Immunogenicity of the CYD tetravalent dengue vaccine using an accelerated schedule: randomised phase II study in US adults

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Abstract

Background: The live attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine (CYD-TDV) is licensed using a 0-, 6- and 12-month schedule in dengue-endemic areas. An effective shorter schedule may provide more rapid, optimal protection of targeted populations during vaccine campaigns in dengue-endemic countries. We compared immune responses to two schedules of CYD-TDV in a non-endemic population. We also evaluated the impact of yellow fever (YF) co-administration.

Methods: This phase II, open-label, multicentre study enrolled 390 healthy 18–45-year-olds in the USA with no prior exposure to dengue. Participants were randomised (4:4:4:1) to four treatment groups stratified by prior YF vaccine status: Group 1, CYD-TDV standard 0–6–12 months schedule; Group 2, CYD-TDV accelerated 0–2–6 months schedule; Group 3, CYD-TDV accelerated schedule with YF co-administered (dose 1); Group 4, YF vaccination only. Neutralising antibody geometric mean titres (GMTs) and percentages of seropositive participants (antibody titres ≥10 [1/dil]) were measured against each dengue serotype using a 50% plaque reduction neutralisation test.

Results: On D28 post-CYD-TDV dose 3, there were no marked differences in seropositivity rates and GMTs between Groups 1 and 2. In Groups 1 and 2 respectively, 73.4 and 82.4% were dengue seropositive for ≥3 serotypes, with 50.0 and 42.6% seropositive against all four serotypes. Flavivirus status (FV+ or FV−) at baseline did not markedly affect GMTs and seropositivity rates with either schedule. In Groups 1 and 2, GMTs measured 6 months after the third dose decreased against all serotypes, except for a small increase in GMT for serotype 4 in Group 1. In addition, dengue seropositivity remained above 70% for serotypes 2, 3 and 4 in Groups 1 and 2. Co-administration with YF did not affect antibody responses against dengue and YF or impact vaccine safety following completion of the compressed schedule, compared to dengue or YF vaccination alone.

Conclusions: The live attenuated CYD-TDV vaccine given in a compressed schedule in a non-endemic setting can elicit similar antibody responses to the licensed CYD-TDV schedule.

Trial registration: This trial was registered on clinicaltrials.gov, NCT01488890 (December 8, 2011).

Keywords: Dengue, Live attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine, Yellow fever, Vaccination schedule
Background
There are an estimated 390 million dengue virus infections worldwide annually, of which around 100 million are associated with clinical manifestations [1, 2]. The majority of infections occur in endemic regions, particularly South East Asia, India, Central and South America, and Africa [1], with dengue also spreading to previously unaffected areas [2].

The live attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine (CYD-TDV) is approved for use in individuals aged ≥9 years in several endemic countries, administered in 3 doses over a 12-month period (at 0, 6 and 12 months). For endemic populations, an accelerated schedule could provide more rapid protection and increase vaccination compliance in targeted populations. The possibility of using shorter CYD-TDV vaccination schedules therefore needs to be evaluated.

For this study, we elected to describe antibody responses to CYD-TDV in healthy participants in a flavivirus negative, non-endemic setting with the standard vaccination schedule compared to an accelerated, 0–2–6-month schedule. We also evaluated CYD-TDV immunogenicity and safety following concomitant administration with yellow fever (YF) vaccine.

Methods
Study design and participants
This phase II, randomised, open-label, multicentre study was conducted between December 2011 and September 2013 in the United States (NCT01488890; December 8, 2011), in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and the International Conference on Harmonisation-Good Clinical Practice. The study protocol was approved by an Institutional Review Board which covered each study site. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants. The study adheres to CONSORT reporting guidelines.

Healthy 18–45-year-olds were enrolled. For those reporting previous YF vaccination, documentation (Vaccination Card/record) was provided. Key exclusion criteria were: participation in another clinical trial during the 4 weeks preceding first vaccination; women who were pregnant or of childbearing potential or breastfeeding; receipt of previous flavivirus (FV) vaccine (including; receipt of previous flavivirus vaccine). Participants were randomised (4:4:4:1) to four treatment groups, using the permuted block method with stratification of prior YF vaccine status, to receive CYD-TDV at 0, 6 and 12 months (Group 1; ‘standard’ vaccination schedule); 0, 2 and 6 months (Group 2; ‘compressed’ vaccination schedule); 0, 2 and 6 months with concomitant single YF vaccine dose at month 0 (Group 3); or single YF vaccine dose only (Group 4; not described here). Group 1 and 2 participants were stratified by prior YF vaccination status (YF+ or YF−) in the

3 months to 10 years preceding first study vaccine dose, and randomised such that 50% of Group 1 and 2 participants and no participants in Group 3 had prior reported YF. Equal numbers of YF+ and YF− participants were randomised (n = 40 in each) to subsets for antibody kinetic assessment (subgroups K1 and K2). Participants who were YF+ were ineligible for inclusion in Groups 3 or 4. Treatment was allocated using an interactive voice response system or interactive web response. Study duration was 18 months (Fig. 1).

