

Scientific Committee on Vector-borne Diseases

Pig Vaccination as a Control Strategy to Reduce Japanese Encephalitis in Humans in Hong Kong

Hong Kong has recorded five human local Japanese encephalitis (JE) cases in 2004, a pattern markedly different from that in the past ten years. Since pigs are known amplifying hosts for JE, pig vaccination is being considered by the Administration as a means of control in Hong Kong.

2. The Scientific Committee on Vector-borne Diseases (SCVBD) has discussed in depth the subject of pig vaccination as a control strategy to reduce the risk of Japanese encephalitis in humans in Hong Kong, taking into consideration local epidemiology, pig farming practices, published literature, correspondence and experience of overseas experts. The SCVBD adopts the following position –

Considering all factors, the SCVBD feels that the overall benefit of pig vaccination as a control strategy remains to be demonstrated. We advise that pilot studies in selected farms in the Yuen Long area may generate useful information to guide risk assessment and decision making.



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