Scientific Bulletin of the Academy of Medical Sciences

Number 11/ 02 August 2024

WHO PREQUALIFIES SECOND DENGUE VACCINE

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced the prequalification of a second dengue **vaccine**, TAK-003, a live attenuated vaccine that contains all four **dengue serotypes.** WHO recommends its use for children aged 6 to 16 years in areas with high transmission rates. It is administered in two doses, three months apart.

Prequalification represents WHO's evaluation of the vaccine's quality, safety, and efficacy, facilitating large-scale rollout and global access.

The WHO Director for Regulation and Prequalification stated that the dengue vaccine is eligible for purchase by United Nations agencies, including UNICEF and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Currently, the two prequalified dengue vaccines pave the way for their evaluation by more vaccine developers, ensuring that the vaccines reach all **communities in need.**

Brazilian drug regulators approved Qdenga in 2023, and earlier this year, the first mass vaccination campaign was launched in the city of Dourados in Mato Grosso do Sul state, Brazil.

The other prequalified dengue vaccine is administered in a series of three doses, at six-month intervals. It requires testing before vaccination and is only administered to individuals who have previously been infected with dengue to avoid **antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity,** a phenomenon that makes repeat infections more severe and can have severe complications post-vaccination in those not previously exposed to the virus.

By vaccinating travelers against dengue, import cases can be significantly reduced, lowering healthcare costs, while vaccinating people native to high-infection areas helps reduce dengue-associated morbidity.

Adapted after Lisa Schnirring, 15 May 2024