

Implementation and Adherence to National Indications for Dengue Vaccination in Italian Travel Medicine Clinics: A Survey-Based Assessment

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Background:

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the awareness, clinical application, and barriers to the implementation of the dengue vaccination indications developed by the Italian Society of Travel and Migration Medicine (SIMVIM) among healthcare professionals in specialized travel clinics.

Materials and Methods:

An online questionnaire was developed and distributed to healthcare personnel operating in Italian travel medicine centers. The survey assessed whether the dengue vaccine (Qdenga®) is routinely offered, the volume of doses administered annually, and the level of knowledge regarding SIMVIM clinical recommendations.

Results:

A total of 92.4% of respondents reported that their clinics currently offer the dengue vaccine, with an average of 136 vaccinations administered per center annually. Among the clinics where the vaccine is not offered, the primary barriers identified were high costs (55%) and insufficient time to complete the two-dose schedule before departure (38%). Furthermore, 92% of the surveyed healthcare professionals were familiar with the SIMVIM guidelines; of these, only four individuals reported not applying them in their daily clinical practice.

Discussion: The results demonstrate a high level of adherence and professional awareness regarding the SIMVIM recommendations for dengue prophylaxis. The widespread availability of the vaccine in travel clinics reflects its successful integration into Italian travel medicine services. However, economic factors and the 3-month interval between doses remain significant hurdles to universal uptake. These findings suggest that while clinical knowledge is excellent, future strategies should focus on optimizing "last-minute" vaccination protocols and addressing cost-related barriers to maximize traveler protection.