Phase III Clinical Results of Rotavirus Vaccine Trials and Efforts to Accelerate Introduction to the Developing World

John W. Boslego MD PATH 27 July 2006



## Outline

- I. Background
- II. RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> (Merck)
- III. Rotarix<sup>®</sup> (GSK)
- IV. Accelerated Development and Introduction Plan (ADIP)
- V. Summary



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# 2006 An incredible year for Rotavirus Vaccines

- 1. US FDA licenses RotaTeq<sup>®</sup>.
- 2. ACIP recommends RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> for routine immunization of all American children.
- 3. EMEA licenses Rotarix<sup>®</sup>.
- 4. Brazil and Panama begin national programs of childhood immunization.
- 5. >30 countries have licensed a RV vaccine.



## The Saga of Rotashield®

- Live, human-rhesus rotavirus reassortant vaccine
- Licensed in 1998, but withdrawn from market in 1999 due to unexpected, increased risk of intussusception
- Abrupt demise of first vaccine licensed after 20 years of research
- Vaccine licensed by NIH to BioVirix, Inc, in 2004
- Seeking commercialization, but no success to date



#### Challenges of Rotavirus Vaccine Development in Face of Intussusception

- Design a study that is large enough to provide a meaningful evaluation of an uncommon event, yet feasible to implement prelicensure.
- Develop a safety monitoring system to detect a potential increased risk of intussusception early and minimize risk to trial participants.
- Decide on safety criteria for demonstrating that the vaccine is clinically acceptable for licensure.



## RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> and Rotarix<sup>®</sup>

Characteristic	RotaTeq®	Rotarix®
Manufacturer	Merck	GSK
Parent strain	Bovine Rotavirus strain WC3	Human Rotavirus strain 89-12
Method of Attenuation	Animal strain naturally attenuated; further passaged 7-69 times	Passaged 43 times
Final Vaccine	Live, human-bovine rotavirus reassortants (G1, G2, G3, G4, P1A[8])	Live, attenuated human rotavirus (G1, P1A[8])
Presentation	Oral suspension in liquid buffer (2 mL)	Lyophilized, reconstituted with liquid diluent prior to administration (1 mL)
Buffer	Citrate phosphate sucrose	Calcium carbonate



## RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> and Rotarix<sup>®</sup> continued

Characteristic	RotaTeq®	Rotarix®
Route of administration	Oral, administered directly from tube; no restriction on food or liquid	Oral, administered by syringe, no restriction on food or liquid
Dose (end of shelf-life)	~ 2-3 x 10 <sup>6</sup> /virus; ~ total 1-1.5 x 10 <sup>7</sup> infectious units	~ 1 x 10 <sup>6</sup> infectious units
Cell substrate	Vero cells	Vero cells
Storage	2°-8° C	2°-8° C
Shelf life	24 months	36 months
Regimen	3 doses, 1 <sup>st</sup> at 6-12 wks, subsequent dose at 4-10 wk intervals	2 doses, 1 <sup>st</sup> at 6-14 wks, 2 <sup>nd</sup> at 1-2 mo interval
Post-dose shedding	~10%	>50%

