

Press Release Details

Title 09 May 2003 A Single Shot Vaccine for Typhoid from Bharat Biotech

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Bangalore 9th May 2003: Typhoid fever is an acute, life threatening illness caused by bacterium *Salmonella typhi*. The disease is characterized by fever, headache, malaise, anorexia, splenomegaly, and relative bradycardia. An estimated 16 million cases of typhoid fever and 600,000 deaths occur worldwide. In India, it is estimated that 6 million cases of typhoid fever occur annually. India falls under the category of endemic or hyperendemic region for the disease. Now with the emergence of ciprofloxacin-resistant strains of *Salmonella typhi*, prevention of this disease assumes a great public health importance. Active immunization by vaccination emerges as the best option in the prevention of typhoid disease.

Bharat Biotech, with its mission to fight against infectious diseases with new generation vaccines at affordable cost, takes justifiable pride in informing that its TYPBAR-Vi Capsular Polysaccharide Typhoid Vaccine will be launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka Sri S M Krishna at Bangalore on 9th May 2003.

Bharat Biotech is the largest primary manufacturer in our country of the new generation typhoid vaccine. The TYPBAR vaccine is being manufactured under Current Good Manufacturing Practices conditions and regulations in its state-of-the-art facilities at Hyderabad. The vaccinal strain of *Salmonella typhi* Ty2 was made available by Dr. John Robbins of the National Institute of Health, USA. Dr. John Robbins credited to be the Father of Polysaccharide vaccines. Bharat Biotech has planned for annual production of 50 million doses of TYPBAR. The two-dose whole-cell-killed typhoid vaccines that were produced by the Govt. laboratories are now being phased out due to their high reactogenicity and low efficacy. TYPBAR Vi capsular Polysaccharide vaccine is an excellent replacement as it is safer, purer and more efficacious to eliminate the scourge of typhoid fever.

Some of the developing countries including China are actively engaged in the eradication of typhoid disease through vaccination with Vi capsular Polysaccharide Typhoid vaccines. We should also strive to launch national level immunization programmes to prevent the continued occurrence of typhoid by adopting the new generation vaccine.

The positive cost - benefit ratio of TYPBAR is due to its single-dose primary immunization, higher seroprotection percentages & safety.

Typhoid domestic market is at 27 crores dominated mainly by few players. With low awareness on the disease profile and its complications among the public there is big opportunity for the market to grow and to be tapped for which Bharat Biotech is aiming through its nation-wide marketing network and hiring of marketing agencies by conducting public awareness campaigns targeting mainly school children, corporate travelers, service industry, & defence personnel. The activity will also address the dropouts from work and school due to typhoid, which is the major concern. Bharat is also planning massive semi urban and rural campaigns by adopting unique and novel approaches. This would expand the segment tremendously. Bharat with the above planned activities and with its strategic distribution points is aiming at a minimum of 10 - 15 crores during the first year of launch. Bharat is also on the verge of coming out with novel delivery system for TYPBAR. Bharat is also aiming at eradication of typhoid as a social cause and will be working at it in coordination with other organizations.

On this significant occasion Bharat Biotech wishes to record its thanks and appreciation to the National Regulatory Authorities, eminent vaccinologists and its well-wishers for giving its support to reach this milestone. This launch of TYPBAR vaccine, it is hoped, would usher in a greater awareness to successfully combat typhoid disease in India.