Vaccines
CYD-TDV was presented as a powder for reconstitution in 0.5 mL saline (NaCl 0.4%) immediately before use. Each 0.5 mL dose contained 5 ± 1 log10 cell-culture infectious dose 50% of each of the four live attenuated recombinant CYD-TDV virus serotypes. YF vaccine (YF-VAX; Sanofi-Pasteur) was presented as a powder and reconstituted in saline immediately before use. Each 0.5 mL dose contained ≥4.74 log10 plaque forming units of the 17D YF virus strain. Both vaccines were administered subcutaneously into the deltoid region of the upper arm.

Assessment of CYD-TDV immunogenicity
Dengue antibody responses
Dengue neutralising antibody geometric mean titres (GMTs) and seropositivity rates were determined for each dengue serotype at baseline and various intervals following each CYD-TDV dose. Primary endpoints were dengue antibody response at 28 days and 6 months following completion of standard (Group 1) versus compressed (Group 2) vaccination schedules. Secondary immunogenicity endpoints included: dengue antibody responses at 12 months following completion of the compressed schedule in Groups 2 and 3; dengue antibody responses following doses 1 and 2 in Groups 1 and 2 (irrespective of prior YF vaccination); dengue antibody responses by baseline FV seropositivity (defined as seropositivity to dengue or YF, or both) in Groups 1 and 2; and dengue antibody responses in YF− participants from Group 2 versus Group 3 to assess a potential effect of co-administration with YF vaccine.

GMTs were measured for each dengue virus serotype using a dengue 50% plaque reduction neutralisation test (PRNT50), performed at Sanofi Pasteur’s Global Clinical Immunology Department (GCI), Swiftwater, Pennsylvania, USA. Baseline YF neutralising antibodies were assessed using PRNT80 (Focus Diagnostics Inc., Cypress, California, USA) [3]. Serial two-fold dilutions of serum to be tested, previously heat-inactivated, were mixed with a constant challenge dose of YF vaccinal strain 17D. The mixtures were inoculated in duplicate in wells of a microplate of confluent Vero cells. Following
adsorption, cell monolayers were overlaid. The presence of dengue virus infected cells was indicated by plaque formation. Neutralizing antibody titers were calculated and expressed as the reciprocal dilution reducing the mean plaque count by 50%. Negative control wells represented 100% viral load. Dengue or YF seropositivity was defined as antibody titres $\geq 10$ (1/dil), as previously utilized in the vaccine’s clinical development [4] (Additional file 1: Methods).

**Antibody kinetics**

Subgroups K1 and K2 were assessed for dengue-specific neutralising antibodies and IgM and IgG antibodies before and 7, 14 and 28 days after each CYD-TDV dose. IgM and IgG were measured by enzyme-linked immunoabsorbent assay (ELISA) using commercially available EL1500M and EL1500G DxSelect kits, respectively (Focus Diagnostics Inc., Cypress, California, USA).

**Blood samples**

Blood samples (10 mL) were stored at room temperature for 1–2 h following blood draw and refrigerated; samples were centrifuged within 24 h to collect sera. Sera were stored at or below −20 °C and shipped frozen for analysis.

**Safety assessment**

Participants were monitored for immediate systemic adverse events (AE) during the first 30 min after each vaccine dose. Solicited injection site reactions (pain, erythema, and swelling) were recorded up to 7 days and solicited systemic reactions (fever, headache, malaise, myalgia, and asthenia) up to 14 days after each dose. Unsolicited AEs were recorded up to 28 days. Serious AEs (SAEs) and AEs of special interest (AESIs) were recorded throughout the study.

An early safety review was planned for the first 25% of total participants 14 (+2) days after their first vaccination. Enrolment was to be paused if one of the following was observed in CYD-TDV recipients: an unexpected related SAE, $\geq 20\%$ incidence rate of Grade 3 fever post-dose 1, a serious AESI. No safety concerns were identified at this review, thus enrolment continued as planned.

