



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Department of Health Research – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India

Media report (11 May to 17 May 2019)
(ICMR IN NEWS)

(Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi)
Information Interface Officer

Preface

The PR Unit/PRO office of ICMR since last one and half years have reached from (where is ICMR located) to (everyday mention of ICMR and DG ICMR in National Media). This change from where to why signifies the media visibility and importance of our organization within this stipulated time duration.

Every week Indian Council of Medical Research and Director General ICMR are mentioned by dozens of daily news papers, periodicals and magazines including online editions.

This week's reports (ICMR IN NEWS dated 11 May to 17 may 2019) includes the mention Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 19 news papers including top news papers such as The Times of India, The Indian Express, The Hindu, Hindustan Times, The New Indian Express among others.

As an organization we first need to fill internal information vacuum at the headquarters as well as the Institutes for better visibility of ICMR which will pave way for complete dilution of external information gap between ICMR and external public including media, government and other related organizations.

*Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi
Information Interface Officer/PRO
ICMR Hqrs, New Delhi*

No added sugars? Wrapper may be misleading you

May 11, 2019/The Times of India

Indian Schools Need Counsellors As Mental Illness Strikes Early In Children

May 11, 2019/Indian Times

This pill may help curb 2.7 lakh HIV cases in India

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Sanctioned posts at ICMR vacant: RTI

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Four months on, research scholars yet to receive hiked fellowship stipends

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ICMR develops cost-effective diagnostic test for blood disorders

May 14, 2019/Millennium post

Quick, cheap diagnostic test for Haemophilia A

May 14, 2019/The Hindu

ICMR develops cheapest POC testing for severe Hemophilia A

May 14, 2019/Drug Today Medical Times

Medical body ICMR develops affordable test kit to diagnose blood disorders

May 15, 2019/Live Mint



Haemophilia gets a rapid diagnostic kit

May 15, 2019/Pune Mirror

Indian Scientists develop first cost effective rapid test for common bleeding disorders

May 15, 2019/Speciality Medical Dialogues

ICMR develops affordable diagnostic test kit for bleeding disorders

May 15, 2019/The Week

ICMR develops world's cheapest rapid test kit for blood disorders

May 15, 2019/Medi Bulletin

Medical body develops affordable test kit to diagnose blood disorders

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Study to identify dengue hotspots across country

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Set up dedicated dengue corner: Min to hospitals

May 17, 2019/The Pioneer

India: ICMR Licenses Shigella Vaccine Technology To Hilleman Laboratories

May 17, 2019/Mondaq

No added sugars? Wrapper may be misleading you

May 11, 2019/The Times of India

What's in a name? An 'ose', say diabetologists, by every one of its names is just as sweet and harmful. And more frightening is that according to a just-published study, most Chennaiites may not be able to tell their sugars apart. A recent study on 'Perception of Sugar Content in Food Labels among Supermarket Consumers in Chennai City' found that 77% of the respondents did not look specifically for sugar content in the food they were buying although a majority were aware of the ill effects of sugar consumption. Only 2% read the contents on the label, the rest were more interested in brand, offers and price. Also, only 29% were aware of terms such as artificial sweeteners and non-caloric sweeteners. The study, conducted by Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, Sri Venkateswara Dental College and Hospital and funded by the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, was published in the Journal of Pierre Fauchard Academy (India Section) this March. The 'no added sugars', 'no added flavours', and 'no added preservatives' all add up, says Dr Poorni Saravanan, one of the lead authors of the study. "Corn starch, for instance, is a hidden sugar, which many were not aware of," she says. Dr Vijay Viswanathan of the M V Hospital for Diabetes says that most of his patients are also not aware that there are two types of artificial sweeteners – caloric and non-caloric (like stevia). "People assume all sweeteners are good for them. Maltodextrin for instance is a caloric sweetener so those with issues of obesity and fatty liver and diabetes need to be wary. Most diabetic sweets contain the caloric sweetener lactulose and to make it more palatable, fat is added," he says. Dr Poorni says the study also threw up a problem that is unique to India. "The contents are listed in English and this is a barrier for most consumers. It has to be addressed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India," she says.