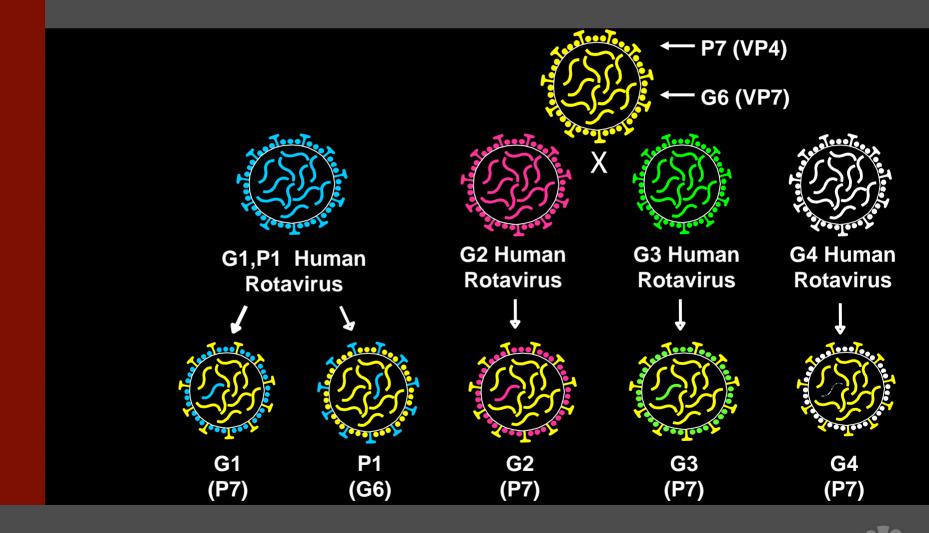


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### **Bovine (WC3) Rotavirus**



10 Human-Bovine Reassortment Rotavirus Vaccine Strains

# Rotavirus Efficacy and Safety Trial (REST) Study Design

- Sample size: ≥ 60,000 (randomized 1V:1P) Additional groups of 10,000 subjects enrolled until primary safety criteria met or 100,000 subjects enrolled
- Age: 6 to 12 weeks at first dose
- Regimen: 3 oral doses, 1 every 4 to 10 weeks
- Sites: Areas with good standard of care for intussusception
- Duration: January 2001 to April 2005

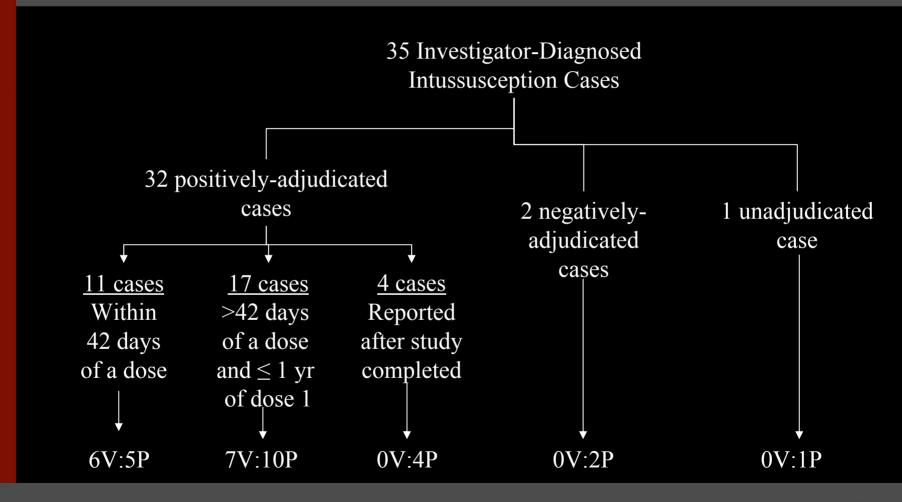


#### 71,799 Subjects in 11 Countries Vaccinated 36,203 in RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> Group 35,596 in Placebo Group





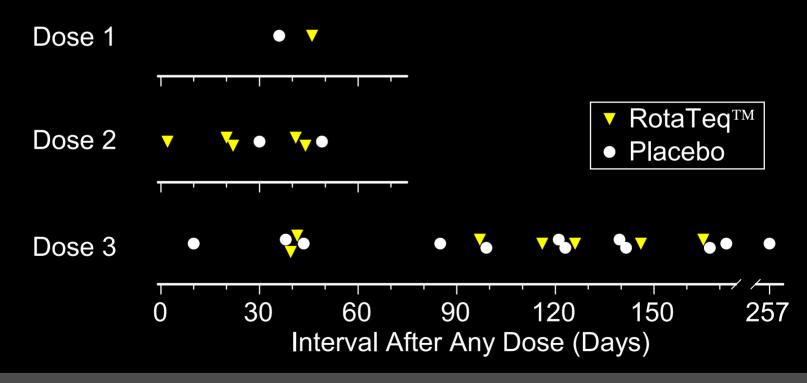
## **REST Intussusception Results**



No intussusception cases in Protocols 007 and 009

# Confirmed Intussusception Cases in REST Within 1 Year of Dose 1

13 Vaccine : 15 Placebo RR=0.9; 95% CI=0.4, 1.9



Primary Efficacy Hypotheses Were Met - RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> Was Efficacious Against G1-4 Rotavirus Gastroenteritis

#### Efficacy Cohort

	Vaccine (N=3484)		% Efficacy	95% CI
Any	97	369	73.8	67.2,79.3
Severe	1	57	98.2	89.6,100.0

N=number vaccinated.



RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> Was Efficacious Against Hospitalizations, Emergency Department Visits & Office Visits for G1-4 Rotavirus Gastroenteritis

#### REST

Type of Health	Number	<u>of Cases</u>	% Rate	
Type of Health <u>Care Encounter</u>	<u>Vaccine</u>	<u>Placebo</u>	Reduction	<u>95% CI</u>
Hospitalizations <sup>†</sup>	6	144	95.8	90.5, 98.2
Emerg. Dept. Visits <sup>†</sup>	14	225	93.7	88.8, 96.5
Office Visits <sup>‡</sup>	13	98	86.0	73.9, 92.5

<sup>†</sup> N=34,035 vaccinated in vaccine group and 34,003 vaccinated in placebo group.
<sup>‡</sup> N=2834 vaccinated in vaccine group and 2839 vaccinated in placebo group.



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## Rotarix®

- G1, P1A[8] human virus attenuated by passage through cell culture
  - Shares neutralizing epitopes with G1, G3, G4, and G9 RV types

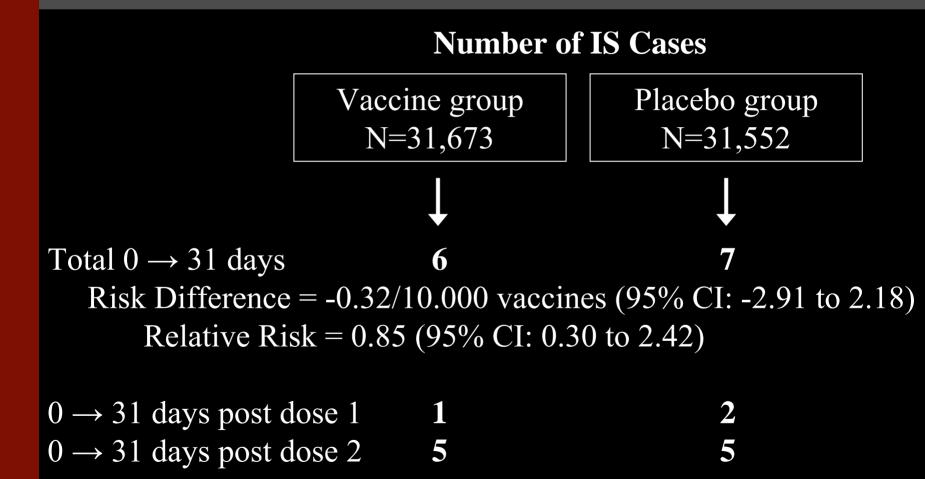
## Rotarix<sup>®</sup> Pivotal Phase 3 Trial: Latin America and Finland

Primary immunization phase: Analysis of intussusception and safety (N>63,000 infants)

1-year follow-up: Nested analysis of efficacy and safety (N>20,000 infants)



