

For the use of a Registered Medical Practitioner or Hospital or a Laboratory only.

Rotavirus Vaccine (Live, Oral) BP

Vero cell-derived

ROTAVAC Multi Dose

1. NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVE IMMUNISING AGENT
Rotavirus Vaccine (Live, Oral) is a monovalent vaccine containing suspension of live attenuated rotavirus 116E prepared as double-stranded RNA virus of the genus *Reoviridae*. Rotaviruses are classified in a dual classification system based on two proteins on the surface of the virus into *Group A* and *Group B*. Based on this nomenclature, Rotavirus 116E is classified as GPP [11]. A single human dose of ROTAVAC is 0.5 mL containing 1.0x10¹⁰ TCID₅₀ focus of the attenuated rotavirus 116E.

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION
List of ingredients and quantities

2.1 Composition of ROTAVAC	
Each dose of 0.5 mL (5 Drops) contains:	
Ingredients	Quantity / 0.5 mL
Rotavirus 116E Bulk, Live Attenuated	NI ¹ 10 ¹⁰ TCID ₅₀
Potassium Phosphate-BP	0.258 mg
Potassium Phosphate Dibasic-BP	0.625 mg
Sucrose-BP	39 mg
Polysorbate L-glutamate Monohydrate	1.0 mg
Neomycin Sulphate-BP	15 µg
Kanamycin Acyl Sulphate-BP	15 µg
Neobion's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM)	4.4 mg
Water for Injections BP q.s.

pH Range: 7.2 to 8.0

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

ROTAVAC is a liquid in frozen form.

In liquid form, the vaccine is generally pink in colour and may sometimes change to orange (or light yellow) in colour. This change in colour does not impact the quality of vaccine.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic Indications
For prophylactic use only.
ROTAVAC is indicated for active immunization of infants from the age of 6 weeks for the prevention of gastroenteritis due to rotavirus infection when administered as a 3-dose series.

4.2 Dosage and method of administration
Usage
ROTAVAC should be administered as a 3-dose regimen, 4 weeks apart, beginning at 6 weeks of age. ROTAVAC may be co-administered with other routine childhood immunizations (i.e., Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis [DTPa], Haemophilus influenzae B vaccine and Oral Polio Vaccine [OPV]). Based on recommendations from the World Health Organization (Rotavirus Vaccine WHO Position Paper, January 2013 in Weekly Epidemiol. Rec. No. 20,13, 88, 49-64), if the routine childhood immunizations are initiated later than 6 weeks of age, the interval between doses should be 4 weeks.
ROTAVAC can be administered with DTPa.

ROTAVAC VIAL SHOULD BE FULLY THAWED (MILLI LITRE) PRIOR TO ADMINISTRATION. It is recommended that infants who receive ROTAVAC as the first dose should complete the 3-dose regimen with ROTAVAC. There is no data on safety, immunogenicity or efficacy when ROTAVAC is administered interchangeably with other rotavirus vaccines.

4.3 Contraindications
For prophylactic use only.
ROTAVAC is indicated for active immunization of infants from the age of 6 weeks for the prevention of gastroenteritis due to rotavirus infection when administered as a 3-dose series.

4.4 Special warnings/precautions
ROTAVAC should be administered as a 3-dose regimen, 4 weeks apart, beginning at 6 weeks of age. ROTAVAC may be co-administered with other routine childhood immunizations (i.e., Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis [DTPa], Haemophilus influenzae B vaccine and Oral Polio Vaccine [OPV]). Based on recommendations from the World Health Organization (Rotavirus Vaccine WHO Position Paper, January 2013 in Weekly Epidemiol. Rec. No. 20,13, 88, 49-64), if the routine childhood immunizations are initiated later than 6 weeks of age, the interval between doses should be 4 weeks.
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4.5 Paediatric population
The upper limit for the 3-dose primary schedule of Rotavirus vaccine should be administered to children by the age of 8 months (34 weeks) (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pdvc/rotavirus/vac-faq.htm>)

Method of administration
ROTAVAC is for oral use only and SHOULD NOT BE INJECTED.
The vaccine should be taken on the multi-dose vial using a vaccine applicator with saliva of the babies. In case, an incomplete dose is administered (the baby spits up or regurgitates most of the vaccine), a single replacement dose may be administered at the same vaccination visit*. The baby may continue to receive the remaining doses as per schedule. However, in clinical trials, the reported incidence of spitting or vomiting is <0.5%.

*Physician's discretion is advised

Multi-dose vials of ROTAVAC from which one or more doses of vaccine have been removed during an immunisation session may be used in subsequent immunisation sessions for up to a maximum of 28 days after opening, provided that all of the following conditions are met (as described in the WHO Policy Statement: Multi-Dose Vial (MDV) Revision 2014 WHO/IVB/14.02).