Indian Schools Need Counsellors As Mental Illness Strikes Early In Children

May 11, 2019/Indian Times

Last year, Rishika (name changed), a 12-year-old student of a reputed school in the national capital, began feeling restless. She knew something was not right and looked around for help but found none. Her working parents barely had time for her and the teachers in school would only discuss the syllabus and its completion. Six months later, she was diagnosed with acute depression. The doctors told her parents that in cases like Rishika's, early detection becomes a key to prevent acute depression. Rishika was depressed but it was the negligence of her school and family that made her condition worse. Rishika is one of the 12 to 13 percent school students in India- as per **Indian Council of Medical Research**- who suffer from emotional, behavioural, and learning problems. Mental health is directly linked to educational outcomes. Schools can enhance the nature and scope of mental health interventions, fill gaps, enhance effectiveness, address problems early, and reduce stigma. According to a report by WHO, for every one million people, there are just three psychiatrists and even fewer psychologists.

[This pill may help curb 2.7 lakh HIV cases in India](#)

May 11, 2019/The New Indian Express



NEW DELHI: Paired with a biannual testing programme, a combination drug used to prevent HIV infection has the potential to improve average per-person survival by nearly one year and block more than 270,000 HIV transmissions in India over a period of 15 years, says a study. The once-a-day pill, called pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), can reduce the risk of HIV acquisition by over 85 per cent when taken consistently. The new study, published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, suggests that making PrEP available to men who have sex with men (MSM) and people who inject drugs (PWID) in India may be a cost-effective way of curbing the epidemic in the country. "We know PrEP helps stop the spread of infection; the question is whether it is a good use of limited resources? Our study shows that PrEP is a cost-effective strategy for both MSM and PWID in India. For these groups, especially in areas with high HIV incidence, PrEP is worth rolling out," says lead and corresponding author Pooyan Kazemian of the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in the US. However, the authors noted that a nationwide PrEP rollout would be quite costly. If nearly 60 per cent of MSM and PWID across India participated in the programme, it would increase HIV care expenditures by over \$900 million over a five-year period, the study said. "Our findings suggest that geographic areas of highest HIV incidence should be targeted first to reduce the budget required," said co-author Nomita Chandhiok of the **Indian Council of Medical Research** in New Delhi.

[Sanctioned posts at ICMR vacant: RTI](#)

May 12, 2019/Hindustan Times

At least one-third of the sanctioned positions are lying vacant in the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the country's premier medical research regulatory body, according to data received in response to a right to information (RTI) query. Last month, an RTI activist who did not wish to be identified had sought a response from ICMR on the names and number of sanctioned posts it had, the number of posts filled and those that were vacant. The ICMR could not provide complete data from all its branches across the country, but its headquarters in New Delhi had only 512 of the 763 sanctioned posts filled. "This is a huge vacancy, and will make research in India suffer. And this is just New Delhi we are talking about. The ICMR has about 25 more branches. If we take all into consideration, the vacancies will be much higher," said the RTI activist who filed the application. Of the 251 vacancies, 20 are of scientists belonging to different grades -- B, C, D, E, F and G. Also, at least 30 posts are lying vacant for technical officers, technical assistants and technicians that are the cornerstones of any research project. "If there are not enough technicians around, then scientists end up doing the job of technicians, which costs them crucial time in the lab. The government should fill up these posts on an urgent basis," said the activist. Dr Balram Bhargava, director general, ICMR, said, "There is no shortage. We have been holding regular interviews to fill up the vacancies. We have hired about 30 scientists already and we will hire over 50 more by next month."