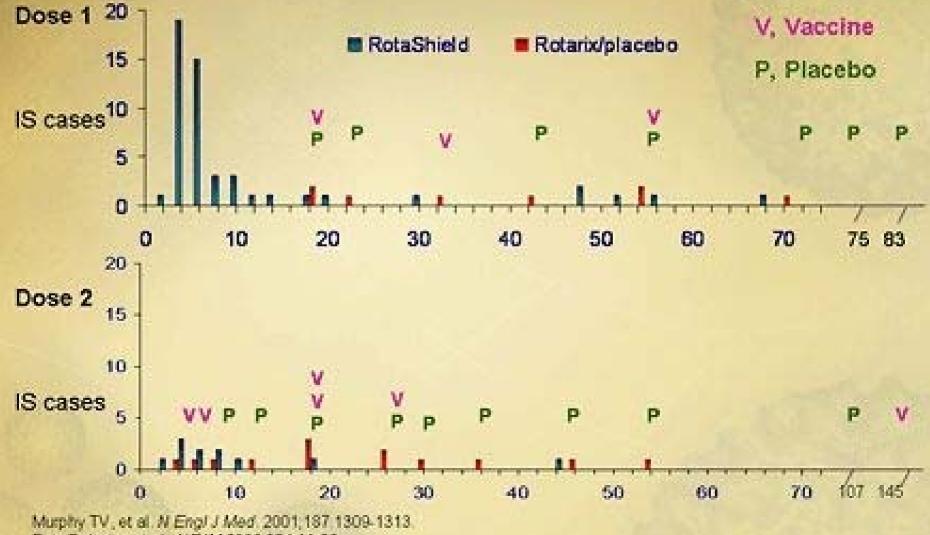
## Rotarix<sup>®</sup> intussusception (IS) data



Ruiz-Palacios G. et al N. Engl. J. Med. 2006; 354: 11-22

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#### Intussusception: Rotarix<sup>®</sup> Compared With RotaShield<sup>®</sup>



Ruiz-Palacios et al: NEJM 2006,354 11-22

## Efficacy of Rotarix<sup>®</sup> against RVGE

#### Number of Cases

Disease <u>Severity</u>	HRV <u>(N=9009)</u>	Placebo (N=8858)	% Efficacy	<u>95% CI</u>
Severe	12	77	84.7	71.7, 92.4
Hospitalized	9	59	85.0	69.6, 93.5

Ruiz-Palacios G. et al N. Engl. J. Med. 2006; 354: 11-22



#### Efficacy of Rotarix<sup>®</sup>: Serotype Specific Against Rotavirus Disease of Any Severity

-	Cases, N		-	
Serotype	Vaccine (n=9009)	Placebo (n=8858)	% Efficacy	95% CI
G1	3	36	91.8	74.1, 98.4
G2	1	6	41.0	<0.0, 82.4
G3, G4 or G9	4	31	87.3	64.1, 96.7

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## PATH's Rotavirus Vaccine Program (RVP) Goals

- **Goal 1:** Provide information that enables national decision-makers, and the GAVI Board and its partners, to make evidence-based decisions regarding the use of rotavirus vaccines.
- **Goal 2:** Accelerate the availability of new rotavirus vaccines appropriate for use in developing countries.



## **Building the Evidence Base**

Disease burden (global/country)

#### Disease surveillance

- Serotype distribution
- Intussusception surveillance

 Clinical trials in developing countries (Asia,

Vaccine safety and efficacy

(regional)

Africa)

 Economic burden of preventable illness/death

**Economics** 

(global/country)

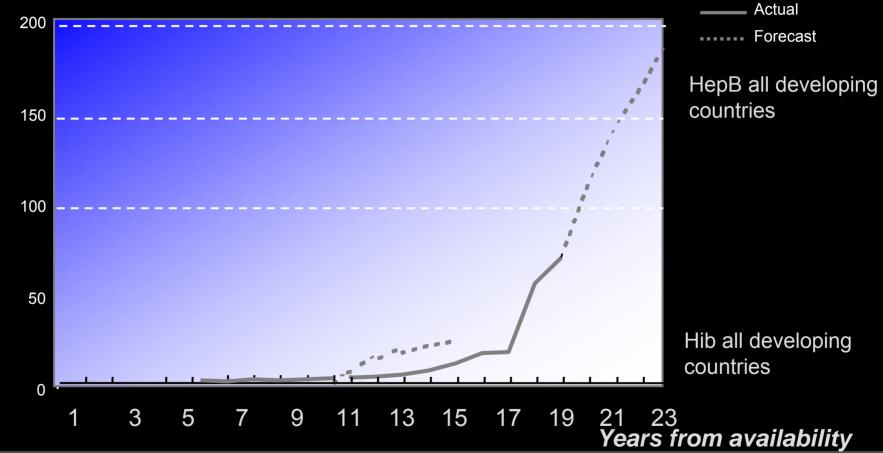
 Cost-effectiveness of vaccination

#### <sup>26</sup> Rotavirus ADIP agenda



## Vaccine Introduction Scenario Perspective

Million doses



Source: McKinsey & Co.; PATH's Rotavirus Vaccine Program

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## Will live oral rotavirus vaccines work well for children in Africa and Asia?

