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## First dengue vaccine in, set to debut in Mexico

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SANOFI'S DENGUE vaccine is set to make its market debut in Mexico, the French drugmaker said on Wednesday, adding that it expects to have filed for market approval in some 20 countries by year-end.

Sanofi Pasteur, the group's vaccines division, said Mexico had approved the preventive treatment, called Dengvaxia, for all four dengue virus serotypes (including the ones prevalent in India), but only for patients aged 9 to 45 who live in areas where the disease is endemic.

This means the world's first dengue vaccine has no approval yet for use on young children, a population considered to be most at risk, or for use by tourists.

Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne disease caused by four virus serotypes (1 to 4) as categorised by the World Health Organisation. Overall, the disease is seen as a threat to about half of the world's population. Some 400 million people are believed to be infected annually.

Guillaume Leroy, who leads the dengue team at Sanofi Pasteur, said the vaccine acted best as an immune booster for patients with some previous exposure.

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New drugs.