Indore: Diabetes; A ticking time bomb for Madhya Pradesh

May 13, 2019/Free press Journal



Madhya Pradesh is sitting on diabetes time bomb with 21.5 per cent of people in urban areas are diagnosed pre-diabetic while 18.5 per cent in rural areas are on the edge of becoming diabetic. This was revealed by the recent study of **Indian Council of Medical Research- India Diabetes (INDIAB)**. The study disclosed that difference in pre-diabetic population from urban and rural areas is just 3 per cent and a large number of people in rural areas are on the verge of becoming diabetic. Principal investigator of ICMR INDIAB study and chairman of Madras Diabetes Research Foundation Dr V Mohan said that diabetes is believed to be more prevalent in urban population due to sedentary life style. “But study reveals that it is taking toll on villagers as well.” The overall prevalence of pre-diabetic cases in the state is about 19.2 per cent. The study also revealed that about 49.9 per cent people in urban areas and 69.1 per cent people in rural areas, who have been suffering from the disease, are unaware that they are diabetic. “They came to know during the study,” Dr V Mohan said. The prevalence of diabetes in urban areas is 12 per cent and it is 3 per cent in rural areas and the overall prevalence is 6 per cent. The study also indicated that prevalence of hypertension in urban areas is 27.5 per cent while it is 20.1 per cent in rural areas. Principal investigator of study in Madhya Pradesh Dr Sunil M Jain said 19.1 per cent people in urban areas were unaware that they were suffering from hypertension. Same goes for 17.2 per cent among rural population.

Karnataka: Civil society groups oppose govt nutrition body's sanction to mid-day meals

May 13, 2019/The Week

What are kids in government schools in Karnataka expected to avoid in their meals? Onion, garlic and eggs, if one were to go by the agency entrusted with supplying mid-day meals in the state's government schools. A section of civil society has written an open letter to the National Institute of Nutrition for its report endorsing the Akshaya Patra Foundation's (APF) no-onion-garlic-eggs policy for government school kids in Karnataka. “APF has refused to provide eggs or use onion and garlic in the food supplied because it considers these foods as ‘tamasik’.

Onion and garlic, part of the traditional food items such as sambhar in Karnataka, are a part of the menu prescribed by the state government,” the letter states. However, the non-inclusion of these two ingredients by APF was raised by the Karnataka State Food Commission and civil society groups. The state government then asked **ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)**, Hyderabad and Central Food Technical Research Institute, Mysuru, for technical inputs on nutritional adequacy, bio-availability, diet diversity, taste and food safety and hygiene.

The letter states that in its response, CFTRI refused to comment on the nutritional quality, taste, diversity and safety of food supplied by APF. It has instead asked for “sufficient time and resources to do a proper assessment”. NIN, however, has made “sweeping statements” praising APF, without carrying out any “systematic scientific” study. “No empirical data was collected on the quantity and quality of ingredients used, or amount consumed and wasted by children to certify food supplied by APF as nutritionally adequate. Instead, a paper menu submitted by APF, was considered evidence enough to comment on an aspect of the scheme which have nutritional impact on lakhs of children,” the letter states. The NIN also “did not visit a single school” and did not speak to children consuming the food.

Four months on, research scholars yet to receive hiked fellowship stipends



May 14, 2019/The Indian Express

Nearly four months after India's key research funding agencies agreed to a 24 per cent hike in the stipends of thousands of research scholars in the country, the revised emoluments are yet to come into effect. On January 30 this year, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) had announced a revision in the fellowship stipends from Rs 25,000 and Rs 28,000 for junior research fellows (JRF) and Rs 31,000 and Rs 35,000, for senior research fellows (SRF). Research associates (RA), whose pay grades are earmarked in three levels, was revised to Rs 47,000, Rs 49,000 and Rs 54,000 for levels one, two and three, respectively. The enhanced stipends were to be credited to the accounts of research scholars starting January 2019. A total of 1.5 lakh scholars inducted for programmes funded by DST, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)**, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and all IITs and Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER) were set to benefit from the decision. "We have not got any intimation about the enhanced stipends and we continue to receive the stipends as per the earlier pay scale. The institute is also clueless as there has been no communication from the parent funding agency," a research scholar from CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), not wishing to be named, told The Indian Express. The research scholar said the stipend for February was credited only a few days ago.

ICMR develops cost-effective diagnostic test for blood disorders

May 14, 2019/Millennium post

New Delhi: In a major medical development, the ICMR-NIIH, Mumbai has developed a cost-effective point-of-care (POC) rapid diagnostic test for severe Hemophilia A and von Willebrand disease (vWD). According to a senior ICMR official, the development of the rapid diagnostic test would prove to be a great boon for poor patients in general as the working cost of these kits is less than Rs 50 in comparison to existing conventional test for the diseases that cost around Rs 4,000 to Rs 10,000. India has become the world's first country to develop POC test for specific diagnosis of any common bleeding disorder, the official said. Haemophilia A and vWD are the commonest among bleeding disorders. As per the Western data, the incidence of Haemophilia A is 1 per 10,000 male births and that of vWD is around 1 per cent of the general population.