- Live oral vaccines less efficacious in developing world
- Differences in nutritional status, breastfeeding patterns, bacterial and parasitic infections, HIV prevalence



Different rotavirus serotypes

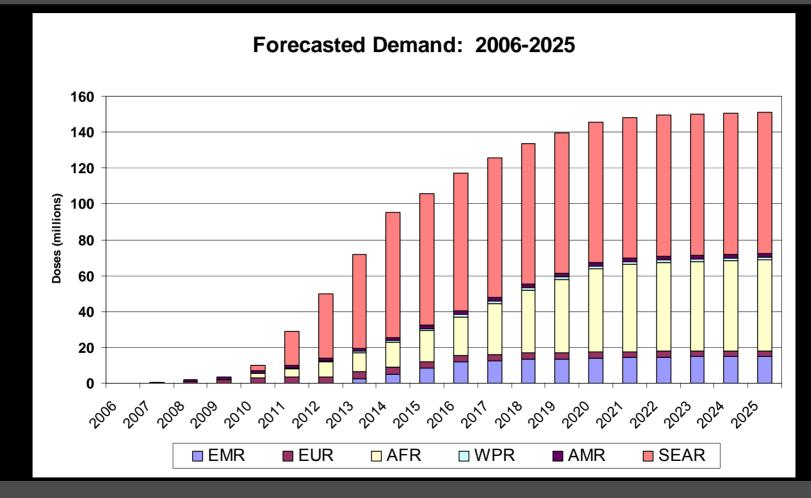


Will live oral rotavirus vaccines work well for children in Africa and Asia – how many efficacy trials are needed?

	GSK: Human, monovalent	Merck: Bovine reassortment, multivalent
Africa	Phase III Underway	Phase III target start date: late 2006
Asia	GSK Phase II: Bangladesh, India, Vietnam	Phase III target start date: early 2007

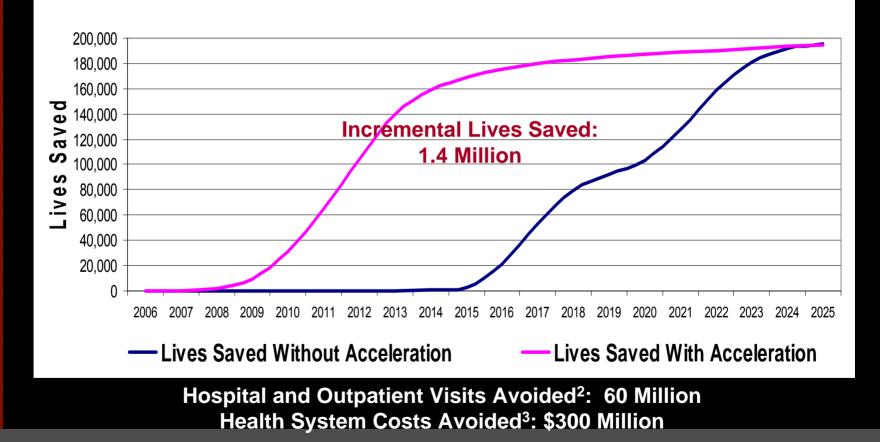


# How Many Doses are Required for GAVI-eligible Countries?



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#### How Many Lives Can Be Saved with Accelerated Rotavirus Vaccine Introduction?



