

Bharat Biotech Unveils Oral Cholera Vaccine Amid Global Shortage

Bharat Biotech launched Hillchol (BBV131), a new oral cholera vaccine developed with Hilleman Laboratories, addressing a global shortage amid rising cholera cases. With only one existing supplier, the vaccine helps fill a critical gap, as demand exceeds 100 million doses annually.

Bharat Biotech International Ltd has launched **Hillchol (BBV131)**, a novel single-strain oral cholera vaccine (OCV) developed under license from **Hilleman Laboratories**. This launch is critical as global demand for OCVs exceeds **100 million** doses annually, and there has been a deficit of approximately **40 million doses** due to limited supply.

Global Cholera Vaccine Shortage

With cholera cases and deaths rising since 2021, the need for OCVs has become more urgent. Currently, only one manufacturer supplies these vaccines worldwide, contributing to the significant shortfall.

Vaccine Details

Hillchol is administered orally on **Day 0 and Day 14** and is suitable for individuals over one year of age. Available in a single-dose respule, the vaccine requires storage **between +2°C and +8°C**. Bharat Biotech's manufacturing facilities in Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar can produce up to 200 million doses annually, aiming to address the global vaccine shortage.

Collaborative Development

The vaccine was developed through a collaboration between **Hilleman Laboratories, Bharat Biotech, the University of Gothenburg, and Gotovax AB**. The initiative aligns with the Global Task Force on Cholera Control's (GTFCC) goal of reducing cholera-related deaths by 90% by 2030.

Bharat Biotech International Ltd: Key Points

Founded: 1996

Headquarters: Hyderabad, India

Specialization: Vaccine development, production, and distribution

Notable Products: Covaxin (COVID-19 vaccine), Rotavac (rotavirus vaccine), Typbar TCV (typhoid vaccine), Hillchol (oral cholera vaccine)

Global Impact: Supplies vaccines to over 123 countries, known for pioneering affordable vaccines for global health

Research & Development: Focuses on innovative vaccine technologies, with partnerships in both public and private sectors

Manufacturing Capacity: State-of-the-art facilities with large-scale production capabilities, including a capacity of up to 200 million doses annually for Hillchol

Regulatory Approvals: Approved by major global health organizations, including WHO and national regulatory authorities

Recent Achievement: Launched Hillchol (BBV131), a novel oral cholera vaccine developed in collaboration with Hilleman Laboratories in 2024.

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