"In India, there is no epidemiological data and with translation of this data with respect to the population, the country may have roughly 80,000-1,00,000 severe haemophilia cases, but the total number registered with Haemophilia Federation India (HFI) is only around 19,000," the official said, adding that lack of awareness, lack of diagnostic facilities, high cost of tests are some of the factors for the underdiagnosis of bleeding disorders in the country.

Quick, cheap diagnostic test for Haemophilia A

May 14, 2019/The Hindu

The **Indian Council of Medical Research** (ICMR)'s National Institute of Immunohaematology, Mumbai, has developed a cost-effective Point-of-Care (POC) rapid diagnostic test for severe Haemophilia A and Von Willebrand Disease (VWD), a genetic disorder caused by missing or defective Von Willebrand factor (VWF), a clotting protein. "This is the first in the world POC test for specific diagnosis of any common bleeding disorder. Working cost of these kits is less than ₹50 in comparison to existing conventional test for the diseases that costs around ₹4,000 to ₹10,000," said a release by the ICMR here on Tuesday. Patients with severe Haemophilia A or VWD can have life threatening spontaneous or post-traumatic bleeding like brain haemorrhage and gastrointestinal bleed or they may have bleeding into joints or superficial bleeding from the nose or gums.

ICMR develops cheapest POC testing for severe Hemophilia A

May 14, 2019/Drug Today Medical Times

This is the first in the world POC test for specific diagnosis of any common bleeding disorder. Working cost of these kits is less than Rs. 50, in comparison to existing conventional test for the diseases that cost around Rs. 4000 to Rs. 10000. Diagnosis of VWD requires a battery of expensive investigations. Patients with severe Hemophilia A or VWD can have life threatening spontaneous or post-traumatic bleeding like brain hemorrhage and gastrointestinal bleeding or they may have bleeding into joints or superficial bleeding from the nose or gums. In an Emergency Medical setting, it is important to have a quick diagnosis of bleeding disorders for treatment with specific products like the blood components or commercially available factor concentrates which are exorbitantly expensive. This rapid test kit can be used for the diagnosis of undiagnosed patients/ menorrhagia cases/ post-partum hemorrhage (PPH), gynecological complications with bleeding history, recovery of factors in the transfused Hemophilia A patients and also for differential diagnosis of Hemophilia A and VWD. Since it does not require any expertise or infrastructure, this can easily access any level of health care system including primary health care centers. The diagnosis can be done within 30 minutes of blood sample collection. The bands are visually detected within 10 minutes of sample application. The kit is composed of special paper membranes which have different components attached on it for the detection of target molecules.

Medical body ICMR develops affordable test kit to diagnose blood disorders



May 15, 2019/Live Mint

Topics - Haemophilia A

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has developed an affordable test kit for diagnosing common blood disorders such as severe Haemophilia A and Von Willebrand disease (VWD). The cost-effective point-of-care (POC) rapid diagnostic test kit developed by the ICMR-National Institute of Immunohaematology, Mumbai, is the world's first POC test for specific diagnosis of any common bleeding disorder. It costs less than ₹50, while other existing diagnostic kits cost between ₹4,000 and ₹10,000, the ICMR said on Tuesday. Haemophilia A and VWD are the most common bleeding disorders. Globally, the incidence of Haemophilia A is 1 per 10,000 male births, and that of VWD is around 1% of the general population. Though there is no epidemiological data for India, estimates suggest 80,000-100,000 severe Haemophilia cases. However, the total number of registered cases with Haemophilia Federation India (HFI) stands at around 19,000. Lack of awareness, lack of diagnostic facilities and high cost of tests contribute to under-reporting of bleeding disorders in India, the ICMR said. Patients with severe Haemophilia A or VWD can have life-threatening spontaneous or post-traumatic bleeding, including brain haemorrhage and gastrointestinal bleeding, or may even lead to bleeding in joints or superficial bleeding from the nose or gums.

