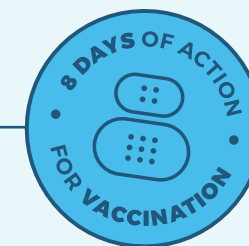


ROTAVIRUS



The data

The Rotavirus vaccine prevents 125 THOUSAND hospitalizations and 800 DEATHS EVERY YEAR in countries and territories in the Region of the Americas.



The disease

- > Rotavirus is a virus that affects CHILDREN UNDER FIVE years of age who are at greater risk of becoming infected, seriously ill and dying.
- > It is the MOST COMMON CAUSE of diarrhea in children under five years of age worldwide.
- > Improved hygiene, water supply and sewage disposal are not sufficient to PREVENT the disease.



Symptoms

They usually begin about two days after exposure to the virus and include:

- > Vomiting
- > Watery diarrhea

Other symptoms:

- > Loss of appetite
- > Dehydration, which can be severe and lead to shock and death, if not treated



Transmission

- > The contagion is FECAL-ORAL and through contaminated objects (toys, food, etc.).
- > Person-to-person, hand-to-hand transmission appears to be responsible for spreading the virus in CLOSED ENVIRONMENTS, such as homes, hospitals and day care centers.



Vaccines

Since 2006, 22 countries and territories in the Region have introduced the vaccine into their immunization programs. TWO VACCINES against rotavirus are being used in the Region.



Calendar

PAHO recommends vaccination in children depending on the vaccine used. The first dose is administered at 2 MONTHS and the second dose at 4 MONTHS. Depending on the vaccine used, a third dose may be required at 6 months.