

Vaccines on the move

An update on activities from our **Publishing Partners**



GlaxoSmithKline

GlaxoSmithKline completes major three-part transaction with Novartis

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) has acquired Novartis's global vaccines business (excluding influenza vaccines) for an initial cash consideration of US\$5.25 billion; has created a new world-leading Consumer Healthcare joint venture with Novartis in which GSK will have majority control and an equity interest of 63.5%; and has divested its Oncology business for an aggregate cash consideration of \$16 billion.

Sir Andrew Witty, CEO, GSK said: 'Completion of this transaction represents a major step forward in the Group's strategy to create a stronger and more balanced set of businesses across Pharmaceuticals, Consumer Healthcare and Vaccines. We will now be focused on rapidly implementing our integration plans to realise the growth and synergy opportunities we see in the new Consumer Healthcare and Vaccines businesses.'

The impact of child-friendly antimalarial Coartem® Dispersible (artemether-lumefantrine), developed through a public-private product development partnership between Novartis and the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), has reached an unprecedented high. Since its launch in 2009, 250 million treatments of this cherry-flavoured, dispersible paediatric formulation, have been delivered to around 50 countries. As Coartem Dispersible has been shown to cure over 96% of cases of uncomplicated malaria in clinical trials, the public health impact of this drug has been enormous.

Launched in 2009, Coartem Dispersible was the first high-quality, fixed-dose, artemisinin combination therapy tailored for children. The medicine's sweet taste is acceptable to children, and helps to ensure they receive a full curative dose and recover from malaria.

'Getting babies and small children to take bitter antimalarials was always a challenge,' said Dr David Reddy, CEO of MMV. 'Coartem Dispersible has answered that challenge and since children under 5 are hardest hit by malaria, the delivery of 250 million treatments is a landmark worth celebrating. I applaud Novartis' dedication to deliver these treatments without profit to young populations.'

The distribution to date of all Coartem® treatments, dispersible and tablet has reached a landmark 700

million treatments, delivered without profit, mostly to the public sector.



Merck produces vaccine to prevent cancers and other diseases

Merck's human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine, GARDASIL®9 (Human Papillomavirus 9-valent Vaccine, Recombinant), has been produced to prevent cancers and other diseases caused by nine HPV types, including types that cause about 90% of cervical cancer cases.

'With GARDASIL®9, the medical and public health community now has the potential to help prevent 90 per cent of cervical cancers caused by HPV,' said Dr. Julie Gerberding, president, Merck Vaccines. 'This is an extraordinary opportunity to even further reduce the burden of HPV-related diseases and cancers in males and females.'

GARDASIL®9 is approved for use in girls and young women aged 9 to 26 years of age for the prevention of cervical, vulvar, vaginal, and anal cancers caused by HPV types 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58, pre-cancerous or dysplastic lesions caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58, and genital warts caused by HPV types 6 and 11. GARDASIL 9 is also approved for use in boys 9 to 15 years of age for the prevention of anal cancer caused by HPV types 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58, precancerous or dysplastic lesions caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58, and genital warts caused by HPV types 6 and 11.

GARDASIL®9 is contraindicated in individuals with hypersensitivity, including severe allergic reactions to yeast, or after a previous dose of GARDASIL®9 or GARDASIL® (Human Papillomavirus Quadrivalent (Types 6, 11, 16, and 18) Vaccine, Recombinant).

GARDASIL®9 includes the greatest number of HPV types in any available HPV vaccine. After HPV types 16 and 18, the five additional HPV types in GARDASIL 9 are the most common cervical cancer-causing types worldwide. Seven HPV types in GARDASIL®9 (HPV 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58) cause approximately 90% of cervical cancer cases and approximately 80% of high-grade cervical lesions (cervical precancers, defined as CIN 2, CIN 3 and AIS) worldwide.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the HPV vaccine again.