Rotavirus

Rotavirus is a very contagious virus that causes diarrhea. Before the development of a vaccine, most children had been infected with the virus at least once by age 5. Although rotavirus infections are unpleasant, you can usually treat this infection at home with extra fluids to prevent dehydration.

Rotavirus vaccine is administered by putting drops in the child's mouth. Babies should get 2 or 3 doses of rotavirus vaccine, depending on the brand of vaccine used. The first dose must be administered before 15 weeks of age. The last dose must be administered by 8 months of age.