

**VACCINOLOGY I****ROTAVIRUS VACCINATION****\*Viswanathan MS**

**Abstract:** Acute gastroenteritis is one of the leading causes of death in under 5 age group globally. Rotavirus is the most common pathogen causing acute gastroenteritis in children. Rotavirus vaccination has reduced the mortality rate both in low and high income countries. Various high efficacy vaccines are now available. Two indigenously manufactured Indian vaccines are now used in National Immunization Schedule of India. All the currently available vaccines are given orally and safe to use.

**Keywords:** Gastroenteritis, Rotavirus, Rotavirus vaccine.

**Points to Remember**

- *Rotavirus vaccines have high efficacy in preventing severe RVGE and rotavirus gastroenteritis associated hospitalizations.*
- *The current generation of rotavirus vaccines are quite safe.*
- *It is important to give the first dose at 6 weeks to ensure optimum protection against severe rotavirus gastroenteritis (RVGE) in the vulnerable early infancy period.*
- *Indigenously manufactured two low cost effective vaccines are available under Universal Immunisation Programme in India.*
- *Intussusception following rotavirus vaccines is rare. Prospective surveillance has not revealed any increased risk for intussusception in the post-vaccine period, but the surveillance continues.*
- *It is important to monitor for antigenic/genetic modifications in novel circulating rotavirus strains for which the available rotavirus vaccines may not be effective and for this continued surveillance is necessary.*

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