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Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products

## Public summary of opinion on orphan designation

### Ciclosporin for the prevention of corneal graft rejection

First publication	12 September 2007
Rev.1: sponsor's name change	24 April 2015
Disclaimer Please note that revisions to the Public Summary of Opinion are purely administrative updates. Therefore, the scientific content of the document reflects the outcome of the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP) at the time of designation and is not updated after first publication.	

On 22 October 2007, orphan designation (EU/3/07/455) was granted by the European Commission to Novagali Pharma SA, France, for ciclosporin for the prevention of corneal graft rejection.

In March 2015, Novagali Pharma SA changed name to SANTEN SAS.

#### What is corneal graft rejection?

After transplantation of the cornea (the central transparent part of the eye, external to the iris), there is a risk that the transplant (graft) will not be accepted by the patient's immune system, which would lead to a phenomenon called "rejection".

The cornea does not have blood vessels, so it is usually difficult for white blood cells and antibodies (both agents of the immune system and involved in rejection) to reach it and activate rejection mechanisms. For this reason, rejection tends to occur less frequently in corneal transplants compared to other organs that do have blood vessels, such as the kidney. However, it is still a feared complication as it can lead to loss of vision in the affected eye.

#### What is the estimated number of patients at risk of developing the condition?

At the time of designation, the number of patients at risk of corneal graft rejection was estimated to be approximately 1.1 people in 10,000 in the European Union (EU). This was equivalent to a total of



around 55,000 people\* , and is below the ceiling for orphan designation, which is 5 people in 10,000. This is based on the information provided by the sponsor and the knowledge of the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP).

### **What methods of prevention are available?**

Currently, no satisfactory methods exist in the European Union that were authorised at the time of application, for the prevention of corneal graft rejection. However, eye drops containing corticosteroids (that reduce inflammation and suppress the immune system) are commonly prescribed after corneal transplantation to prevent rejection; other drugs that have been employed (although they are not authorized in the European Union) are ciclosporin and tacrolimus, both for the treatment and the prevention of corneal graft rejection.

### **How is this medicine expected to work?**

Ciclosporin is an immunosuppressor, in other words it acts by reducing the activity of the immune system. Ciclosporin given by mouth or as an injection is authorized for the prevention and treatment of the rejection of many other organs, including the kidney, the heart and the liver. Local administration (as eye drops) of ciclosporin is expected to reduce the chance of corneal graft rejection.

### **What is the stage of development of this medicine?**

The effects of ciclosporin were evaluated in experimental models.

At the time of submission of the application for orphan designation, no clinical trials in patients with corneal transplants were initiated.

Ciclosporin was not authorised anywhere in the world for the prevention of corneal graft rejection, or designated as orphan medicinal product elsewhere for this condition, at the time of submission.

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 141/2000 of 16 December 1999, the COMP adopted a positive opinion on 12 September 2007 recommending the granting of this designation.

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Opinions on orphan medicinal product designations are based on the following three criteria:

- the seriousness of the condition;
- the existence of alternative methods of diagnosis, prevention or treatment;
- either the rarity of the condition (affecting not more than 5 in 10,000 people in the EU) or insufficient returns on investment.

Designated orphan medicinal products are products that are still under investigation and are considered for orphan designation on the basis of potential activity. An orphan designation is not a marketing authorisation. As a consequence, demonstration of quality, safety and efficacy is necessary before a product can be granted a marketing authorisation.

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\*Disclaimer: For the purpose of the designation, the number of patients affected by the condition is estimated and assessed on the basis of data from the European Union (EU 27), Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. At the time of designation, this represented a population of 500,300,000 (Eurostat 2007).

## For more information

Sponsor's contact details:

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For contact details of patients' organisations whose activities are targeted at rare diseases see:

- [Orphanet](#), a database containing information on rare diseases, which includes a directory of patients' organisations registered in Europe;
- [European Organisation for Rare Diseases \(EURORDIS\)](#), a non-governmental alliance of patient organisations and individuals active in the field of rare diseases.

## Translations of the active ingredient and indication in all official EU languages<sup>1</sup>, Norwegian and Icelandic

Language	Active Ingredient	Indication
English	Ciclosporin	Prevention of corneal graft rejection
Bulgarian	Циклоспорин	Профилактика на отхвърляне на присадката на роговицата
Czech	Ciclosporin	Prevence odhojení (rejekce) korneálního transplantátu
Danish	Ciclosporin	Forebyggelse af afstødning af corneatransplantat
Dutch	Ciclosporine	Preventie van corneatransplantaat afstoting
Estonian	Tsüklosporiin	Savkestasiiriku äratõuke ennetamine
Finnish	Siklosporiini	Sarveiskalvosiirteen hyljinnän ehkäisy
French	Ciclosporine	Prévention du rejet de greffe de cornée
German	Ciclosporin	Prävention der Hornhauttransplantatabstoßung
Greek	Κυκλοσπορίνη	Πρόληψη απόρριψης μοσχεύματος κερατοειδούς
Hungarian	Cyclosporin	Cornea transzplantátum kilökődésének megelőzése
Italian	Ciclosporina	Prevenzione del rigetto nel trapianto di cornea
Latvian	Ciklosporīns	Radzenes transplantātu atgrūšanas profilakse
Lithuanian	Ciklosporinas	Ragenos transplantato atmetimo reakcijos profilaktikai
Maltese	Ciclosporin	Prevenzjoni ta' riġettar ta' trapjant tal-kornea
Polish	Cyklosporyna	Zapobieganie odrzuceniu przeszczepu rogówki
Portuguese	Ciclosporina	Prevenção da rejeição do enxerto da córnea
Romanian	Ciclosporină	Prevenirea rejetului grefei de cornee
Slovak	Cyklosporín	Prevenia odmietnutia štepu rohovky
Slovenian	Ciklosporin	Preprečevanje zavrnitve presadka roženice
Spanish	Ciclosporina	Prevenición del rechazo del injerto de córnea
Swedish	Ciklosporin	Förebyggande av avstötning av hornhinnetransplantat
Norwegian	Ciklosporin	Forebygging av avstøtning av corneatransplantat
Icelandic	Cíklósporín	Að koma í veg fyrir höfnun hornhimnuígræðslu

<sup>1</sup> At the time of designation