tion among ICU patients. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 1995;16:P18. Abstract.
39. Rubin LG, Tucci V, Cercenado E, Eliopoulos G, Isenberg HD. Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium* in hospitalized children. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 1992;13:700-705.
40. Locksley RM, Cohen ML, Quinn TC, et al. Multiply antibiotic-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus:* introduction, transmission, and evolution of nosocomial infection. *Ann Intern Med* 1982;97:317-324.
41. Ward TT, Winn RE, Hartstein AI, Sewell DL. Observations relating to an inter-hospital outbreak of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus:* role of antimicrobial therapy in infection control. *Infect Control* 1981;2:453-459.
42. Bradley SF, Terpenning MS, Ramsey MA, et al. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus:* colonization and infection in a long-term care facility. *Ann Intern Med* 1991;115:417-422.
43. Spindel SJ, Strausbaugh LJ, Jacobson C. Infections caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* in a Veterans' Affairs nursing home care unit: a 5-year experience. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 1995;16:217-223.
44. Muder RR, Brennen C, Wagener MM, et al. Methicillin-resistant staphylococcal colonization and infection in a long-term care facility. *Ann Intern Med* 1991;114:107-112.
45. Barg NL. Environmental contamination with *Staphylococcus aureus* and outbreaks: the cause or the effect? *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 1993;14:367-368.
46. Crossley K, Landesman B, Zaske D. An outbreak of infections caused by strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* resistant to methicillin and aminoglycosides, II: epidemiologic studies. *J Infect Dis* 1979;139:280-287.
47. Opal SM, Mayer KH, Stenberg MJ, et al. Frequent acquisition of multiple strains of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* by healthcare workers in an endemic hospital environment. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 1990;11:479-485.

Vaccine Offers Promise for Rotavirus Diarrhea

Gina Pugliese, RN, MS
Martin S. Favero, PhD

Diarrhea-related hospitalizations are caused in large part by the rotavirus. It has been estimated that, in the United States, there are more than 50,000 hospitalizations of children annually for rotavirus diarrhea and more than 100 deaths. Clinical researchers estimating the burden of disease associated with rotavirus diarrhea also have estimated the public health impact of a rotavirus vaccine. Recent estimates suggest that, if a rotavirus vaccine was 80% effective in preventing hospitalization, it would be able to decrease the winter peak of diarrhea by approximately 23%, that is, 44,000 rotavirus cases of the 187,500 annual diarrheal cases.[1] In the largest trial to date, rhesus-human reassortant tetravalent rotavirus vaccine (RRV-TV, Wyeth Ayerst Research, Pearl River, NY) was evaluated in 2,398 children in Finland, and the findings were presented at ICAAC.[2] In a double-blind trial, 1,190 children received three doses of RRV-TV vaccine, and 1,208 received three doses of placebo between 2 and 6 months of age. In the two rotavirus epidemic seasons (1994-1995) covered by follow-up, there were 57 and 197 rotavirus-positive episodes of gastroenteritis in the vaccine and placebo groups, respectively, for a vaccine efficacy rate of 68%. Fourteen (1.2%) of the placebo recipients were admitted for rotavirus gastroenteritis, and another six children in the placebo group who were hospitalized for other reasons acquired nosocomial rotavirus diarrhea. Of the RRV-T vaccine recipients, no child was hospitalized for rotavirus diarrhea or acquired rotavirus diarrhea while in the hospital. In addition, 32 placebo recipients (2.6%) and 1 RRV-TV recipient were evaluated in the clinic for dehydration due to rotavirus gastroenteritis and treated with oral hydration. The researchers concluded that RRV-TV vaccine was 68% effective in preventing episodes of gastroenteritis and 100% effective in preventing hospital admissions.

FROM: 1. Shaoxiong J, Kilgore PE, Holman RC, et al. Trends in hospitalizations for diarrhea in the United States children from 1979 through 1992: estimates of the morbidity associated with rotavirus. *Pediatr Infect Dis J* 1996;15:397-404.

2. Joensuu J, Vesikari T. RRV-TV rotavirus vaccine prevents hospitalization due to severe rotavirus diarrhea. Presented at the 36th Annual Interscience Conference and Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC); September 15-18, 1997; New Orleans, LA. Abstract LB32.