

Rotavirus Surveillance News

July 2008
Edition 7

A quarterly newsletter edited by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA

The 8th International Rotavirus Surveillance Symposium was held in Istanbul, Turkey, in early June 2008. There were 407 participants from 67 countries. Thanks to all who attended!

The 4th African Rotavirus Surveillance Network Meeting will take place in Mauritius, July 16-17, 2008.

In Upcoming Issues...

Summary of the 4th African Rotavirus Surveillance Network Meeting.

Links to Partners

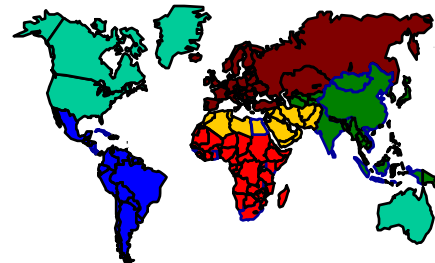
http://www.cdc.gov/rotavirus/global_surveillance/surveillance.htm - U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.who.int/en/ - World Health Organization

www.rotavirusvaccine.org - PATH's rotavirus vaccine program

www.ivi.org - International Vaccine Institute

www.cdcfoundation.org - CDC Foundation



Welcome

Welcome to the seventh edition of Rotavirus Surveillance News. This quarterly newsletter is a product of the Rotavirus Vaccine Program (RVP), a collaboration between the World Health Organization (WHO), PATH, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that is funded by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). The Disease Burden and Surveillance Program, based at CDC, was established to support surveillance activities and studies that would help define the disease and economic burden of rotavirus disease in

countries and regions around the world.

WHO has now recommended rotavirus vaccination in the Americas and Europe and as a result, rotavirus vaccines have been introduced in the routine schedule of several countries. The role of the Disease Burden and Surveillance Program has therefore shifted to additionally support studies of impact and safety of rotavirus vaccination, through the development of a generic protocol for the measurement of rotavirus impact and studies of intussusception,

vaccine effectiveness and analysis of diarrheal trends. Rotavirus vaccination has now been introduced in USA, Australia, several European and importantly, in poorer settings in Latin American countries, including El Salvador and Nicaragua - a GAVI-eligible country. In this edition, we provide a description of activities to measure the impact and safety of rotavirus vaccines in several Latin American countries.

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Update - Rotavirus Vaccine Effectiveness and Safety Evaluations in Latin America

Nicaragua: In October 2006, Nicaragua became the first GAVI-eligible country to include a rotavirus vaccine in its routine immunization schedule through a collaboration between the Government of Nicaragua and vaccine manufacturer Merck & Co., Inc. to provide free doses of RotaTeq® (3-dose pentavalent live oral vaccine) to vaccinate all infants in the country for three consecutive years. The Ministry of Health of Nicaragua requested the assistance of PAHO, CDC, and the RVP at PATH to conduct an independent evaluation of the

effectiveness of the RotaTeq® vaccine. In response to this request, a case-control study was launched in June 2007. Case-patients are children with severe rotavirus diarrhea who were age-eligible to receive vaccine and were identified by active surveillance systems at one of four hospitals in Nicaragua. For each case, two sets age-matched controls are selected: one from among children living in the same neighborhoods as case-patients, and a second from children hospitalized at the same hospital as case-patients.

To date, 270 case-patients

with corresponding neighborhood and hospital controls have been enrolled.

El Salvador: El Salvador introduced a 2-dose live oral monovalent vaccine (Rotarix®, Glaxo SmithKlein) into its childhood immunization program in October 2006. The Ministry of Health of El Salvador, PAHO, CDC, and the RVP are conducting a case-control study similar to the one being conducted in Nicaragua. The study was launched in November 2007 and is ongoing. To date, approximately 200 cases have been enrolled. Efforts to enroll 3

neighborhood controls and 2 hospital controls per case are ongoing.

Latin America: In view of the past experience with rotavirus vaccines, both with respect to the risk of adverse effects and varying efficacy in different settings, countries planning to introduce rotavirus vaccines are encouraged by the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) to develop a system of post-marketing surveillance for these vaccines. The Ministries of Health of Brazil and Mexico, PAHO, CDC, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and PATH are coordinating a post-licensure study to monitor for cases of intussusception following rotavirus vaccination, by establishing an active surveillance program to identify intussusception cases in Mexico and Brazil. The study will include 500 cases total from Brazil and Mexico with 4 neighborhood controls per case. The vaccination status of both cases and controls will be obtained. Surveillance data will be analyzed to determine whether rotavirus vaccination is associated with an increased risk of intussusception. Data collection is expected to conclude in December 2009.

List of Groups Involved

- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
- Brazilian Ministry of Health
- El Salvador Ministry of Public Health
- Mexico Secretary of Health
- Nicaragua Ministry of Health

Questions or comments?

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What's new?

- RotaTeq® and Rotarix® are now licensed in 26 and 24 countries in America, respectively.
- As of June 25th 2008, Rotarix® is recommended for routine use in the USA.
- Countries in which both vaccines are licensed include Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Venezuela.