Once opened, multi-dose vials should be kept between +2°C and +8°C.
The vaccine is currently pre-qualified WHO.
The expiry date of the vaccine is 24 months after opening of the vial, as determined by WHO (http://www.who.int/immunization_standards_vaccine_quality/PQ_vaccine_list_en/).

The expiry date of the vaccine has not passed.
The vaccine vial has been stored at the recommended temperature; furthermore, the vaccine vial monitor is visible on the vaccine label and it is not past its discard point, and the vaccine has not been damaged by freezing.

4.3 Contraindications
Hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine. Individuals who develop symptoms suggestive of hypersensitivity or other allergic reactions to any component of the vaccine.
Individuals with Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease (SCID). Cases of gastroenteritis associated with live rotavirus vaccines have been reported in infants with SCID.

4.4 Special warnings/precautions
No safety or efficacy data are available from clinical trials regarding the administration of ROTAVAC to immunocompromised infants, infants infected with HIV or infants with chronic gastroenteritis. Administration of ROTAVAC may be considered with caution in immunocompromised infants and infants in close contact with immunocompromised persons, if in the opinion of the physician, withholding the vaccine entails a greater risk. Similarly, acute infection or febrile illness may be reason for delaying the administration of ROTAVAC, unless in the opinion of the physician, withholding the vaccine entails a greater risk. Low-grade fever and mild upper respiratory tract infection are not contraindications to ROTAVAC.

The safety data from the clinical trials of ROTAVAC did not show an increased risk of IS for ROTAVAC when compared to placebo.

Smart Safety Surveillance in India promoted by WHO has concluded that self-controlled case series analysis method is most appropriate for surveillance of rotavirus vaccine. ROTAVAC vaccination in two separate analyses (<https://www.worldjids2030.org/images/White-Paper-Book.pdf>). Additionally, Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety in its December 2019 report has concluded that "the data did not indicate a significantly higher risk of gastroenteritis during the post-vaccination risk periods than the reference period for ROTAVAC" (http://www10.who.int/immunization_safety_committee/reports/Dec_2019/en/).

However, it is advised that health care providers follow-up on any symptoms suggestive of IS e.g., continuous vomiting, blood in stools and abdominal lump or distension of the abdomen. Parents/caregivers should be advised to promptly inform such symptoms to healthcare providers.

Rotavirus Gastroenteritis (RVGE) with genotype 1 vaccine strain, GPP[11]. Twenty-two GPP[11] rotavirus gastroenteritis cases occurred following 13,296 administrations of ROTAVAC (approximately 1 event in 600 doses); 20 occurred after the first dose, 2 after the second dose, and one after the third dose throughout the duration of follow-up. No severe cases of rotavirus gastroenteritis were associated with GPP[11]. There can be two possible explanations for these findings: the vaccine causes rare, and mostly mild gastroenteritis (GPP[11] was detected in cases of gastroenteritis by other non-rotaviral pathogens). Similar to other vaccines, vaccination with ROTAVAC may not result in complete protection against rotavirus induced gastroenteritis or gastroenteritis due to other pathogens.

There is no data to support use of ROTAVAC for post-exposure prophylaxis.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products/active immunising agents and other forms of interaction
The immunologic response for the 3-OPV vaccines was performed by analysing geometric mean titre (GMT) and the proportion of subjects meeting the accepted protective titre (neutralizing antibody ≥1:8) for two groups of OPV plus ROTAVAC and OPV plus placebo. Post-vaccination GMTs were comparable between the groups. Similarly, the proportion of subjects with IS was comparable between ROTAVAC and placebo groups. In summary, the analysis of post-immunization level of antibody response for OPV combined with ROTAVAC generated comparable immune responses to all the three polio serotypes compared to receiving OPV without ROTAVAC. The trial design did not permit an evaluation of the impact of OPV on the immune responses to ROTAVAC.

In phase III clinical trial, subjects received 3 doses of ROTAVAC or placebo concomitantly with childhood vaccines including DTPa, Haemophilus influenzae type B, Hepatitis B vaccine and OPV. Vaccines were administered at 6 weeks, 2-0 weeks and 2-4 weeks of age. There was no significant difference in immediate or follow-up adverse events in the ROTAVAC or the placebo group.

No interaction studies have been performed in infants with other medicinal products. For use with other vaccines, see Section 4.2.

In phase IV trial subjects received 3 doses of ROTAVAC with buffer administered 5 minutes before, without buffer and ROTAVAC and buffer administered simultaneously. All childhood vaccines DTPa, Hepatitis B and OPV were administered concomitantly. There was no significant difference in immediate or follow-up adverse events between the groups.

