

Combination Vaccines for Global Health: Why their importance continues to grow

24th DCVMN Annual General Meeting – Session 9: Innovations in Science & Technology

Peter M. Dull, MD
Deputy Director Integrated Clinical Vaccine Development,
Vaccine Development, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
21 September 2023

COMBINATION VACCINES HAVE POTENTIAL TO ADDRESS SEVERAL BARRIERS --- BUT PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES EXIST

Challenges with vaccine delivery risk successful roll-out of high-impact candidates...



Increased costs to countries & tightening fiscal constraints



More **complex schedules** with new immunization platforms required



Crowded "space on limbs" and delivery challenges (e.g., storage)

Challenges put vaccines in development atrisk of limited or unsuccessful roll-out: RSV, GBS, HEV, Paratyphi A, malaria, Shigella, HIV, next-gen TB and Rota

...combination vaccines are part of the solution but difficult for countries and developers to evaluate....

Technical and market requirements are complex and require understanding of interplay of several factors.....

"Must have" compatibility

Epidemiology, dosing, route of administration

Technical feasibility

CMC complexity, regulatory pathways

...but can result in big advantages:

Impact

Reduction in number of injections / increase in coverage

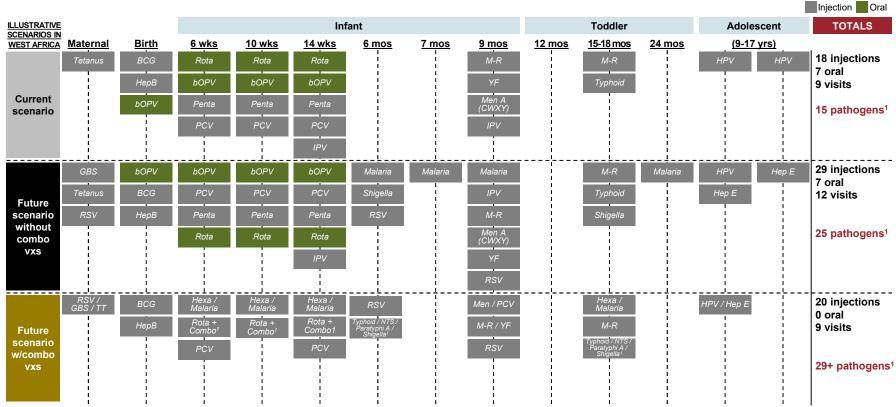
...important to develop a shortlist prioritizes combinations with direct impact & product enablement

Combinations that allow us address delivery challenges

Combinations that enable pullthrough of additional products

(e.g., regional vaccines, enteric vaccines for lower burden diseases)

THE PRESENT, FORESEEN FUTURE, AND POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE FUTURE WITH OPTIMIZED COMBINATION VACCINES



^{1.} Hypothesis for 2 potential antigens to combine with a novel injectable Rotavirus which could include Adenovirus 40/41 and Norovirus 2. Includes Typhoid, Shigella (quadrivalent), Paratyphi A, Nontyphoidal Salmonella. IPV and OPV are not counted twice. Pathogens only counted once during entire schedule

COMBINATION VACCINES – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **Administrative incompatibility** All antigens must live on same schedule/same # of doses
- Chemical incompatibility Some require adjuvants (e.g., Alum); some are incompatible with Alum; Ph stability; varying tonicity requirements; compatibility of excipients, potential for precipitation/flocculation of antigens
- **Epidemiological incompatibility** Particularly for vaccines with limited persistence, need for vaccines to be timed with peak onset of diseases, e.g., Rota peak precedes Typhoid peak
- Intellectual property incompatibility Who owns the patents? Tech transfer issues/legal around IP
- **Economic incompatibility** Combination vaccines may be more expensive that stand alone
- **Manufacturing incompatibility** Likelihood of technical failure increases with each additional antigen, particularly for heterogeneous combos (i.e., less challenging than adding PCV valences)
- Regulatory challenges Licensing based on clinical endpoints may be unrealistic, can you "pull through" new antigens affixed to a licensed product. "The typhoid tugboat?"
- Market uncertainties If you build it, will they come?? Expensive and hard to develop so must have confidence it will be taken up.

Combination Vaccines for Global Health ---- Summary

- Hard, but necessary task with big and disruptive impact upside
- Recent successes remind us they can be done --- e.g., wP-based Hexas
- New platforms (e.g., mRNA) may be more amenable to combinations

Combination Vaccines for Global Health ---- Summary

- Hard, but necessary task with big and disruptive impact upside
- Recent successes remind us they can be done --- e.g., wP-based Hexas
- New platforms (e.g., mRNA) may be more amenable to combinations
- Regulatory "creativity" needs to be embraced ---- with scientific backing ---- to realize the potential for novel combinations
 - ? Typhoid conjugate
 - ? Penta / Hexa
 - ? Meningitis