1 Adapted from Rheingans et.al 2005 (unpublished) and Parashar 2003; Range: 0.9 to 2.3 Million Lives Saved 2Adapted from Rheingans et.al. 2005 (unpublished) and Parashar 2003: 130 hospitalizations and outpatient visits avoided per 1000 infants vaccinated 3 Based on avg. cost per visit = \$5.00

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## Summary

- Rotavirus prevention efforts were set back by the withdrawal of *RotaShield*<sup>®</sup>
- New safe and effective rotavirus vaccines offer the best hope of reducing the toll of acute rotavirus gastroenteritis in developed and developing countries
- *RotaTeq<sup>®</sup>* and *Rotarix<sup>®</sup>* have demonstrated safety and efficacy in controlled clinical trials and licensure efforts are underway around the globe.
- Accelerated implementation programs are striving to deliver these vaccines to areas where they are needed most.



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## **Backup Slides**

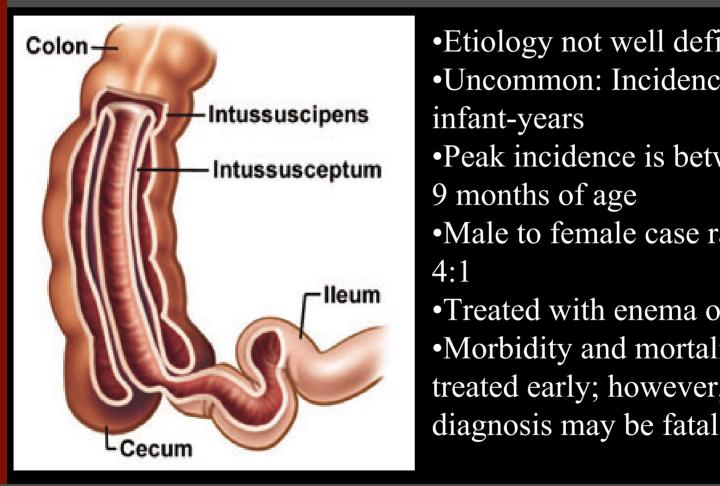


## Rhesus Rotavirus Vaccine --Rotashield<sup>®</sup>

- Live oral vaccine
- 3 doses given at 2, 4, 6 months
- Safety mild fevers on day 3-5 <10%
- Efficacy 70% against mild RV diarrhea, >85% against severe RV diarrhea

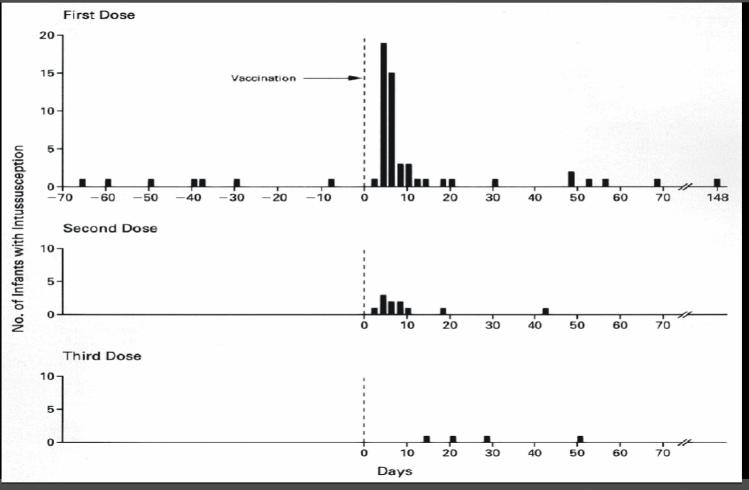


## **Characteristics of Naturally-Occurring Intussusception**



•Etiology not well defined •Uncommon: Incidence ~1/2000 infant-years •Peak incidence is between 5 and 9 months of age •Male to female case ratio = 1.5-4:1•Treated with enema or surgery •Morbidity and mortality low if treated early; however, delay in

# Interval between Rotashield vaccine and Intussusception



Murphy TV, et al, 2001

## PATH

# PATH creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions that enable communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health by:

- Advancing technologies, e.g. vaccines malaria, meningococcal, rotavirus, HPV, JE, pneumococcal
- Strengthening health systems
- Encouraging healthy behaviors

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