



NEONATAL

ROTAVIRUS VACCINE (Rotarix®)

This document should be read in conjunction with this [DISCLAIMER](#)

Presentation	Oral Applicator: 1.5mL (Refrigerated)
Action & Indication	<p>Live attenuated rotavirus vaccine that induces protective immunity against human rotavirus gastroenteritis and its complications.</p> <p>Contraindications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Acute severe febrile illnessHypersensitivity to first dosePrevious intussusceptionUncorrected congenital malformation of the GI tractSevere Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) <p>Precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Infants with stomas.Infants on glucocorticoids.Immunocompromised child or family members: vaccine is a live attenuated vaccine; consider risk vs. benefit in this population.
Dose	<p><u>Vaccine</u></p> <p>Oral:</p> <p>Normally given with 2 and 4 month immunisations</p> <p><i>1st dose:</i> between 6 and 14 weeks of age</p> <p><i>2nd dose:</i> between 14 and 24 weeks of age.</p> <p>Note: must be a minimum of 4 weeks between 1st and 2nd dose</p>
Administration	<p><u>Oral:</u></p> <p><i>Prior to Administration:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Do not dilute contents of tube: the vaccine is ready use.Can be given with or without feedsOther vaccines may be given at the same time.

Administration: ORAL ADMINISTRATION ONLY**STEP 1**

- Check the liquid is clear and particle-free, and the tube is intact.
- Pull off the cap. Keep the cap to pierce the membrane.

**STEP 2**

- Hold the tube upright.
- Repeatedly flick the top of the tube until it is clear of any liquid.

**STEP 3**

- Turn the cap upside down, and use the spike to pierce the membrane.

**STEP 4**

- To give Rotarix, seat the infant leaning slightly backwards.
- Squeeze the liquid gently into the side of the infant's mouth, towards the inside of their cheek.
- It is okay if a drop remains in the tip of the tube.

Post Administration:




Observe infant for 15 minutes post administration for anaphylaxis

Ensure use of universal infection control precautions when handling infants who have recently received rotavirus vaccination to avoid risk of contamination or faecal-oral spread.

If most of the oral rotavirus vaccine is vomited or regurgitated within minutes of administration, a single repeat dose may be administered during the same immunisation encounter.

If the infant regurgitates or vomits only a small amount of the oral rotavirus vaccine, it is considered as a valid dose and is not necessary to repeat the dose.

Adverse Effects	Minor: diarrhoea, vomiting, pyrexia, urticaria, nasopharyngitis (rare) Serious: intussusception (extremely rare)
Comments	Vaccine should be discarded in approved biological waste if not used within 48 hours of removing from the refrigerator.
References	The Australian immunisation handbook 10th ed (2016 update). Canberra: Australian Government Department of Health, 2016. MIMS Online [accessed 01/06/2017]

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