

Rotavirus Vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

Vaccination is the best protection against rotavirus gastroenteritis and its complications. Before vaccination, over 95% of children under the age of 5 were affected by rotavirus gastroenteritis.

Disease	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Rotavirus gastroenteritis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diarrhea• Vomiting• Fever	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dehydration• Hospitalization to treat dehydration (in Québec, 900 to 1,500 hospitalizations per year before vaccine arrival)

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against rotavirus gastroenteritis and its complications. The vaccine is given in 2 or 3 doses depending on the vaccine used. The 1st dose should be given before the age of 20 weeks, and the last one before the age of 8 months.

Because the virus contained in the vaccine may be found in stools for about ten days after vaccination, it is important to wash your hands carefully when changing diapers.

Symptoms after vaccination

Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine. Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g. cold, gastro, headache).

Rotavirus vaccine is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any reaction.

Frequency	Known reactions to this vaccine	What to do
Often (less than 10% of children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diarrhea or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use a medication for fever or discomfort if needed.• See a doctor if symptoms are severe.
Very rarely (1 to 7 children in 100,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the week following vaccination, there is a possible risk of intestinal intussusception, in other words a form of obstruction in the intestines requiring hospital treatment.	

We recommend that you stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

For any questions, contact the person giving the vaccine, or Info-Santé 8-1-1 or your doctor.