

News Details

India may have a Rotavirus vaccine soon

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New Delhi, March 25: India may soon have its own indigenous vaccine against viral diarrhea, that kills about 100,000 children per year in the country, following Indo-US collaborative research in the field.

There are two live oral Rotavirus candidate vaccines which have been produced as part of collaboration between Indian and the US scientists, Dr Altaf Lal, the regional representative of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the US embassy health attache told reporters here today.

These are likely to undergo phase I clinical trials this September. The candidate vaccines have been produced by scientists from AIIMS, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in collaboration with the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Centres for Disease Control, Lal said.

In the phase I clinical trial, the safety of candidate vaccines would be tested in a small number of adults at a site in Delhi, he said adding the candidate are whole pathogen vaccines made from the non-vorulent strains of the virus which generate immunity but do not cause disease. Indian company Bharat Biotech was also a partner in the project.

Lal said viral diarrhea was not just a problem for India but also of many other developing countries and cases occurred even in the US.

The collaboration between the two sides had also resulted in candidate vaccines against malaria which would undergo phase I clinical trials soon.

One of the candidates was to be tested against the deadly falciparum form of malaria that affects the brain, Lal said.