

THE**ROUND-UP**

Dengue vaccine trial on course

A dengue vaccine trial has taken a step forward after researchers completed effectiveness tests among 4,000 children.

Arunee Sabchaoroen, a researcher at Mahidol University's faculty of tropical medicine, said the phase IIB trial among children aged between four and 11 years in Ratchaburi province began in February 2009 and ended in March.

Ms Arunee said minimal adverse effects such as headache and fever were experienced among participants after having three shots over a period of six months.

Of the 4,000 children involved in the trial, 2,400 received the dengue vaccine while the other 1,600 were given a placebo. The preliminary results of the study, funded by France-based drugs giant Sanofi-Pasteur, will be released late next year.

If the trial proves successful, further research in 15 countries including Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines will be undertaken.