**Sample size and statistical methods**

For Groups 1–3, 120 participants per group gave a probability of 95% for observing at least 1 AE with true incidence of 2.5%, assuming a dropout rate of 15% a total of 102 evaluable participants was anticipated.
sample size was arbitrarily set to 30 participants for Group 4. This was a descriptive study with no formal hypothesis testing. The 95% confidence intervals (CIs) of point estimates were calculated using normal approximation for quantitative data and exact binomial distribution (Clopper-Pearson method) for proportions. It was assumed that neutralising antibody titres were log-normally distributed.

Immunogenicity data were presented for the full analysis dataset, defined as participants who received at least one CYD-TDV or YF vaccine dose and who had at least one blood sample with post-dose serology results. The safety analysis set comprised participants who received at least one CYD-TDV or YF vaccine injection.

**Results**

**Participants**

A total of 390 participants were included: 120 in each Group 1–3 and 30 in Group 4; 40 participants (20 YF and 20 YF+) from Groups 1 and 2 were enrolled into subgroups K1 and K2, respectively. Overall, 298 (76.4%) participants completed the study (Fig. 2).

Baseline participant characteristics are summarised in Table 1. Dengue seropositivity at baseline (those with \( \geq 10 \) [1/dil] for \( \geq 1 \) serotype) ranged from 7.0 to 7.7%. Of participants who reported prior YF vaccination, 97.5% had YF antibody titres \( \geq 10 \) (1/dil).

**CYD-TDV immunogenicity**

**Impact of compressed CYD-TDV vaccination schedule**

Dengue antibody GMTs and percentages of seropositive participants increased for all serotypes following the third CYD-TDV dose of both schedules. There was no marked difference in GMTs by serotype between the two schedules. For both schedules, the highest GMTs were for serotype 4 and the lowest for serotype 1 (Table 2). At 28 days post-dose 3, 73.4% (Group 1) and 82.4% (Group 2) participants were dengue seropositive for \( \geq 3 \) serotypes, with 50.0 and 42.6% seropositive against all four serotypes.

GMTs, measured 6 months after the third dose, decreased for all serotypes in Groups 1 and 2 with the exception of a small increase in GMT for serotype 4 in Group 1 (Table 2). In addition, dengue seropositivity remained above 70% for serotypes 2, 3 and 4 in Groups 1 and 2.

For the compressed schedule (Groups 2 and 3), no difference in GMTs was observed between 6 and 12 months post-dose 3 for any serotype (Additional file 2: Table S1). Group 1 GMTs were not measured beyond 6 months post-dose 3.

There were no marked differences between compressed and standard schedules in GMTs by serotype 28 days after each of the 3 doses (Additional file 2: Table S2). The 28-day post-dose 2 increase in GMTs was similar for all serotypes irrespective of whether dose 2 was given 2 (Group 2) or 6 months (Group 1) after the first dose (Additional file 2: Table S2). GMTs declined to
were observed 28 days post-dose 2 (data not shown), but were no longer apparent 28 days post-dose 3. GMTs [95% CI] for Group 2 YF− participants versus Group 3: serotype 3, 47.3 [32.5–69.0] versus 30.2 [22.8–40.1] and serotype 4, 89.2 [53.3–149] versus 71.2 [52.0–97.7]; sero¬positivity [95% CI]: serotype 3, 85.4% [72.2–93.9] versus 73.5% [62.7–82.6] and serotype 4, 83.3% [69.8–92.5] versus 84.3% [74.7–91.4].

**Antibody kinetics** For subgroups K1 and K2, dengue IgM levels peaked at 28 days post-dose 1, then declined to the study end (Additional file 2: Figure S1A). The percentage of IgM-positive participants rose from 5.0% pre-dose 1 (both subgroups) to peak values of 72.5% (subgroup K1) and 92.5% (subgroup K2) at 28 days post-dose 1. These percentages dropped to 71.1% at month 2 and 45.7% pre-dose 2 (month 6) for subgroup K1, and 87.5% pre-dose 2 (month 2) for subgroup K2. No substantial increases were observed following doses 2 or 3. Over 50% of participants were IgM-positive up to 14 months post-dose 1 in both subgroups (Additional file 2: Figure S1B).

Dengue IgG levels increased up to 2 months post-dose 1 in both subgroups, and increased further following subsequent doses (Additional file 2: Figure S1A). For both subgroups, the percentage of IgG-positive participants reached at least 70% by 2 months post-dose 1 and 90% by day 14 post-dose 2, remaining above 80% in both subgroups to the study end (Additional file 2: Figure S1B). A limited number of participants (1–2 per subgroup) had a ≥4-fold increase in IgG levels post-dose 2 or 3.

