

Before your child receives Rotarix®, tell the nurse or doctor if your child:

- is allergic/hypersensitive to anything
- has experienced problems resulting from previous doses of Rotarix®
- is ill with a fever
- is taking or has recently been given any medicines, including over-the-counter medicines
- has recently been immunised with another vaccine
- has had surgery, treatment or been investigated for gastrointestinal problems
- has an illness that reduces resistance to infections
- is in close contact with a family member, for example, who has a compromised immune system, such as a person who has an illness or is taking medication that compromises their immune system.

After the vaccination

Contact the nurse at your child health clinic (*barnavårdscentralen*) if you notice anything unusual about your child in the period immediately following the vaccination.

If you need any advice or support, contact your nurse at the child health centre.

You can find more information and services intended for you and your child's health and care at 1177.se.

Call 1177 for medical advice.

Call 112 in case of emergency.

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Information to parents

Immunisation against gastroenteritis (gut infections) caused by rotavirus



Administered orally on two different occasions from age six weeks

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All children who live in Stockholm County are offered free immunisation against rotavirus infection at their child health clinic (*barnavård-sentralen*). The vaccine is given to babies between the ages of six weeks and five months. The vaccine protects your child against gastroenteritis/gut infections caused by rotavirus.

What is rotavirus?

Rotavirus is a commonly occurring virus worldwide. The virus causes infections in the gut.

What are the symptoms of rotavirus infections in children?

Rotavirus infection is the most common cause of severe diarrhoea and gut infections in small children. It is highly contagious. Most people are infected early in life. Virtually all children have had a rotavirus infection before the age of five. One to three days after being exposed and infected, the child suddenly develops a fever with vomiting and watery, frequent diarrhoea. The vomiting and/or diarrhoea last for 5–8 days, sometimes longer.

Some children become very ill with very frequent vomiting and diarrhoea. In the worst case, this can lead to dehydration, serious electrolyte imbalances, convulsions and encephalitis. People can suffer repeat infections with rotavirus, but are generally the sickest the first time they are infected. Rotavirus infections are most common in Sweden during February and March.



How dangerous is rotavirus infection?

The infection can be very exhausting for infected children and their families, but most children get better without hospitalisation. Children under the age of two are at the greatest risk of developing a severe infection with complications. Rotavirus infection rarely has any lasting impacts. Deaths from rotavirus infection are very uncommon in Sweden.

What vaccine is my child offered against rotavirus infection?

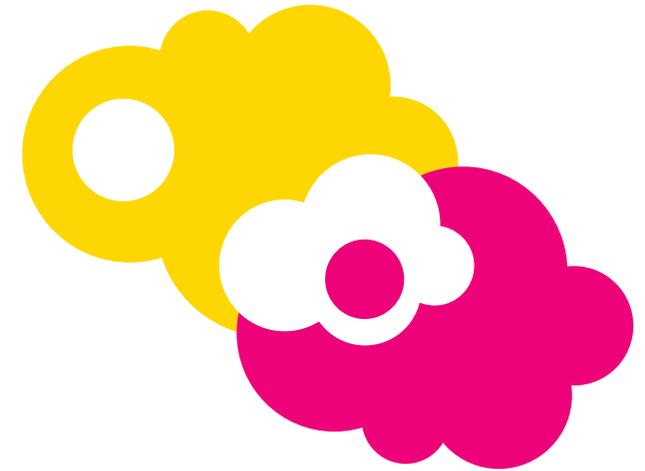
The vaccine offered by Stockholm County Council is called Rotarix®. It contains a weakened form of the virus. After immunisation, the body's immune system provides the child with protection against severe rotavirus infection. Rotarix® was introduced in Europe in 2006, and has been administered millions of times. To date, 80 countries have introduced generalised immunisation against rotavirus, including Finland, Norway, the UK, USA, Argentina, Iraq, Jordan, Ethiopia and South Africa.

How is the rotavirus vaccine administered?

The vaccine consists of a liquid suspension contained in a squeeze tube. It is given orally on two separate occasions from the age of six weeks. The vaccine also contains sucrose, so it tastes sweet. It does not matter what the child has eaten before receiving the vaccine. If the child spits out or vomits up the vaccine directly after administration, a new dose is given immediately.

When is Rotarix® administered?

- Dose 1 can be given from six weeks of age.
- Dose 2 is given at least one month after the first dose. It is preferable that both doses are given before 16 weeks of age, but the vaccine can be given to children up to 24 weeks of age.
- Preterm babies (born after gestational week 27) can be vaccinated as above. The first dose of the vaccine is given at the neonatal clinic to preterm babies born before gestational week 32, or with a birth weight less than 1.5 kg.
- The vaccine can be given at the same time as other vaccines in the immunisation programme for children.



What protection does immunisation with Rotarix® give?

The vaccine provides good protection against severe rotavirus infection.

Are there any potential adverse effects?

- It is *fairly common* for the child to get diarrhoea, abdominal pain, flatulence and dermatitis.
- A *very rare* adverse effect is intussusception (where the last part of the small intestine becomes inverted into the large intestine, resulting in an intestinal blockage). Very loud crying at intervals that get more and more frequent is typical of this condition. The child may vomit. The child may also be pale, weak and seem drowsy. If symptoms like this occur, take the child immediately to a hospital emergency/casualty department. The blockage is generally resolved by administering a kind of enema in hospital.