

Vaccine in short for the **Rotavirus vaccine (Rotarix)**

What is this vaccine for?

This vaccine protects against the rotavirus. The rotavirus can spread easily. The virus is found in the faeces of infected people. After using the toilet, the virus can spread via the hands. It can end up on surfaces such as door handles, toys and food. This is how the virus enters the mouth via the hands. Children become ill from the rotavirus more often than adults.

The rotavirus can cause inflammation of the stomach and intestines (gastroenteritis). This can cause symptoms such as diarrhoea. Prolonged diarrhoea can lead to dehydration, especially in young children. Severe dehydration can be life-threatening.

How does this vaccine work?



If your child comes into contact with the rotavirus after vaccination, their body recognises this virus. The body will already have produced antibodies that protect your child against this virus. **As a result, your child will either not become ill or will become much less ill.**

Research shows that the effectiveness of the vaccine is 85%. This means that out of 100 young children who would have been admitted to hospital without the vaccine, only 15 children are still admitted to hospital after vaccination.

When will my child receive this vaccine?



Your child receives this vaccine **twice**. The National Immunisation Programme recommends that your child receives the **first** vaccination between 6 and 9 weeks of age.

Your child receives the **second** vaccination at least 1 month after the first dose and no later than 24 weeks of age. The RIVM will send you an invitation for this vaccination.

Your child may receive an adjusted schedule. Always follow your child's schedule.

This vaccine is **not** an injection. It is a vaccine that is dripped into your child's mouth.

This vaccination is part of the **National Immunisation Programme**. This is a government programme designed to protect people against infectious diseases. Vaccinations that are part of the National Immunisation Programme are free of charge.

What should I do if my child has not received the vaccination?



If your child has **missed** the appointment for the vaccination, make a new appointment as soon as possible.

Most important warnings



If your child has a **fever** before receiving the vaccination, your child may become even more unwell. The RIVM advises you to make a new appointment for the vaccination if your child has a fever above 38.5°C.



If your child has **diarrhoea** or keeps **vomiting**, consult the doctor to decide whether a new appointment is needed.



If your child has a weakened immune system due to illness or medication, consult the doctor to see whether your child can receive the vaccine.

Most important side effects

As with other vaccines, your child may experience side effects. This is because the vaccine activates your child's immune system. The immune system provides protection against the rotavirus.

Approximately 1 in 100 children may experience:

- Diarrhoea.
- Irritability.

Fewer than 1 in 100 children may experience:

- Abdominal pain.
- Flatulence.
- Skin inflammation.

Your child also has a very small chance of intestinal intussusception (a part of the intestine slides into another part, causing a blockage) due to the vaccination. **Therefore, contact the doctor immediately** if your child develops the following symptoms within 1 week of vaccination:

- Severe attacks of abdominal pain (your child often draws their legs up during the attack).
- Persistent vomiting.
- Slimy or bloody stools.
- A swollen abdomen.
- High fever.

More information

If you have any further questions or concerns about vaccinating your child, discuss them with the child health doctor, your doctor or a pharmacist.

For the official package leaflet, see ema.europa.eu. For more information, you can also visit apotheek.nl, thuisarts.nl or rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/en. If you would like to report a side effect, or learn more about side effects, you can do so via lareb.nl/en.