PREPARING FOR YOUR CHILD'S WELL BABY VISIT: ROTAVIRUS VACCINE

BEFORE THE VISIT

What you need to know about rotavirus

Rotavirus is a highly contagious viral infection that causes diarrhea and abdominal pain. It is usually mild but can be serious in children. Dehydration, particularly in young children, is a serious side effect and, if left untreated, can cause death.

Rotavirus can survive on surfaces for several days. A person can be contagious several days before symptoms show up and for up to 10 days after there are no more symptoms. Infected people can be contagious even if they do not have any symptoms.

The most common symptoms of rotavirus in children are fever and vomiting, followed by severe watery and smelly diarrhea for about 3 – 8 days, sometimes with abdominal pain. Other symptoms include:

• Decreased urination
• Dry mouth and throat
• Dizziness
• Crying with few or no tears
• Unusual sleepiness or fussiness

DURING THE VISIT

The rotavirus vaccine is in the form of drops, not a shot so your child is not likely to cry or fuss because of an injection. But there are still things you can do to help make the visit less stressful.

Bring a Friend. Bring your child's favorite toy, blanket or book to help them focus on something positive during the vaccination visit.

Distract Your Baby. Sing or read to you child to help them focus on you instead of the vaccination

A little planning can make a big difference in helping your child have a stress-free vaccination visit.
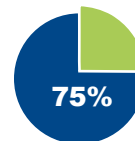
Fast facts about the rotavirus vaccine

Rotavirus Vaccine is a 3-dose vaccine

1st dose: 2 months
2nd dose: 4 months
3rd dose: 6 months

75%

When all 3 doses are received, the vaccine is about 74% effective **and** 98% effective preventing severe infections

Other vaccines may be given at the same time as the Rotavirus vaccine.
Ask your health care provider what other vaccines your child will receive at the well baby visit so you can be prepared.

Congratulations for protecting your child's health and future!
We know making the best health decisions for your child can sometimes be overwhelming. We here for you. If you need more information please visit www.VoicesForVaccines.org.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER VACCINATION

Understanding normal immune responses vs. serious adverse events

Normal immune responses (sometimes called side effects) are how you know a vaccine is doing its job: your baby's immune system is recognizing an "invader" and preparing to fight it. But with a vaccine, it's a practice exercise and not the real thing so the immune response will usually be mild an go away on it's own in a few days. Some normal immune responses for the rotavirus vaccine include:

Mild fussiness or crying

Diarrhea

Vomiting

How to treat normal immune responses

The best way to treat normal immune responses to vaccination include:

Give your baby a pain reliever (analgesic) like Infant/Children's Motrin® or Tylenol® or equivalent generic. Call your healthcare provide for dosage.

When to call your healthcare provider

Severe allergic reactions occur within second or minutes so in the extremely rare case that your child has a serious reaction, you will likely still be in the doctor's office. But more mild allergic reactions can happen several hours after vaccination (and rarely up to 24 hours later). If you notice an allergic reaction, you should contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Normal immune responses will usually go away within a week of vaccination. But if you are concerned, you should call your healthcare provider.

Serious Adverse Events

Serious issues are very rare (about 1 in 1 million) and include allergic reactions like:
• hives*
• swelling of the face and throat
• difficulty breathing
• a fast heartbeat
• dizziness
• weakness

* Unlike a rash, hives are usually raised and "blotchy" with less defined edges.

Questions for your healthcare provider

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Post-vaccine notes

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