Does the experience of diarrhoea among travellers vaccinated with whole cell/recombinant B-subunit oral cholera vaccine influence their willingness of being vaccinated again.

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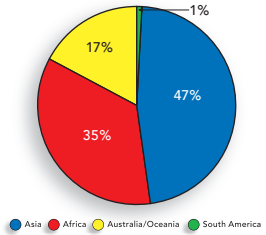
Diarrhoea is a common problem among travelers. [1,2,3,4,5] The aetiology remains unknown in many cases, but the majority of the identified causal organisms are bacterial. Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli (ETEC) is the most common pathogen responsible for 30 – 60 % of all travelers' diarrhoea, but with a great variation by seasons and geographic areas. [6,7,8]

Presently, the only commercially available vaccine against travelers' diarrhoea caused by ETEC and cholera is the oral whole-cell/r-BS cholera vaccine (Dukoral®, in Norway Echoral®). As the cholera toxin and the heat-labile toxin (LT) of ETEC show an 80 % amino acid homology, the toxins cross-react immunologically [9,10,11]. The oral whole-cell/r-BS cholera vaccine
has been shown to have approx. a 60 % protective efficacy against LT-ETEC. [12,13,14]

Dukoral®, has been marketed in Norway since 1997 for protection against cholera and LT-ETEC diarrhoea. In 2005 approximately 144 000 dose were sold. (Norway: 4.6 million population). As the vaccine has efficacy against cholera and ETEC, the vaccine will only protect the travelers exposed to these bacteria.

Travel destinations all travellers



Take Dukoral again?

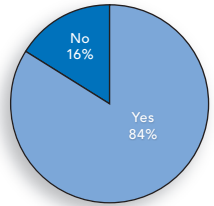
The ability of the travelers to value the vaccine, if they experience diarrhoea has been questioned, as the vaccine is reducing the risk for diarrhoea, but is not giving a total protection This study was performed to establish if an experienced episode of diarrhoea did influence the traveler's decision to take the vaccine prior to a future journey.

The study was performed at 3 vaccination centers in metropolitan Oslo. Travelers, who had been recommended the oral whole-cell/r-BS cholera vaccine as a travel vaccine, were asked if the were willing to fill in a questionnaire after their return from their travel. Only travelers who had not used the vaccine previously were included in the study. In total 297 travellers answered the questionnaire. Among the travellers 32 % experience diarrhoea.

No definition of diarrhoea was given, as it is the participants' own concept of diarrhoea that is relevant for this study.

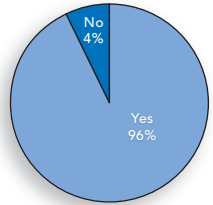
Of the diarrhoea cases only 12% stated that they were dissatisfied with the vaccine compared to 5 % among those who did not have diarrhoea.

Take Dukoral again.



The willingness to take Dukoral again among travellers who had experienced diarrhoea.

This study established that most customers are fully capable to value the information of diarrhoea risk reduction due to a vaccine, and that the experience of diarrhoea does not interfere with the trust of the vaccine, and consequently not with the trust in the vaccinator.



The willingness to take Dukoral again among travellers who did not experienced diarrhoea

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