

First dengue vaccine launched in Malaysia

The vaccine provides sustained protection for up to 4.5 years.



(From left) Takeda India & Southeast Asia (I-SEA) Head of Medical Affairs Dr Goh Choo Beng, Dengue Prevention Advocacy Malaysia (DPAM) Chairman, Consultant Paediatrician and Paediatric Cardiologist Professor Dr Zulkifli Ismail, Takeda Malaysia and Singapore Country General Manager Dr Lynette Moey and Takeda Malaysia & Singapore Vaccine Franchise Head Sony Paul at the dengue vaccine launch in Malaysia.

Malaysia's fight against dengue fever has been bolstered with the launch of a vaccine targeting the disease.

Takeda Malaysia, today (June 11, 2024) launched the Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine, Qdenga indicated for the prevention of dengue disease caused by all four dengue virus serotypes.

The vaccine was approved by The Drug Control Authority (DCA) Malaysia based on extensive data demonstrating its efficacy, safety, and quality.

It requires two doses at a three-month gap and can be administered to those aged four and above. Takeda Malaysia and Singapore Country General Manager Dr Lynette Moey said effective dengue prevention requires a multi-faceted approach.

"The availability of Qdenga is a crucial addition to the current integrated dengue prevention and management strategies in Malaysia.

"We are committed to partnering with local health authorities and health experts to ensure Qdenga is accessible to all eligible Malaysians who may benefit from immunisation.

"We deeply understand the importance of safeguarding our communities from dengue fever and recognize the transformative impact vaccines can have on public health," she said at the launch event held in One World Hotel, Petaling Jaya in Selangor state, near Kuala Lumpur.

Sustained protection for up to 4.5 years

According to Dr Moey, the vaccine provides sustained protection for up to 4.5 years, benefiting individuals with prior dengue exposure as well as those without any previous infection.

In Malaysia, the vaccine is approved for individuals aged four and above. This wide range allows us to extend protection to a larger group of eligible Malaysians, including children, adults, and even senior citizens," she added.

Malaysians can now consult with their doctors and healthcare professionals in private hospitals and clinics to learn more about the vaccine for dengue prevention and protection.

The vaccine has been approved in more than 30 countries, including the European Union, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Argentina, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.

There was an 86.3% increase in dengue cases in Malaysia last year over 2022.

In the first quarter this year, 41,565 cases and 28 fatalities were reported in the country.

– www.sinardaily.my/thstar.com.my, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia, June 11, 2024