

Older vaccine may be better at preventing TB

The older version of the vaccine used to prevent tuberculosis may be better at preventing the disease than the more commonly used modern medicines, scientists say.

Tuberculosis - more commonly known as TB - is a common and deadly infectious disease that affects the lungs. It can also affect the central nervous system, lymphatic system, circulatory system, genitourinary system, bones, joints and the skin.

The BCG (Bacille Calmette-Guérin) vaccine was originally developed by French scientists in 1908, who managed to make a strain of tuberculosis (TB) less potent by growing it in a glycerine-potato mixture.

Genetic changes in strains over the years have rendered newer vaccines less effective. The researchers at the Institut Pasteur, a French biomedical research organisation, say clinical trials should be done to retest the older strains, reported the online edition of BC News.

Modern BCG vaccine strains are used in two-thirds of immunisations worldwide.

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