

Rotarix™ Vaccine

(Rotavirus Live, Oral Vaccine)

Rotarix™ is a vaccine that protects against five types of rotavirus disease – types G1, G2, G3, G4 and G9

- It can be given to infants between the ages of 6 and 24 weeks
- It is given orally
- Two doses given at least 4 weeks apart protect against all five types
- First dose must be given by 20 weeks, and final dose must be given by 24 weeks of age

Side effects may include:

- Diarrhea, irritability, abdominal pain, rash, and flatulence
- Severe side effects are rare.

People should delay or avoid this immunization if they:

- Have a fever or history of a recent infection
- Have an allergy to any component of the vaccine
- Have a history of intussusception (a condition which produces severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, bloody stools, abdominal bloating and/or high fever), or an uncorrected congenital malformation of the intestine

Rotavirus Disease

- Is a serious infection that can be especially dangerous to infants and young children
- Begins between 12 hours to four days after exposure, and typically lasts 3 to 7 days
- Causes vomiting, frequent, watery diarrhea and a high fever (40°C/104°F or more)
- Can rapidly develop into severe dehydration in young children that may lead to hospitalization
- Is caused by viruses that are very stable, are able to survive for long periods of time on surfaces, and are resistant to many disinfectants. These viruses can be found in very large numbers in the diarrhea of a child with the infection.
- Spreads because of improper hand hygiene, especially following diaper changes, and by contact with contaminated objects (e.g. toys, change table)
- Can spread rapidly within families and child care centres, since young children have a habit of putting their fingers, toys and small objects in their mouths

For further information, please call:
York Region Health Connection 1-800-361-5653
 TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca

