

Takeda Dengue Vaccine, DCGI Approves India's First Dengue Vaccine

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India has approved the **Takeda dengue vaccine (QDENGAR/TAK-003)**, marking a significant milestone in the country's fight against dengue. The **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)** has granted market authorisation to **Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India's QDENGAR**, making it the **first dengue vaccine approved in India**. The vaccine is authorised for **individuals aged 4 to 60 years**, offering a new preventive tool against one of the country's most widespread mosquito-borne diseases.

Why is the Takeda Dengue Vaccine in News?

The **Takeda dengue vaccine** is in the news because the **DCGI has approved QDENGAR (TAK-003)** for use in India. This is the **first dengue vaccine** to receive market authorisation in the country, providing an important advancement in dengue prevention.

Importance of the Takeda Dengue Vaccine Approval

The approval of the **Takeda dengue vaccine** is a major public health milestone that strengthens India's efforts to prevent dengue and reduce the impact of recurring outbreaks.

- **First dengue vaccine in India:** QDenga (TAK-003) is the first dengue vaccine to receive market authorisation in the country.
- **Protects a broad age group:** Approved for individuals aged **4 to 60 years**, expanding preventive coverage.
- **Reduces disease burden:** Has the potential to lower dengue infections, hospitalisations, and severe cases.
- **Supports public health initiatives:** Complements existing mosquito control, surveillance, and awareness programmes.
- **Improves outbreak preparedness:** Provides an additional tool to manage seasonal dengue outbreaks more effectively.
- **Enhances healthcare resilience:** May help reduce pressure on hospitals and healthcare systems during peak dengue seasons.
- **Advances preventive healthcare:** Reflects India's growing focus on vaccination as a key strategy against vector-borne diseases.

What is Dengue?

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by the dengue virus and transmitted mainly through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes. It is one of the fastest-spreading vector-borne diseases and is common in tropical and subtropical regions, including India.

- Caused by the dengue virus (DENV).
- Spread mainly by Aedes aegypti mosquitoes.
- Common during the monsoon and post-monsoon seasons.
- Symptoms include high fever, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, and rash.
- Severe cases can lead to dengue haemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome.
- Prevention focuses on mosquito control and avoiding mosquito bites.

Dengue Prevention Measures

Preventing **dengue** mainly involves controlling mosquito breeding and protecting individuals from mosquito bites, as these are the most effective ways to reduce the spread of the disease.

- **Eliminate stagnant water:** Empty and clean water containers, coolers, flower pots, tyres, and other places where mosquitoes can breed.
- **Use mosquito repellents:** Apply approved mosquito repellents on exposed skin, especially during the day.
- **Wear protective clothing:** Wear full-sleeved shirts, long pants, and light-coloured clothing to minimize mosquito bites.
- **Install mosquito screens and nets:** Use window screens, door screens, and mosquito nets to keep mosquitoes out of homes.
- **Maintain clean surroundings:** Keep drains, water tanks, and public spaces clean to prevent mosquito breeding.

- **Cover water storage containers:** Ensure all water tanks and containers are tightly covered.
- **Promote community participation:** Encourage neighbourhood clean-up drives and awareness campaigns to eliminate breeding sites.
- **Seek early medical care:** Consult a healthcare provider promptly if symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, or body pain develop.
- **Follow public health advisories:** Adhere to government guidelines during dengue outbreaks and support vector-control measures.

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