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CCHF Vaccine

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CCHF Vaccine : Crimean-Congo Hæmorrhagic Fever Vaccine

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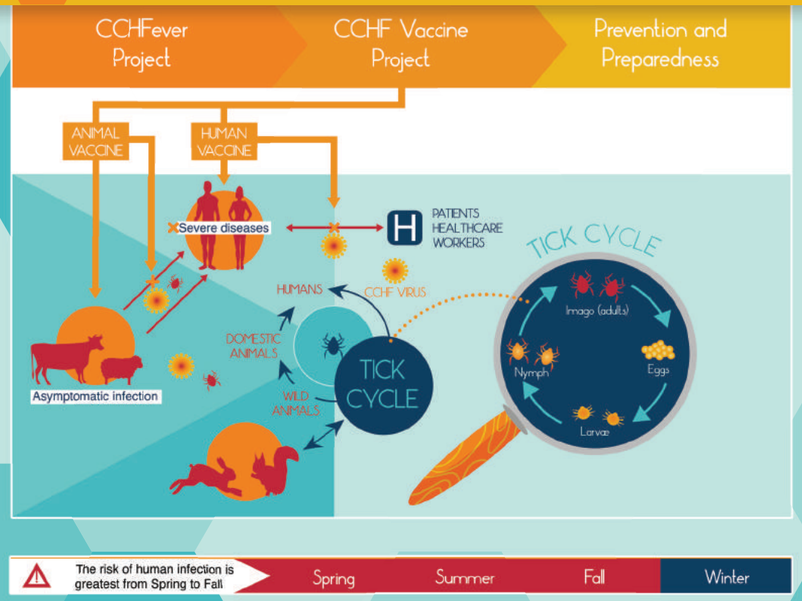
CONTEXT

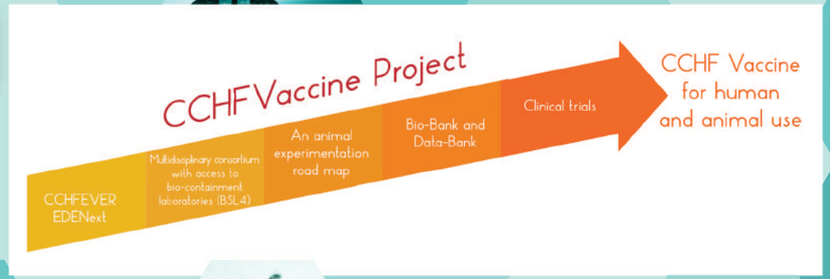
Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) virus is a neglected emerging pathogen, which causes widespread and fatal epidemics in humans.

Wildlife and domesticated animals are important facilitators of the spread of this deadly virus directly and through ticks that they host. Hyalomma ticks (the principle tick vector species) are believed to form only stable populations in arid regions south of the 50th latitude in Europe.

Today there is no European Medicines Agency approved vaccine against CCHF virus.

TRANSMISSION CYCLE





An attached tick on the backside of a CCHF patient.

Large ecchymosis on the arm of a CCHF patient.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the CCHFVaccine project is to develop and deliver a vaccine, which can significantly increase our capacity to control the situation of Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) disease on a global basis.

The vaccine candidates developed within this project will not only be developed for human use but also for domestic animals, in endemic and non-endemic areas.

STRATEGY

To achieve this overall aim, an intensive work plan will be put in place (based on the previous CCH Fever and EDENext projects) with the following specific objectives :

•to produce already available and promising vaccine candidates and also further establish new vaccine candidates for CCHFV;

•to bring several unique animal models into front line vaccine research and to implement a roadmap for animal model evaluation;

•to ensure that an immune mediated protection is adequately understood and that the candidate vaccine(s) can elicit an appropriate and protective immune response;

•to establish a clinical trial road map and perform clinical trials at Phase I for the most promising vaccine candidates;

•to widely publicise the project and its results to public health bodies, NGOs, outbreak management teams.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

This project aims to build a multidisciplinary research network able to deliver vaccine candidates, methods, procedures eligible for clinical trials with a special focus on prevention of this disease. Thanks to the background, unique facilities and tools available among the consortium participants, it will deliver interventions for countering the threat of this infection in Europe and in endemic areas of the world.

This work program will fill gaps in CCHF virus research on immunology and vaccinology. The outcome of this multidisciplinary research project will include novel and new vaccine candidates.

This project will also address the bottleneck for vaccine development of viral emerging epidemics. It will also focus on strengthening research potential, by promoting research excellence, training and capacity building and by increasing visibility and awareness of the disease in endemic areas of Europe.

MAIN ACTIVITIES