"In an emergency medical setting, it is important to have a quick diagnosis of bleeding disorders with specific products like the blood components or commercially available factor concentrates, which are exorbitantly expensive. Both Haemophilia A and VWD are under-diagnosed disorders in our country. There are only a handful of comprehensive diagnostic centres for bleeding disorders," the ICMR said in a statement. According to the ICMR, the diagnosis can be done within 30 minutes of blood sample collection. The bands are visually detected within 10 minutes of sample application. The kit is composed of special paper membranes, which have different components attached on it, for detecting target molecules. The POC kits can be used by primary healthcare centre staff, the ICMR added.

Haemophilia gets a rapid diagnostic kit

May 15, 2019/Pune Mirror

Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Immunohaematology (ICMR-NIIH), Mumbai, has developed a cost-effective point of care (POC) rapid diagnostic test for severe Haemophilia A and Von Willebrand disease (VWD). First of its kind in the world, this POC test is for specific diagnosis of any common bleeding disorder. Working cost of these kits is less than Rs 50 compared with existing conventional test for the diseases that cost around Rs 4,000 to 10,000. The research is expected to help huge number of patients and medical fraternity at large, said officials. The study was conducted by ICMR-PDF Dr Priyanka Kasatkar under the guidance of Dr Shrimati Shetty, scientist F, NIIH. Haemophilia A and VWD are the commonest among bleeding disorders. As per data, incidence of haemophilia A is 1 per 10,000 male births and that of VWD is around 1 per cent of the general population. In India, there is no epidemiological data, and with translation of this data with respect to the population, we may have roughly 80,000-1,00,000 severe haemophilia cases in our country, but the total number registered with Haemophilia Federation India is only around 19,000. Lack of

awareness, diagnostic facilities and high cost of tests are some of the factors for the under diagnosis of bleeding disorders in our country, say experts. The diagnosis can be done within 30 minutes of blood sample collection. The bands are visually detected within 10 minutes of sample application. The kit is composed of special paper membranes which have different components attached on it for the detection of target molecules. Dr Shetty said, “The test kits developed are for the commonest bleeding disorders. For this test, you don’t need any technical expertise or equipments. After putting the blood plasma, the results come in 10 minutes. This can be used even at PHCs.” Dr Shetty further added, “What makes the find unique is the cost-effectiveness and the fact that, at present, there are no instant diagnostics available in any part of the world.”



Indian Scientists develop first cost effective rapid test for common bleeding disorders

May 15, 2019/Speciality Medical Dialogues

ICMR-NIIH, Mumbai has developed a cost-effective POC rapid diagnostic test for severe Haemophilia A & VWD. This is first in the world POC test for specific diagnosis of any common bleeding disorder. Working cost of these kits is less than Rs. 50 in comparison to existing conventional test for the diseases that cost around Rs. 4000 to 10000. Haemophilia A and VWD are the commonest among bleeding disorders. As per the Western data, the incidence of Haemophilia A is 1 per 10,000 male births and that of VWD is around 1% of the general population. In India, there is no epidemiological data and with translation of this data with respect to the population, we may have roughly 80000-100000 severe Haemophilia cases in our country, but the total number registered with Haemophilia Federation India (HFI) is only around 19000. Lack of awareness, lack of diagnostic facilities, high cost of tests are some of the factors for the underdiagnosis of bleeding disorders in our country. Diagnosis of VWD requires a battery of expensive investigations. Patients with severe Haemophilia A or VWD can have life-threatening spontaneous or post-traumatic bleeding like brain haemorrhage and gastrointestinal bleed or they may have bled into joints or superficial bleeding from the nose or gums. In an Emergency Medical setting, it is important to have a quick diagnosis of bleeding disorders for treatment with specific products like the blood components or commercially available factor concentrates which are exorbitantly expensive.

