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ASIA EDITION

Malaysia approves CanSinoBIO's COVID-19 vaccine as heterologous booster

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Convidecia is an adenovirus-vectored vaccine



China-based CanSino Biologics has announced that its Recombinant Novel Coronavirus Vaccine (Convidecia) has been approved by the Ministry of Health (MOH) Malaysia as a heterologous booster.

The MOH Malaysia recommends using Convidecia as a heterologous booster for individuals aged 18 and above who have been administered two doses of inactivated COVID-19 vaccine at least three months prior.

The approval was made as the Malaysian authorities continued to achieve high booster vaccination rates, especially among vulnerable groups such as the elderly and the immunocompromised, in the fight against the Omicron variant.

In Malaysia, CanSinoBIO partnered with Solution Biologics Sdn Bhd to carry out local formulation and distribution processes. The local fill-and-finish facility established by CanSinoBIO and SOLBIO received the Good Manufacturing Practices certification from the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency in February 2022.

In addition to Malaysia and Indonesia, Convidecia has been approved for use as a heterologous booster in China and Argentina in national vaccination programmes in February 2022 and November 2021, respectively. It is also the first and only adenovirus-vectored vaccine to be included in the heterologous vaccination programme in China.

Heterologous booster vaccination refers to the use of vaccine boosters from different technology platforms from the prime vaccines, which could improve the overall immune response and enhance protection against other variants.