**Safety and reactogenicity of CYD-TDV** The safety profile of CYD-TDV was similar for Groups 1 and 2. No safety concerns were observed following CYD-TDV co-administration with YF (Group 3; Table 5) compared to CYD-TDV alone (Groups 1 and 2) or YF alone (Group 4, Additional file 2: Table S3).

One participant (Group 3) reported an AE within 30 min after the first CYD-TDV dose (mild [grade 1] dizziness). The percentage of participants reporting solicited reactions was higher following co-administration of CYD-TDV and YF vaccines (Group 3, 75.7%) than following the first CYD-TDV dose (Groups 1 [63.6%] and 2 [64.7%]). In Groups 1–3, solicited reactions were reported less frequently after doses 2 and 3 than after dose 1 and were mostly of grade 1 intensity, started within 3 days after vaccine injection, and resolved spontaneously by day 6. Pain was the most frequently reported injection site reaction after any CYD-TDV dose and was mostly grade 1 intensity, ranging from 28.0% (Group 1) to 34.8% (Group 3) post-dose 1; headache, malaise, and myalgia were the most frequently reported solicited systemic reactions after each dose (29.4% [Group 2, myalgia] to 51.3% [Group 3, headache] post-dose 1).

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**Table 1 Participant characteristics at baseline (full analysis set)**

|                     | Group 1 (N = 117) | Group 2 (N = 119) | Group 3 (N = 114) |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| **Sex, n (%)**      |                   |                   |                   |
| Female              | 57 (48.7)         | 61 (51.3)         | 58 (50.9)         |
| Age, years          | 31.8 (7.7)        | 32.6 (7.3)        | 32.8 (7.6)        |
| Racial origin       |                   |                   |                   |
| White Caucasian     | 88 (75.2)         | 103 (86.6)        | 88 (77.2)         |
| Black or African American | 21 (17.9)   | 14 (11.8)         | 19 (16.7)         |
| Other               | 8 (6.8)           | 2 (1.7)           | 7 (6.1)           |
| **Seropositivity status, n (%)** |       |                   |                   |
| Dengue seropositive | 9 (7.7)           | 9 (7.6)           | 8 (7.0)           |
| Yellow fever seropositive | 59 (50.4) | 61 (51.3)         | 6 (5.3)           |
| Flavivirus seropositive | 63 (53.8) | 65 (54.6)         | 11 (9.6)          |

n number of participants with the specified characteristic. Total number of participants in the study group, SD standard deviation.

*Participants were defined as dengue or YF seropositive if they had neutralising antibody titres > 10 1/dilution (for at least one serotype for dengue seropositivity); participants were considered FV seropositive if they were seropositive for dengue of YF, or both.

**Impact of baseline flavivirus status**

FV status (FV+ or FV−) did not markedly affect GMTs against serotypes 1, 2 or 3 in Group 1 or for any serotype in Group 2 while serotype 4 GMTs tended to be lower in FV+ than FV− participants in Group 1 (51.7 versus 91.8, 28 days post-dose 3; Table 3). Seropositivity rates were comparable between FV+ and FV− participants in Group 1 for serotypes 1–3 and in Group 2 for serotype 4. However, they tended to be lower in FV+ than FV− participants for serotype 4 in Group 1 (82.7% versus 95.3%) and higher in FV+ participants for serotypes 1–3 in Group 2 (range, 51.0% among FV− to 94.9% among FV+ post-dose 3; Table 3).

**Impact of YF vaccine co-administration**

Dengue antibody response following co-administration with YF versus one dose of CYD-TDV alone is shown in Table 4 for YF− participants. Post CYD-TDV dose 1, GMTs and dengue seropositivity were similar for serotypes 1 and 2 between pooled YF− from Groups 1 and 2 and Group 3 (YF vaccine co-administration), but were higher for serotypes 3 and 4 in Groups 1 and 2 than Group 3 (Table 4).

The same trends in GMTs and dengue seropositivity were observed 28 days post-dose 2 (data not shown), but
Unsolicited AEs within 28 days following any injection were reported at similar frequencies for Groups 1, 2, and 3 (13.7–28.3%). Non-serious AEs were mostly systemic, grade 1 or 2 intensity and mostly assessed as not related to vaccination. The percentage of participants reporting an unsolicited adverse reaction (AR) was low across Groups 1–3 (0–7.6%) (Table 5). No AE led to study discontinuation in any group in the 28 days following injection. Three participants reported SAEs within 28 days, none of which were considered related to vaccination. During the trial, 13 participants experienced SAEs: 4 (3.3%) in Groups 1 and 2, and 5 (4.2%) in Group 3. One SAE was reported by the investigator as related to vaccination: a blighted ovum was detected 7 weeks after inadvertent vaccination of a woman during early pregnancy (Group 1; details provided in Additional file 2: Results). Three non-serious AESIs were reported by three participants within 7 days following the first injection; two (flushing of the face [Group 2] and asthma [Group 3]) were assessed as related to vaccination.

