

National Rotavirus Vaccination Program

More information about rotavirus vaccination

* ROTATEQ[®] IS ENCLOSED IN THIS ORDER FOR PROGRAM COMMENCEMENT ON 1 JULY

*** DO NOT COMMENCE VACCINATING UNTIL 1 JULY**

* CHILDREN BORN ON OR AFTER 1 MAY 2007 ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE VACCINATION

ROTATEQ[®] VACCINE

- Live, ORAL vaccine in 2 mL dosing tube
- Administered at **2, 4 and 6 months** of age
- There are **strict age limits** for each dose of RotaTeq[®] vaccine.

RotaTeq[®] Schedule

Dose	Due at	Notes
Dose 1	2 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do NOT administer dose 1 before 6 weeks of age or after the end of the 12th week of age. ▪ If a baby has not had dose 1 of RotaTeq[®] by the end of the 12th week of age, do not give ANY dose of RotaTeq[®].
Dose 2	4 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Check that baby has had dose 1 of RotaTeq[®] in the right time interval. If dose 1 has NOT been given, do not give RotaTeq[®] (administer all other vaccines due). Check that there has been at least 4 weeks since dose 1 ▪ To complete the three-dose schedule, dose 2 should be given by the end of the 28th week of age. There is a minimum interval of 4 weeks between doses. ▪ If dose 2 is not given by the end of the 28th week it can be given up to the end of the 32nd week, but the baby should not receive dose 3.
Dose 3	6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Check that it is at least 4 weeks since the previous dose. ▪ Do NOT administer dose 3 after the end of the 32nd week of age.

Storage of rotavirus vaccine

⚠ RotaTeq[®] should be refrigerated at +2°C to +8°C and administered as soon as possible after being removed from refrigeration.

Interchangeability of rotavirus vaccines

- Completion of a course of rotavirus vaccine should be with vaccine from the same manufacturer whenever possible.
- If a 2nd dose of RotaTeq[®] is given following a first dose of Rotarix[®], give a third dose of RotaTeq[®] provided the upper age limit and vaccine interval criteria as defined in the RotaTeq[®] schedule, can be met.

Age limits for vaccination

- The age limits are essential because of insufficient safety data outside the recommended time schedule.

Intussusception

- A vaccine to prevent rotavirus gastroenteritis was first licensed in the USA in 1998, but was withdrawn in 1999 because of its association with intussusception. The risk of intussusception following oral RotaTeq[®] vaccine used according to the manufacturer's dosing schedule (including the strict age cut-offs) was evaluated in >70,000 infants enrolled in Phase III trials. There is no evidence of increased risk of intussusception. This finding has been supported by post marketing surveillance.
- Intussusception is **now notifiable** as a potential adverse event following immunisation.

* DO NOT give if the child has an acute febrile illness (current T ≥ 38.5^o) or acute, moderate to severe gastroenteritis.

* DO NOT repeat dose if any regurgitation.

* DO NOT give if anaphylaxis after previous dose.

For further information

- Contact Queensland Health Immunisation Program (QHIP) on 3234 1500 for further information on ordering vaccine.
- Contact your nearest Population Health Unit or access the Immunise Australia Program website at www.immunise.health.gov.au

