases (1 in 5 per 100, 000) have been noted following the rotavirus vaccine.

### Who should not receive this vaccine? <sup>1</sup>

- Infants with an allergy to any of the vaccine components or who has had an allergic or anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine.
- Infants with Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease (SCID).
- Infants with a history of intussusception.
- Infants whose immune system is not working properly.
- Infants who currently have moderate-severe diarrhea and/or vomiting.
- Infants with malformations of the GI tract that may predispose them to intussusception.

### What is in this vaccine? <sup>2</sup>

Rotarix™	Also found in...
Disodium adipate	Food additive
DNA fragments from porcine circovirus 1	Virus commonly found in pigs however they do not cause illness in humans
Sucrose	Table sugar
Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium	Cell culture

**What else do I need to know?**

It is important for you to keep a current record of your child's vaccines. When your child begins school you will be asked to provide a copy of this record to the school, who will forward it onto the health unit.

The health unit is required by law to keep immunization records for all children attending a day nursery or school.

Health care providers do not share immunization records with the health unit. This is the parent's responsibility.

You can share/update your child's record in the following ways:

Use the secure on-line form on our website – [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/immsonline](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/immsonline)

Fax a copy to 705-721-1495

Mail a copy to: VPD Program, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, 15 Sperling Drive, Barrie, ON, L4M 6K9.

Call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520.

**References:**

Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 4-Active Vaccines: Rotavirus Vaccine. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 1-Key Immunization Information 2013. Table 1: Types and contents of vaccines available for use in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

Moore, D. Your Child's Best Shot (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Canadian Paediatric Society, 2015.