**Discussion**

This phase II study in healthy adults in a non-endemic area shows that an accelerated 0–2–6-month CYD-TDV vaccination schedule elicits a similar immune response to the licensed 0–6–12-month schedule. More rapid protection would be beneficial in the setting of public health programmes where a shorter schedule may allow potentially better compliance in dengue-endemic populations. Our study also supports that dengue antibody responses to the second CYD-TDV dose can be elicited when given 2 months after the first dose in a non-endemic setting. Notably, two other live attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccines, administered as a single dose [5] or 2 doses 90 days apart [6], are currently in phase III development.

**Table 2** Dengue antibody GMTs and seropositivity status in the "standard" dengue vaccination schedule (Group 1) versus the "compressed" dengue vaccination schedule (Group 2)

| Time point                  | Group 1 (N = 117) | Seropositive, % (95% CI) | Group 2 (N = 119) | Seropositive, % (95% CI) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
|                             | n                 | GMT (95% CI)            | n                 | GMT (95% CI)            |
| Serotype 1                  |                   |                         |                   |                         |
| Baseline                    | 117               | 5.38 (4.85–5.96)        | 119               | 5.13 (4.98–5.28)        |
| 28 days post-dose 3         | 93                | 14.8 (11.3–19.4)        | 108               | 15.9 (12.6–20.0)        |
| 6 months post-dose 3        | 88                | 13.3 (10.2–17.4)        | 104               | 9.01 (7.5–10.8)         |
| Serotype 2                  |                   |                         |                   |                         |
| Baseline                    | 117               | 5.19 (4.82–5.58)        | 119               | 5.22 (4.96–5.50)        |
| 28 days post-dose 3         | 94                | 51.2 (38.2–68.6)        | 108               | 59.9 (45.8–78.4)        |
| 6 months post-dose 3        | 88                | 45.6 (31.6–65.6)        | 104               | 38.7 (29.5–50.8)        |
| Serotype 3                  |                   |                         |                   |                         |
| Baseline                    | 117               | 5.32 (4.94–5.73)        | 119               | 5.28 (5.03–5.55)        |
| 28 days post-dose 3         | 94                | 45.7 (35.0–59.8)        | 107               | 59.3 (47.0–74.7)        |
| 6 months post-dose 3        | 88                | 30.2 (22.8–40.2)        | 104               | 34.5 (27.5–43.3)        |
| Serotype 4                  |                   |                         |                   |                         |
| Baseline                    | 117               | 5.78 (5.16–6.48)        | 119               | 5.11 (4.90–5.33)        |
| 28 days post-dose 3         | 94                | 66.8 (50.9–87.8)        | 107               | 83.1 (61.4–112.0)       |
| 6-months post-dose 3        | 88                | 74.8 (54.9–102.0)       | 104               | 41.7 (31.2–55.9)        |
| ≥ 3 serotypes               |                   |                         |                   |                         |
| Baseline                    | 117               | NA                      | 119               | NA                      |
| 28 days post-dose 3         | 94                | NA                      | 108               | NA                      |
| 6-months post-dose 3        | 88                | 64.8 (53.9–74.7)        | 104               | NA                      |
| All 4 serotypes             |                   |                         |                   |                         |
| Baseline                    | 117               | NA                      | 119               | NA                      |
| Post-dose 3                 | 94                | 50.0 (39.5–60.5)        | 108               | 42.6 (33.1–52.5)        |
| 6-months post-dose 3        | 88                | 43.2 (32.7–54.2)        | 104               | NA                      |

Seropositive defined as antibody titres ≥10 (1/dil) against each serotype, and against at least 3 or all 4 serotypes with the parental dengue virus strain GMT geometric mean titre, n number of participants with available data for endpoint, NA not applicable.
## Table 3: Dengue antibody response post-dose 3 by baseline FV status

