

Rotavirus Vaccine Information

Rotavirus Vaccine – two brands.

	Rota Teq Merck via CSL	Rotarix GSK
vaccine type & route	Live attenuated oral only	
strains covered by vaccine	G1,G2,G3,G4,P1[8]	G1P[8]
doses required 2/12 intervals – but for catch up can be minimum 4 weeks	3 about \$80 per dose	2 – about \$120 per dose
Schedule – First Dose	between 6 & 12 weeks	between 6 & 14 weeks
Second dose	at least 4 weeks after first dose	between 14 and 24 weeks
third Dose	at least 4 weeks after 2 nd dose and no later than 32 weeks	NONE
vomiting spitting or regurgitation during or after	do not repeat, count as a dose and complete course	do not repeat, count as a dose and complete course
completion prior to age:	32 weeks	24 weeks
side effects	mild, transient – fever, vomiting diarrhoea, flatulence, irritability	
Contraindications	As for general & live vaccines	
Cold Chain Requirements	2°C to 8°C – advise parents	

Active surveillance during & after clinical trials has demonstrated no increased risk of intussusception in vaccine recipients. Read product information available from manufacturers.

Please note the following:

- Both brands approved brands are administered orally ONLY and should not be mixed with any diluent.
- Clinical trials demonstrate that both vaccines are generally well-tolerated and effective in pre-term infants.
- Nearly all children are infected with naturally occurring rotavirus by age 5 years.
- As for any vaccine, never give definitive assurance of effectiveness, however in children who do get rotavirus despite vaccination, the severity of the disease has been found to be reduced.
- Effectiveness of Rota Teq has been shown in clinical trails to be enhanced by simultaneous administration with other childhood vaccines.
- Safety & efficacy has not been established in infants <6 weeks of age so should not be administered to this age group.
- No faecal shedding of vaccine strains has been reported
- Not yet covered by PBS; require a GP script to access vaccines; ensure that parents are aware of vaccine cold chain (VCC) requirements
- Not yet included in Poisons Act authority for authorised Nurse Immunisers, but can be administered by a RN if the GP is aware that the infant is having it.

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Contra-Indications

- Infants with a fever $>38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ on presentation
- Rotarix – Children aged >24 weeks
- Rota Teq – Children aged >32 weeks
- As for other live vaccines:
 - Immunosuppressed infants
 - Received blood products within past 3 months

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