4.6 Pregnancy and lactation
ROTAVAC is a paediatric vaccine and should not be administered to adults including pregnant women. Breast-feeding of infants was permitted in clinical studies. There was no evidence to suggest that breast-feeding reduced the protection against rotavirus gastroenteritis conferred by ROTAVAC. There are no restrictions on the infant's liquid consumption including breast-milk, either before or after vaccination with ROTAVAC.

4.7 Effect on ability to drive and use machines
No effect on ability.

4.8 Adverse Reactions
Clinical Trial Experience
Safety data from phase I-III trials of ROTAVAC is discussed below. Overall, the events reported are similar to those reported in other rotavirus vaccine clinical trials.

In the phase II/III dose escalation study conducted on Oral Rotavirus Vaccine (ORV) 116E in India with 369 infants of 6-8 weeks age, no significant adverse events were demonstrated to be associated with the ORV. Commonly reported adverse events included fever, vomiting, and diarrhoea. In the larger phase III efficacy study conducted in India with 6,799 infants of 6-7 weeks of age, prevalence of immediate, solicited and serious adverse events was similar for the vaccine and placebo groups. Analyses for solicited adverse events showed similar prevalence of fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, cough, runny nose, irritability and rash. Commonly observed immediate adverse event within 30 minutes of administration are vomiting, and spitting up (<0.5%).

In the phase III trial, no differences were detected between ROTAVAC and placebo groups in the post-vaccination reactivity observations. The modest and inconsistent imbalances in fever, diarrhoea and vomiting noted in the phase III trial were not confirmed in the phase IV trial. The reactivity test was performed using a reactivity test that is used in the phase III/IIa trial, it is likely due to the separation of the childhood vaccines from the administration of ROTAVAC placebo. There were higher rates of fever reported in the phase III trial when compared to the phase IV trial when compared with ROTAVAC placebo; however, the frequency of fever was similar between the ROTAVAC and placebo groups.

No vaccine-related SAEs were reported in the phase III trial, 925 of the 4,531 subjects receiving ROTAVAC (20.4%) and 499 of 2,265 subjects receiving placebo (22.0%) reported an SAE. All but three (100%) were mild or moderate in severity. The 3 possibly related SAEs were severe gastroenteritis (GE) in two placebo recipients, and arthritis in one ROTAVAC recipient.

No vaccine related SAEs were observed/reported. No deaths were observed among the 369 subjects in the phase II/IIa trial, and 42 deaths occurred among the subjects in the phase III; 25 of them among the 4,531 subjects (0.5%) in the ROTAVAC group and 17 among the placebo recipients (0.7%) in the placebo group (p=0.3279). None of the deaths were deemed to be related to administration of ROTAVAC placebo.

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There was one death reported in the phase IV trial unrelated to vaccine administration. No cases of IS were observed in the phase IV/IIa trial. In the phase III trial, there were six confirmed cases of IS observed among the 4,532 ROTAVAC recipients (0.13%), and two among the 2,267 placebo recipients (0.09%). There were 25 deaths in total out of the 4,532 subjects (0.5%) in the ROTAVAC group and 17 among the placebo recipients (0.7%) in the placebo group (p=0.3279). None of the deaths were deemed to be related to administration of ROTAVAC placebo.

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Statistical clinical equivalence was established across all three production lots. Three doses of ROTAVAC can be safely administered with three doses of pentavalent vaccine and three doses of OPV without diminishing the antibody response to each component of these vaccines. It is well tolerated when administered with routine childhood vaccines. There was no statistical difference in rotavirus serum IgA, seroconversion and GMTs amongst the three lots.

5.1.3 Phase IV clinical trial
In a separate clinical trial, 5 months before was assessed in 900 subjects across three groups: ROTAVAC with buffer administered 5 minutes before (300), ROTAVAC without buffer (300) and ROTAVAC mixed with buffer administration (300).

In this clinical trial OPV or Pentavalent vaccines were administered concomitantly. There was no significant difference in immediate or follow-up adverse events between the groups. Fever, diarrhoea, vomiting, cough and irritability were the most commonly reported adverse events. The distribution of adverse events was equal amongst all three treatment groups.

No vaccine related SAEs were observed/reported. No deaths were observed among the 369 subjects in the phase II/IIa trial, and 42 deaths occurred among the subjects in the phase III; 25 of them among the 4,531 subjects (0.5%) in the ROTAVAC group and 17 among the placebo recipients (0.7%) in the placebo group (p=0.3279). None of the deaths were deemed to be related to administration of ROTAVAC placebo.

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