| Serotype | Group 1 (N = 117) | Group 2 (N = 119) |
|----------|------------------|------------------|
|          | FV Seropositive (N = 63) | FV Seropositive (N = 54) | FV Seropositive (N = 65) | FV Seropositive (N = 54) |
|          | n | GMT (95% CI) | Seropositive % | n | GMT (95% CI) | Seropositive % | n | GMT (95% CI) | Seropositive % | n | GMT (95% CI) | Seropositive % |
| Serotype 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Baseline | 63 | 5.73 (4.72–6.94) | 3.2 (0.4–11.0) | 54 | 5.00 (NC) | 0.0 (0.0–6.6) | 65 | 5.23 (4.96–5.53) | 4.6 (1.0–12.9) | 54 | 5.00 (NC) | 0.0 (0.0–6.6) |
| 28 days post-dose 3 | 51 | 15.6 (10.6–23.0) | 5.49 (40.3–689) | 42 | 13.9 (9.49–204) | 5.00 (34.2–65.8) | 59 | 17.2 (12.7–23.3) | 61.0 (47.4–73.5) | 49 | 14.4 (10.1–20.7) | 51.0 (36.3–65.6) |
| 6 months post-dose 3 | 49 | 14.8 (100–21.7) | 53.1 (38.3–67.5) | 39 | 11.7 (8.04–17.1) | 41.0 (25.6–57.9) | 58 | 103.7 (78.5–13.4) | 36.2 (24.0–49.9 | 46 | 7.63 (6.16–9.46) | 28.3 (16.0–43.5) |
| 12 months post-dose 3 |  | NA | NA |  | NA | NA |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Serotype 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Baseline | 63 | 5.35 (4.67–6.13) | 1.6 (0.0–8.5) | 54 | 5.00 (NC) | 0.0 (0.0–6.6) | 65 | 5.42 (4.93–5.96) | 4.6 (1.0–12.9) | 54 | 5.00 (NC) | 0.0 (0.0–6.6) |
| 28 days post-dose 3 | 52 | 60.0 (39.4–91.4) | 84.6 (71.9–93.1) | 42 | 42.1 (27.9–63.4) | 83.3 (68.6–93.0) | 59 | 68.1 (48.9–94.7) | 94.9 (85.9–98.9) | 49 | 51.4 (32.8–80.6) | 79.6 (65.7–89.8) |
| 6 months post-dose 3 | 49 | 52.5 (32.1–85.8) | 79.6 (65.7–89.8) | 39 | 38.1 (21.7–67.0) | 69.2 (52.4–83.0) | 58 | 53.0 (37.4–75.2) | 91.4 (81.0–97.1) | 46 | 26.0 (17.2–39.3) | 67.4 (52.0–80.5) |
| 12 months post-dose 3 |  | NA | NA |  | NA | NA |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Serotype 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Baseline | 63 | 5.61 (4.89–6.45) | 4.8 (1.0–13.3) | 54 | 5.00 (NC) | 0.0 (0.0–6.6) | 65 | 5.53 (5.06–6.05) | 7.7 (2.5–17.0) | 54 | 5.00 (NC) | 0.0 (0.0–6.6) |
| 28 days post-dose 3 | 52 | 44.8 (31.3–64.3) | 84.6 (71.9–93.1) | 42 | 46.9 (30.9–71.2) | 85.7 (71.5–94.6) | 59 | 71.2 (53.4–94.8) | 94.9 (85.9–98.9) | 48 | 47.3 (32.5–60.0) | 85.4 (72.2–93.9) |
| 6 months post-dose 3 | 49 | 33.0 (23.4–46.5) | 85.7 (72.8–94.1) | 39 | 27.1 (16.6–44.3) | 71.8 (55.1–85.0) | 58 | 48.5 (36.0–65.3) | 87.9 (75.6–95.0) | 46 | 22.5 (16.3–31.0) | 71.7 (565–84.0) |
| 12 months post-dose 3 |  | NA | NA |  | NA | NA |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Serotype 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Baseline | 63 | 6.55 (5.32–8.07) | 12.7 (5.6–23.5) | 54 | 5.00 (NC) | 0.0 (0.0–6.6) | 65 | 5.20 (4.81–5.63) | 1.5 (0.0–8.3) | 54 | 5.00 (NC) | 0.0 (0.0–6.6) |
| 28 days post-dose 3 | 52 | 51.7 (35.1–76.2) | 82.7 (69.7–91.8) | 42 | 91.8 (633–133) | 952 (83.8–994) | 59 | 78.5 (54.3–114) | 88.1 (77.1–95.1) | 48 | 89.2 (53.3–149) | 83.3 (69.2–92.5) |
| 6 months post-dose 3 | 49 | 60.0 (384–93.8) | 81.6 (68.0–91.2) | 39 | 98.7 (648–150) | 923 (79.1–98.4) | 58 | 398 (26.9–59.0) | 70.7 (57.3–81.9) | 46 | 44.3 (283–69.5) | 78.3 (63.6–89.1) |
| 12 months post-dose 3 |  | NA | NA |  | NA | NA |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Note:** GMT geometric mean titre, n number of participants with available data for endpoint, NA not applicable, NC not calculated

*FV seropositive participants at baseline defined as: participants with ≥10 t/dil for at least 1 dengue serotype (sera tested by PRNT) or for YF virus (sera with PRNT80).

