



Current Perceptions of Travellers' Diarrhoea Treatments and Vaccines: Results From a Postal Questionnaire Survey and Physician Interviews

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Abstract:

Background. Travellers' diarrhoea (TD) occurs at high frequency in individuals from industrialised countries visiting destinations in nonindustrialised countries and may result in chronic complications such as Guillain–Barré syndrome.

Methods. We distributed a questionnaire requesting information on physicians' perceptions of currently available TD products, hypothesised TD vaccines, and aspects of travellers' behavior. Some physicians also were interviewed by telephone.

Results. We obtained completed questionnaires from named individuals at 68 UK/US clinics. These individuals reported seeing a total of approximately 76,500 travellers per year, and estimated that 61% (UK) and 77% (US) of travellers present 2 weeks or more predeparture. More US (92%) than UK (43%) travellers are advised to purchase TD products. In both countries, 85% of travellers would be prescribed an ideal TD vaccine, but only ~47% (UK) and ~65% (US) would purchase this vaccine. About 80% of physicians would recommend an hypothesized 100% effective *Campylobacter* vaccine for travellers visiting regions where 30% of TD cases are caused by *Campylobacter*.

Conclusions. Physicians support the concept of TD vaccines, including campylobacteriosis vaccines. An ideal TD vaccine might be purchased by up to 16% (UK) and 28% (US) of relevant travellers. A 100% effective *Campylobacter* vaccine might be purchased by over 2 million UK/US travellers per year.

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