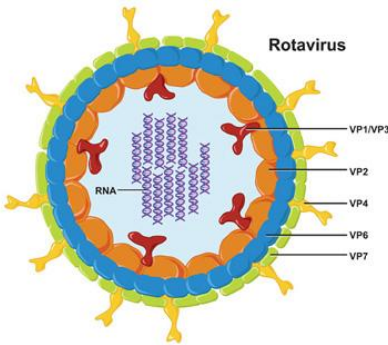


Rotavirus Vaccination

What is Rotavirus?



- Rotavirus is a highly infectious stomach virus that typically strikes babies and young children, causing unpleasant diarrhea, vomiting, stomach ache and fever.
- Most children recover at home within a few days without complications.
- Despite that, nearly 20% of them require medical attention and 10% of them require hospitalization due to complications such as severe dehydration.
- Unfortunately, there are some who die from rotavirus infection every year.

What are the vaccines available?



- 2 types:
 - RotaTeq – 3 doses at ages 2, 4 and 6 months
 - Rotarix – 2 doses at ages 2 and 4 months
- The vaccine is given by mouth (orally) and can be combined with other vaccines such as DTaP vaccine, Hib vaccine, hepatitis B vaccine and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.
- The vaccine can also be given while being breastfed.

How effective is the vaccine?

- 85 – 98% protection against severe rotavirus disease in the first year
- 74 – 87% protection against rotavirus disease of any severity in the first year

Is the vaccine safe?

- The vaccine has a successful track record of safety and effectiveness.
- The vaccine also does not contain any mercury or thimerosal.