

GSK Pharma sees vaccines supply improving; Q2 net profit rises 4%

Our Bureau

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Global capacity constraints affected GlaxoSmithKine Pharmaceuticals' supply of certain vaccines in the three months ended June 30, 2010.

But the capacity issue eased up by the end of the quarter, and is unlikely to continue to affect future supply, GSK's Pharma's Senior Executive Director, Mr Mehernosh Kapadia, told *Business Line*.

There were constraints to do with the supply of vaccines from the parent company, he

Scorecard

	Q2 2010	Q2 2009	% change
Sales	508	467	9
Net profit	128	124	4

(in Rs cr)

said. The vaccines included GSK's rotavirus vaccine and other base level vaccines, imported from Belgium, he added.

GSK's rotavirus vaccine had seen temporary suspension in some markets, after the US regulator said the oral vaccine used to treat diarrhoea was

contaminated with a benign pig virus. Similar advice was sent out by the European Medicines Agency, as well. But about two months later, in May, the FDA cleared GSK's rotavirus vaccine for use.

The drug-maker is also likely to see delay related to regulato-

ry approvals and manufacturing, in the launch of some of its products lined up for this year. The drugs included blood-platelet boosting drug Promacta, leukaemia drug Arzerra and renal cancer drug Votrient - whose roll-out has now been pushed into 2011.

But there are other products, branded generics, other in-licensing opportunities and the Infanrix-Hexa (a six-component vaccine) that are slated for launch later this year, he added.

The company, nevertheless, looks at growth in line with that

of the market, at about 13-14 per cent this year, he said. Meanwhile, revenues from drugs under price control reduced to 26 per cent of the total, down from the earlier 28 per cent last year, he said. This is because the entire segment is growing, he said.

The company has added people on the ground to promote and grow key brands that contribute to the topline, he said. Over 200 people have been taken on for the field-force and the plan is to touch 300 people this year, he added.

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