

# Micro Labs to retail dengue-fighter pill across India

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MICRO Labs Limited is strengthening its distribution network to make its recently launched Caripill, which helps to increase the platelet count in patients suffering from dengue, available across India.

Given the rising number of dengue cases among children, it also plans to introduce paediatric Caripill syrup for easy consumption and plans to launch it soon.

Launched two months ago, the pill is made from Carica papaya leaf extract and has been approved by the ministry of Ayush. The company has seen the sale of pills touch Rs 1.8 crore in August from Rs 41 lakh a month ago in value terms, according to G Jayaraj, executive vice president, Micro Labs.

"We are now positioning the Caripill only for dengue, where the disease



**PLATELET PLUS:** Caripill helps to increase the platelet count of dengue patients

burden is very high. The incidence is high — the difference between reported and unreported cases could be 300 fold," he said.

Caripill is priced Rs 25 per tablet with the dosage of administering one pill (1100 mg) three times a day, for five days. "It is needed only in cases where the blood platelet count is below one lakh. We have

seen positive results with a decrease in the haemorrhage condition," he said adding that this reduced the financial burden associated with treating dengue, which in most cases involve platelet transfusion.

Dengue is emerging as a serious public health problem globally, with 2.5 billion people at risk and 50 million dengue infections occurring annually, according to a report from the World Health Organisation. There is a huge surge in dengue cases in India, among all age groups of people with low immunity.

The virus, which spreads through a mosquito bite, causes severe eye pain, body ache, joint pain, high fever, exhaustion, affects mobility and is characterised by a dramatic reduction in platelet count in dengue patients.

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Company / New drug