*FV seronegative participants are defined as those participants with <10 t/dil for all dengue serotypes and for YF virus (using sera with PRNT80).
Dengue neutralising antibody GMTs and seropositivity rates after a CYD-TDV vaccination course were lower in our study than in trials undertaken in endemic settings, among adults [7–10] and children [11–13]. Previous large scale studies have demonstrated that a significant proportion of study participants living in endemic areas are FV– prior to vaccination. When dengue antibody responses from FV– participants are compared to the results from this study, the GMTs are very similar: 31.2–75.5 among 2–45-year-olds in Vietnam [10]; 53.4–255 among children in Brazil [14], and 37.6–174 in children in other Latin American countries [12]. Similarly, in adults (18–45 years old) from Singapore, a region of low endemicity, among whom baseline FV seropositivity levels were low, dengue GMTs following vaccination were of a similar magnitude, or only slightly higher depending on serotype, as compared to GMTs observed in the current study [15]. Our findings suggest that the dengue antibody responses elicited following an accelerated vaccine schedule for CYD-TDV are comparable to those elicited by the licensed schedule among adults from non-endemic areas, and appear to be of a similar magnitude to those observed in previous studies among FV-naive individuals from endemic countries. Further investigation is warranted to determine whether a shorter schedule may be effective in eliciting comparable dengue antibody responses in previously exposed populations from endemic areas.

In our study, a proportion of participants were recruited on the basis of previous YF vaccination; as such, overall baseline FV serostatus can be considered to be driven by baseline YF serostatus. We cannot rule out their exposure to other untested flaviviruses potentially in circulation at the time; the proportion of these previously exposed participants was low and thus unlikely to impact the data. Although some differences in dengue antibody response were observed between FV+ and FV– participants, the differences were inconsistent between serotypes and the number in each sub-group was small, limiting the interpretation of these results. Furthermore, it cannot be excluded that an impact might be observed in a population previously exposed to dengue, YF or another FV. Recent long-term safety data have shown there was an increased risk of hospitalized and severe virologically-confirmed dengue in dengue vaccinated participants who were seronegative; this onset was approximately 3 years after first vaccine dose in 9–16-year-olds [16]. Based on these results, the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts has issued new guidance on the administration of CYD-TDV, with vaccination recommended in seropositive individuals only [17].

As a threshold of protection has not yet been established for dengue using the PRNT assay results, conclusions cannot be drawn on the potential implications of these findings regarding protection against occurrence of symptomatic dengue in these participants. In two pivotal phase III studies, it was suggested that higher post-dose 3 titers were predictive of high vaccine efficacy across all serotypes and age groups [18]. However, protective PRNT50 titers may vary by serotype, age and endemicity, as shown in an integrated immunogenicity analysis of CYD-TDV up to 4 years after vaccination [19]. Another limitation of this study is that the PRNT assay does not allow us to differentiate between homotypic antibody responses (believed to confer long term immunity), and heterotypic (cross-reactive) antibody responses (conferring short term cross-protection) [20].

| Table 4 Dengue antibody GMTs and seropositivity status, in YF non-immune participants following CYD-TDV alone (Groups 1 and 2 pooled) or CYD-TDV co-administered with YF vaccine (Group 3) |
| Time point Groups | Group 1 and 2 pooled, YF– (n = 116) | Group 3, YF– (n = 108) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| n | GMT (95% CI) | Seropositive, % (95% CI) | n | GMT (95% CI) | Seropositive, % (95% CI) |
| Serotype 1 | | | | | |
| Baseline | 116 | 5.19 (4.87–5.53) | 1.7 (0.2–6.1) | 108 | 5.00 (NC) | 0 (0.0–3.4) |
| Post-dose 1 | 116 | 8.71 (7.04–10.8) | 23.3 (15.9–32.0) | 108 | 7.68 (6.46–9.14) | 20.4 (13.2–29.2) |
| Serotype 2 | | | | | |
| Baseline | 116 | 5.06 (4.94–5.19) | 0.9 (0.0–4.7) | 108 | 5.06 (4.94–5.20) | 0.9 (0.0–5.1) |
| Post-dose 1 | 116 | 18.8 (13.9–25.3) | 46.6 (37.2–56.0) | 108 | 10.8 (8.63–13.4) | 35.2 (26.2–45.0) |
| Serotype 3 | | | | | |
| Baseline | 116 | 5.21 (4.97–5.47) | 2.6 (0.5–7.4) | 108 | 5.28 (4.90–5.69) | 2.8 (0.6–7.9) |
| Post-dose 1 | 114 | 28.5 (20.4–39.7) | 57.9 (48.3–67.1) | 108 | 8.88 (7.23–10.9) | 25.0 (17.2–34.3) |
| Serotype 4 | | | | | |
| Baseline | 116 | 5.43 (4.99–5.92) | 3.4 (0.9–8.6) | 108 | 5.26 (4.90–5.65) | 1.9 (0.2–6.5) |
| Post-dose 1 | 114 | 229 (139–378) | 74.6 (65.6–82.3) | 107 | 22.6 (15.9–32.3) | 48.6 (38.8–58.5) |