ICMR develops affordable diagnostic test kit for bleeding disorders

May 15, 2019/The Week

Soon, diagnosing common bleeding disorders will be fast, cheap and accessible. Mumbai-based National Institute of Immunohaematology (**ICMR-NIIH**) has developed a new point-of-care test to diagnose common bleeding disorders such as Haemophilia A and von Willebrand disease (VWD). “Currently, the diagnostics available for these common disorders are expensive, require expertise and special equipment. This test is a simple one and results can be obtained in a few minutes,” Dr Shrimati Shetty, senior scientist, ICMR-NIIH told THE WEEK. The diagnosis can be done within 30 minutes of blood sample collection, and the bands are visually detected within 10 minutes of sample application. The kit is composed of special paper membranes which have different components attached on it for the detection of target molecules. The test will cost around Rs 50, and is likely to be available at primary health centres in the country. Among bleeding disorders, Haemophilia A and VWD are the commonest, Shetty said. As per the Western data, the incidence

of Haemophilia A is 1 per 10,000 male births and that of VWD is around 1 per cent of the general population. In India, however, there is no epidemiological data, but if calculated as per the same incidence rate, we may have roughly 80,000-100,000 severe Haemophilia cases in our country. “The total number of patients registered with Haemophilia Federation India (HFI) is only around 19,000. This is because of a lack of awareness, diagnostic facilities and high costs of tests,” said Shetty, adding that these diseases were under-diagnosed in the country.



ICMR develops world's cheapest rapid test kit for blood disorders

May 15, 2019/Medi Bulletin

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has developed an affordable test kit for diagnosis of common blood disorders such as severe Haemophilia A and von Willebrand disease (VWD). According to the ICMR scientists, the diagnosis can be done within 30 minutes of blood sample collection. Hemophilia is an inherited disorder of blood clotting where deficiency of certain clotting factors leads to excessive bleeding for a longer time than others after any injury, injections, tooth extractions or operations. In Hemophilia A clotting factor VIII is deficient and in Hemophilia B clotting factor IX is lacking. The cost-effective point of care (POC) rapid diagnostic test developed by the ICMR- National Institute of Immunohaematology (NIIH), Mumbai is first in the world POC test for specific diagnosis of any common bleeding disorder. Working cost of these kits is less than Rs. 50 in comparison to existing conventional test for the diseases that cost around Rs. 4000 to ₹10000, the ICMR on Tuesday said. Lack of awareness, lack of diagnostic facilities and high cost of tests are some of the factors for the under diagnosis of bleeding disorders in India, the ICMR said. Diagnosis of VWD requires a battery of expensive tests. Patients with severe Haemophilia A or VWD can have life threatening spontaneous or post-traumatic bleeding like brain haemorrhage and gastrointestinal bleed or they may have bleeding into joints or superficial bleeding from the nose or gums.

Medical body develops affordable test kit to diagnose blood disorders

May 16, 2019/The Pioneer

In a major breakthrough which would go a long way in cutting down medical costs of the patients with severe Hemophilia A and von Willebrand Disease (vWD,) the **ICMR**- National Institute of Immunohaematology (NIIH), Mumbai has developed a cost-effective point-of-care (POC) rapid diagnostic test for the blood disorders. This would cost a patient less than Rs 50 in comparison to existing conventional test for the diseases that cost around Rs 4,000 to Rs 10,000. India has become the world's first country to develop POC test for specific diagnosis of any common bleeding disorder, the ICMR has claimed. Haemophilia A and vWD are the commonest among bleeding disorders. As per the Western data, the incidence of Haemophilia A is 1 per 10,000 male births and that of vWD is around 1 per cent of the general population. “In India, there is no epidemiological data and with translation of this data with respect to the population, the country may have roughly 80,000-1,00,000 severe haemophilia cases, but the total number registered with Haemophilia Federation India (HFI) is only around 19,000,” a senior official from the ICMR said. At present, lack of awareness, lack of diagnostic facilities, high cost of tests are some of the factors for the underdiagnosis of bleeding disorders in the country.

Study to identify dengue hotspots across country

May 17, 2019/The Indian Express



Taking a step towards introduction of a vaccine for dengue, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** is conducting a baseline prevalence study across the country to identify hotspots of the vector-borne disease. The study is being conducted in three phases across 15 states. “We are conducting serological tests to check dengue to understand the need of the vaccine. In the first phase, we have collected 12,300 samples so far. The study will help us to identify areas most affected by the disease and thereafter we can assess the need to introduce the vaccine in those areas,” Dr Balram Bhargava, director general of ICMR, told The Indian Express. Dr Randeep Guleria, director of AIIMS, said, “In India, the vaccine for dengue is not available yet, but the Centre is working towards it. The vaccine, once developed, will have to cover all four dengue strains. To bring in the vaccine, we need to check the efficacy and safety of the drug. It can create complications if given to a person who has never suffered from dengue.” Meanwhile, ahead of the monsoon season, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has asked all central government-run hospitals to set up a dengue corner, a facility dedicated to providing assistance to patients diagnosed with the vector-borne disease. A team of special doctors and nursing staff will attend to patients admitted at the dengue ward. “There should be a designated area for such patients so they can walk in easily at the time of emergency,” said Dr Ashutosh Biswas, department of medicine, AIIMS.

Set up dedicated dengue corner: Min to hospitals

May 17, 2019/The Pioneer

The Union Health Ministry has directed all hospitals to set up a dedicated ‘dengue corner’ inside the medical institution in order to reduce the number of cases. The direction came before monsoon season arrives to tackle vector borne diseases. According to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) doctors, every year about 20 to 30 severely ill dengue patients die at AIIMS. “Dengue vaccine is not available in India as of now. We are not sure about the safety and efficacy of the existing vaccine among the Indian population. Before, that we need to do research as 70 percent of the population should be G positive. i.e. a person should have previous infection. For this, ICMR is preparing a surveillance data,” said Dr Ashutosh Biswas, Department of Medicine (AIIMS). “As medical researchers are still figuring out the safety and efficacy of dengue vaccine, taking precautionary measures is the best option to avoid it. In many cases, patients came at AIIMS after private hospitals referred them that complicate the problem further,” he said.

The **India Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has still not given thumbs up to the existing dengue vaccine which is available in 20 countries around the world, he added. “At AIIMS, mortality rate in dengue is 7 to 8 per cent. Nationally, it is less than 2 percent. The mortality rate of mosquito borne disease is high because of serious cases. We are giving training to the resident doctors, para-medical staff and nurse how to manage dengue treatment,” Dr Biswas said, adding that a special ward for dengue patients known as ‘dengue corner’ will also be set up.

“This will ensure a system which will have enough manpower, medicines, blood bank, laboratories and equipments,” Dr Biswas said. He further said that last year more than one lakh people were infected with dengue and it claimed over 172 lives across the country.

India: ICMR Licenses Shigella Vaccine Technology To Hilleman Laboratories



May 17, 2019/Mondaq

On April 23, 2019, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** licensed the technology for Shigella vaccine for further scaling up and commercialisation to MSD Wellcome Trust Hilleman Laboratories Pvt Ltd.1 Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL), New Delhi, executed the License Agreement with NICED on behalf of ICMR and Hilleman Labs. The technology was developed by ICMR-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED). Shigella Vaccine in the form of heat treated/formalin killed vaccines as well as next generation vaccines including OmpA nano-formulation and OMVs (Outer Membrane Vesicles) is developed to address the need for controlling Shigella infection. In view of no licensed Shigella vaccine and emergence of increased antimicrobial resistance, the vaccines are the only effective tool to fight against the disease. The Shigella vaccine, developed by ICMR-NICED is expected to have a huge potential and likely to benefit children living in low and middle-income settings. The licensed Shigella vaccine candidate has been developed through support from ICMR, Okayama University, Japan and National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan. The translation of the licensed Shigella vaccine candidate to a market-ready product will involve a stringent pre-clinical and clinical development pathway before it reaches the market.

About Shigella

Shigellosis is an infectious disease, marked by bloody diarrhoea with or without fever caused by Shigella species with huge disease burden globally causing ~125 million diarrhoeal episodes annually, around 160,000 deaths, with a third of these associated with children under five years age. Management of shigellosis includes improvement of sanitation, rehydration therapy and most essentially, antibiotic therapy. Considering the global emergence of multidrug resistance (MDR), absence of effective Shigella vaccine and one of the prioritised vaccines recommended by the WHO; developing this indigenous vaccine against shigellosis is the need of the hour and is a major breakthrough.

With regards,

Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi
Information Interface Officer/PRO
Indian Council of Medical Research-
Department of Health Research
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
proicmr@gmail.com, syed.adil@icmr.gov.in
Ext. 286, Phone. 26589130