Update on Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV)

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Raburn Mallory MD
Senior Director Clinical Development
MedImmune/AstraZeneca
Update on *in vitro*, *in vivo*, and clinical investigations to improve H1N1pdm09 effectiveness of LAIV

- LAIV showed reduced effectiveness against H1N1pdm09 strains in the 2013-14 and 2015-16 seasons, resulting in ACIP recommendation not to use the vaccine in the US
- In 2016-17, LAIV effectiveness for H3N2 strains was moderate and comparable to IIV
- *In vitro* investigations identified reduced replicative fitness of post-pandemic H1N1 strains as the likely root cause of reduced effectiveness (presented at Feb 2017 ACIP meeting)
  - A/Slovenia strain with improved replicative fitness selected for 2017-18 LAIV formulation
- Since February, an improved ferret efficacy model has been developed
  - A/Slovenia provided greater protection than recent H1N1pdm09 LAIV strains, similar to a previous clinically highly efficacious H1N1 strain
- Data available in December from randomized study in US children comparing A/Slovenia and 2015-16 H1N1pdm09 LAIV strain (A/Bolivia)
  - Anticipated that study results, combined with improvements made to strain selection process, will help inform ACIP recommendation on future use of LAIV in US within the next 4 months
LAIv was effective against H3N2 in 2016-2017, comparable to IIV

1 Estimate for all strains regardless of match to vaccine, except where noted; LAIV estimate not available for US and IIV estimate not available for UK.

2 Estimate for matched strains

3 Presented at Japan Ministry of Health 25 Aug 2017; test-negative study conducted in children < 6 years of age given two doses of vaccine.

4 Efficacy estimates for A strains; >90% of A strains were H3N2 strains.

5 Unadjusted estimate.
Improved ferret model of vaccine virus fitness

• Ferrets are the most well-established animal model of human influenza virus replication and vaccine immunogenicity

• Improved previous ferret model of LAIV efficacy on multiple parameters
  - Tested H1N1 strains with known efficacy/effectiveness in human
  - Evaluated quadrivalent formulation
  - Reduced dose from $10^7$ (human dose) to $10^4$ virus particles (ferret appropriate dose)

• Clinically relevant endpoints
  - Virus replication: pediatric absorbent swab and nasal turbinate recovery
  - Immunogenicity: HAI and neutralizing antibody
  - Clinical symptoms: fever by telemetry (every 15mins)
Reduced challenge virus shedding in vaccinated ferrets correlates with observed effectiveness in children.

**Nasal Swab – Protection from wildtype challenge**

- **Highly effective**
- **Reduced clinical effectiveness**

**Virus Titre (TCID50/mL/day)**

- **Unvaccinated**
- **Vaccinated**

- **NC99**: H1N1 A/New Caledonia/20/99
- **CAL09**: pdm09 H1N1 A/California/07/09
- **BOL13**: pdm09 H1N1 A/Bolivia/559/2013

A/Slovenia demonstrates improved protection in ferret model

Nasal Swab – Protection from wildtype challenge

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<thead>
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In vitro and in vivo investigations confirm A/Slovenia has improved fitness

- A/Slovenia has improved replication in primary human nasal epithelium cells
- A/Slovenia has improved ability to sustain multiple cycles of viral replication
- A/Slovenia shows improved protection in ferrets that may correlate with clinical effectiveness

• An ongoing clinical study in US children is evaluating how the in vitro and in vivo lab findings correspond with shedding and immune responses to the strain
A pediatric study is underway to compare new A/Slovenia strain with previous A/Bolivia strain

**Design**

- Randomized, double-blind, study enrolled 200 children 24 to <48 months of age
  - Age group selected to maximize shedding/immune responses and ability to differentiate between strains
- Subjects randomized (~65 subjects per group) at 1:1:1 ratio to receive two doses of:
  - LAIV4 2017-2018: A/H1N1 Slovenia strain
  - LAIV4 2015-2016: A/H1N1 Bolivia strain
  - LAIV3 2015-2016: A/H1N1 Bolivia strain

**Primary endpoint:**

- HAI antibody seroconversion rates after each dose

**Secondary endpoints:**

- Neutralizing antibody seroconversion rates after each dose
- Mucosal IgA increases after each dose
- Shedding after each dose
- Safety
Pediatric study objectives and limitations

Objective:
• Primary objective is to compare shedding and immunogenicity of A/Slovenia and A/Bolivia H1N1 strains in LAIV4 formulations
  ➢ Evaluating H1N1pdm09 strain performance in 2015-16 and 2017-18 LAIV4 formulations

Limitations:
• Study is powered to detect 20–25% differences in percentage of subjects with seroconversion and shedding vaccine virus

• LAIV formulations chosen based on those with real-world effectiveness data
  ➢ Designed to compare different H1N1 strains, however also have different H3N2 strains

• In seropositive subjects, shedding and seroconversion are insensitive measures of LAIV efficacy
Summary

- Data from five clinical studies indicate that LAIV was effective for H3N2 strains, with a consolidated estimate of 45%, and that effectiveness was comparable to that seen for IIV.

- *In vitro* investigations identified reduced replicative fitness of post-pandemic H1N1 strains as the likely root cause of reduced effectiveness (presented at Feb 2017 ACIP meeting).

- A/Slovenia strain with improved replicative fitness selected for 2017-18 LAIV formulation.

- Improved ferret efficacy model supports inclusion of A/Slovenia strain in the vaccine.
  - A/Slovenia provided greater protection than recent H1N1pdm09 LAIV strains, similar to previous clinically efficacious H1N1 strain.

- Data available in December from randomized study in US children comparing A/Slovenia and 2015-16 H1N1 LAIV strain, A/Bolivia.
  - Anticipated that study results, combined with improvements made to strain selection process, will help inform ACIP recommendation on future use of LAIV in US within the next 4 months.
Thank you!