

Shifting Confidence and Knowledge in Dengue Vaccination within the UK: Two Years On

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Background:

This study assessed knowledge, confidence, and practices among healthcare professionals regarding dengue and the QDENGGA (TAK-003) vaccine 2 years post its introduction to the UK.

Method:

In 2025, additional dengue-related questions were included in the National Travel Health Network and Centre's annual review of Yellow Fever Vaccine Centres in the United Kingdom. These assessed confidence in advising on dengue and knowledge of transmission and prevention. Data were processed using Python and analysed in Excel, with results presented as summary statistics.

Results:

A total of 1,207 healthcare professionals, primarily nurses and pharmacists, completed the survey. Awareness of TAK-003 rose to 89.9% from 69.3% previously. Over half (56.6%) advised on dengue with 32.5% clinics now providing vaccination. Overall confidence in advising on dengue declined, with fewer respondents feeling very or extremely confident, possibly due to increased complexity of vaccine use and serological testing. This is reflected in the marked disparity observed: 64% felt at least somewhat confident recommending vaccination, but 77.1% reported low confidence in interpreting dengue blood test results. This gap was present across both professions, suggesting an issue that needs addressed. Respondents remained unsure on which countries would necessitate advice surrounding dengue, similar to previous findings.

Conclusion:

While awareness and use of TAK-003 have improved, significant gaps remain in confidence and knowledge, especially regarding serological interpretation. Focused serology education could boost healthcare professionals' certainty when providing dengue vaccination and should be prioritised by those lacking confidence.