

# VACCINE FACTS

## Rotavirus (Rotarix®)



The rotavirus vaccine protects against one strain of rotavirus gastroenteritis G1P8; the leading cause of severe diarrhea and vomiting in children under the age of 5 years old.

### Who should get this vaccine? <sup>1,3</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>1,3</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.
- A small number of infants will experience diarrhea and/or vomiting within 7 days of immunization.

### Rare side effects <sup>1</sup>

- Intussusception (blocked bowel) is a rare condition that will occur in 34 out of 100,000 infants. Studies have shown that for infants who are vaccinated for Rotavirus, there is an additional 1 to 7 cases per 100,000.

## 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...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DNA fragments from porcine circovirus 1</li><li>• Sucrose</li><li>• Disodium adipate</li><li>• Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Virus commonly found in pigs however they do not cause illness in humans.</li><li>• Table Sugar</li><li>• Food additive</li><li>• Cell culture</li></ul>

## We ask you to:

- Check:** Your child's yellow immunization card or health record.
- Contact:** Your child's family physician or health-care provider to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations.
- Share:** Visit our website to share your immunization record with us.



### References:

- <sup>1</sup> Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 4-Active Vaccines. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; Accessed 2023.
- <sup>2</sup> Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 1-Key Immunization Information. Table 1: Types and contents of vaccines available for use in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; Accessed 2023
- <sup>3</sup> Moore, D. Your Child's Best Shot (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). Canadian Paediatric Society, 2015.