YF seronegative participants at baseline are defined as those participants with YF baseline titre < 10 1/dil using PRNT80. Dengue seropositive defined as dengue antibody titres ≥10 (1/dil) against each serotype, and against at least 3 or all 4 serotypes with the parental dengue virus strain. GMT geometric mean titre, n number of participants with available data for endpoint, YF yellow fever.
We also observed a lower post-dose 1 dengue antibody response, for serotypes 3 and 4, following co-administration of YF and CYD-TDV vaccines compared to CYD-TDV alone. This potential effect was rectified following the complete vaccination schedule. Further research on the impact of co-administration of FV vaccines is warranted.

The evaluation of IgM antibody kinetics demonstrated that an IgM response may be detected up to several months after vaccination in this study population. IgG levels also increased throughout the vaccination schedule, with > 80% of participants IgG-positive at study end. While these findings are based on a small numbers of participants (40 per group), they suggest that CYD-TDV induces long-lasting dengue neutralising antibody responses and IgM and IgG responses (6–12 months post-dose 1) in this population.

This highlights the potential for vaccine-induced false positives in the diagnosis of dengue based on IgM and IgG serological assays, as previously described [21].

The CYD-TDV safety profile in our study was acceptable for both vaccination schedules, and in-line with previous studies [7, 10, 12, 22, 23].

**Conclusions**

In conclusion, in a non-endemic setting, CYD-TDV given in a compressed 0–2–6-month schedule can elicit similar antibody responses to the standard 0–6–12-month schedule. Further studies would be needed to evaluate whether this proposed schedule may also apply in endemic populations.
Additional files

**Additional file 1:** Methods. PRNT assay. Additional information on the methods for the PRNT assay and serostatus at baseline. (DOCX 38 kb)

**Additional file 2:** Results. SAEs during the trial considered related to vaccination. Additional information on the SAEs during the trial considered related to vaccination. Table S1. Dengue antibody GMTs in the “compressed” dengue vaccination schedule by FV status (Groups 2 and 3) and with YF co-administration (Group 3). Table S2. Dengue antibody GMTs in the “standard” dengue vaccination schedule (Group 1) versus the “compressed” dengue vaccination schedule (Group 2) pre-dose and 28 days post-dose during the study. Table S3. Safety overview after a single dose of YF vaccine – safety analysis set. Figure S1. A. Kinetics of dengue IgG and IgM responses (GMTs measured by ELISA; full analysis set). B. Kinetics of dengue IgG and IgM responses (percentage of participants positive for IgM/IgG; full analysis set). (DOCX 392 kb)

Abbreviations
AE: Adverse event; AESI: Adverse event of special interest; CYD-TDV: Live attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine; ELSA: Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; FV: Flavivirus; GMT: Geometric mean titre; IgG: Immunoglobulin G; IgM: Immunoglobulin M; PRNT: Plaque reduction neutralisation test; SAE: Serious adverse event; YF: Yellow fever

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The study protocol was approved by the Quorum Review IRB (Seattle, WA; reference number IRB00003226) for all study sites. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants.

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Availability of data and materials
The datasets used and analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Authors’ contributions
MB, TP, AS and EP were involved in the design and operational management of the study. MT was the lead statistician and approved the final manuscript for submission. All authors (JK, WD, MT, MB, TP, AS, and EP) contributed to the interpretation of the data, contributed to this publication and approved the final manuscript for submission. All authors (JK, WD, MT, MB, TP, AS, and EP) had access to the study data and are responsible for the veracity and completeness of the data reported.

Consent for publication
Not applicable.

Competing interests
MT, MB, TP, AS and EP were all employees of Sanofi Pasteur at the time of the study. MB holds stocks in Sanofi Pasteur. JK and WD have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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