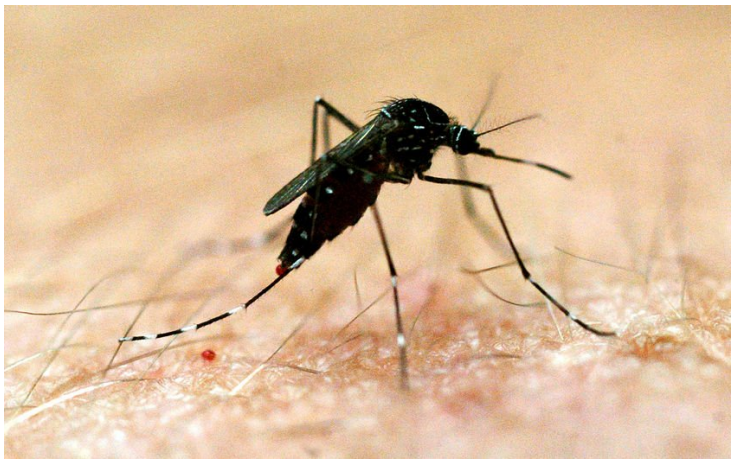
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Sanofi to launch first dengue vaccine this year

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Singapore: Sanofi Pasteur is in the process of finalizing tests for its first vaccine against dengue in Africa and Asia. The company has announced that it plans to start production of the vaccine by the end of the year.

Dengue, which is a mosquito-borne disease, affects about 100 million people every year worldwide and if the first dengue vaccine is approved for release, it could be avaibale in the market in 2015.

Director of the Pasteur Research Center in New Caledonia, Dr Dominique Baudon, said in a statement that he expects the tests to confirm the effectiveness of the vaccine.

"They say they are very optimistic and to save time, the manufacturing of the vaccine has already been launched before they obtained the authorization to launch it on the market. It's a bet. So I think that will be confirmed," he added.