The TBE vaccination

One licensed vaccine (FSME-IMMUN) (Tico-Vac) is available currently. It is produced from virus grown in chick fibroblasts and then inactivated by formaldehyde; it is supplied as a suspension of 0.5ml for injection in a pre-filled syringe.

The vaccine contains the Neudörfl virus strain, has been shown to be effective against the European subtype of TBE, and is probably effective against the more aggressive Far Eastern subtype.

The vaccine contains aluminium hydroxide and trace quantities of neomycin and gentamicin, and is thiomersal-free. It is inactivated, does not contain live organisms and cannot cause the disease against which it protects.

Dosage and schedule

- First dose of 0.5ml (0.25ml (FSME-IMMUN) (Tico-Vac) Junior for children aged one year and below 16 years of age) at day 0.
- Second dose of 0.5ml (0.25ml of (FSME-IMMUN) (Tico-Vac) Junior for children aged one year and below 16 years of age) one to three months after the first dose.
- Third dose of 0.5ml (0.25ml (FSME-IMMUN) (Tico-Vac) Junior for children aged one year and below 16 years of age) five to 12 months after the second dose.

Supplies

(FSME-IMMUN®) (Tico-Vac®) and (FSME-IMMUN) (Tico-Vac) Junior are both currently available from MASTA (Tel: 0113 238 7555) and Baxter Healthcare Ltd (Tel: 01635 206140).
Tick-borne encephalitis

Amended 25 September 2012

Infants and children under 36 months of age

Although the vaccine is not licensed in the UK for use on patients below 36 months of age, it is used routinely in Austria from 18 months of age. Use of the vaccine should be considered in young children if they are going to be at high risk.

The manufacturer notes that the product available in Austria for those under 36 months, (FSME-IMMUN) Junior, may be available on a named-patient basis via MASTA until the UK licence for it is granted.