

Pharmaceuticals Europe

GSK's contribution to women's health



Women's health in Europe

Women constitute more than 50% of a country's population. The prevalence of some diseases is higher in women, whilst other diseases can affect men and women differently.

In addition to our current portfolio of medicines and vaccines, GSK is launching a number of breakthrough treatments for diseases affecting women, including breast and cervical cancers and osteoporosis. In addition, we are active in the community, developing partnerships and providing resources to help improve women's health in under served communities around the world.

Breast cancer

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women, however, in Europe mortality from breast cancer is decreasing, especially in countries like the UK and Germany. This decline can be attributed to screening programmes and early surgical intervention combined with new medical treatments.

GSK recently presented promising results of its breast cancer drug candidate *Tyverb*®, a targeted treatment for women with metastatic breast cancer. The safety and efficacy data from *Tyverb*'s® clinical studies suggest that the drug may be a treatment option for breast cancer where brain metastasis has already developed.

Cervical cancer

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide and affects women in the prime of their lives. In Europe, cervical cancer is a serious public health problem, with around 60,000 cases of cervical cancer and 30,000 deaths each year. The majority of cases appear when women are between the ages of 30 and 50, when they are actively involved in their careers, caring for their families or both.

In countries with effective screening programmes, cervical cancer has been substantially reduced, however, screening does not detect all pre-cancerous lesions or prevent cervical cancer.

Cervarix™ is our cervical cancer candidate vaccine, developed to prevent infection and lesions from the two most prevalent cancer causing types of HPV, specifically 16 & 18. We submitted this vaccine to the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA) in March 2006.





Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis is one of the world's most common and debilitating diseases, affecting 75 million people in Europe, the USA and Japan. In Europe alone, someone has a fracture as a result of osteoporosis every 30 seconds.

Osteoporosis causes bones to become fragile and brittle, thus increasing the risk of fracture. The condition affects one in three women over the age of 50. *Bonviva*®, co-developed by GSK and Roche, provides bone strengthening benefits and is available as a once monthly tablet or quarterly intravenous injection.

Many patients experience challenges with their osteoporosis treatment, with over two thirds of patients on weekly treatment discontinuing after one year. By offering a once monthly treatment option *Bonviva*® helps patients to stay on therapy and ultimately reduce their risk of fracture.

Promoting women's health

We are working to empower women, reduce child mortality and improve maternal health through our community partnership programmes. Examples include:

Healthcare in Children's Shelters in Spain

– The Mensajeros de la Paz project – helps teenage migrants who find themselves with small children to support with basic healthcare provision, parental training and safe houses for those at risk of more than just poverty. The project has two key areas. Eight home shelters run by “Mensajeros de la Paz” have been provided for young people who have been mistreated or abandoned. Additionally, the Child Centre in Madrid which is providing overall medical support and social integration to young children and their mothers through educational activities in a programme entitled “Knowing your Child.”

Prevention of Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV/AIDS in Kenya

– in 2007 a programme to improve and scale up HIV and AIDS healthcare services at 60 facilities will be launched in Kenya. The project will provide training for healthcare professionals and integrate community support and outreach services to combat stigma and discrimination. A key objective will be to increase uptake of Prevention of mother to child transmission treatment and paediatric care services.





Across Europe

In 2006 Health Ministers from across the European Union formally recognised the need to focus on women's health issues. We are responding to this request by focusing on the development of innovative vaccines and treatments as well as community projects to improve the health of women across Europe.



Key facts

- Our mission is to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer
- Over 15,000 people work in our research teams to discover new medicines
- We are a research based-pharmaceutical company and we spend eight million Euros every day on research and development – €435,000 per hour
- We screen about 65 million compounds every year in our search for new medicines.



For more information please see gsk.com