



COMMITTEE FOR ORPHAN MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

**PUBLIC SUMMARY OF
POSITIVE OPINION FOR ORPHAN DESIGNATION
OF
pegylated recombinant factor VIIa
for the treatment of haemophilia A**

On 4 June 2008, orphan designation (EU/3/08/551) was granted by the European Commission to Novo Nordisk A/S, Denmark, for pegylated recombinant factor VIIa for the treatment of haemophilia A.

What is haemophilia A?

Haemophilia A is an inherited disorder where the body's ability to control blood clotting (coagulation) is impaired. It is caused by an inborn deficiency (low levels) of a substance called coagulation factor VIII, which is one of the human proteins involved in the blood clotting process. Patients with haemophilia A have longer bleeding times than normal and poor wound healing after injury or surgery. Bleeding can also happen within muscles or the spaces in the joints, such as the elbows, knees and ankles, which can lead to permanent injury, if it happens repeatedly. Rare, but life-threatening bleeding can also happen in the brain and spinal cord, the throat or the gut. Haemophilia A is a debilitating disease that is long lasting and may be life threatening.

What treatments are available?

Several products containing factor VIII are authorised for the treatment of haemophilia A in the European Union. These are used to replace the missing protein. However, not all patients with haemophilia A can benefit from these products because the immune system can react against them by producing inhibitors (antibodies) against factor VIII.

In these cases, other treatments need to be used, such as medicines containing other coagulation factors, either alone or in combination. These can include factor VIIa, which works by activating another factor called factor X to start the coagulation process. Factor VIIa acts directly on factor X, independently from factor VIII, so medicines containing factor VIIa can be of use in patients who have developed inhibitors to factor VIII.

The sponsor has submitted satisfactory argumentation to justify the assumption that pegylated recombinant factor VIIa might be of benefit for the treatment of haemophilia A, because it might contribute to the care of the haemophilia A patients who have developed inhibitors against factor VIII and it may possible be given less often than the currently used treatment. This assumption will need to be confirmed at the time of marketing authorisation, to maintain the orphan status of the medicine.

What is the estimated number of patients affected by the condition * ?

Based on the information provided by the sponsor and previous knowledge of the Committee, haemophilia A was considered to affect approximately 0.6 in 10,000 people in the European Union. At the time of designation, this was equivalent to a total of around 30,000 persons.

How is this medicinal product expected to act?

* Disclaimer: For the purpose of the designation, the number of patients affected by the condition is estimated and assessed based on data from the European Union (EU 27), Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein. This represents a population of 502,282,135 (Eurostat 2008). This estimate is based on available information and calculations presented by the sponsor at the time of the application.

Pegylated recombinant factor VIIa is expected to work in the body in the same way as human factor VIIa. By activating factor X, it is expected to control the bleeding disorder in patients who have developed inhibitors to factor VIII.

Pegylated recombinant factor VIIa is made by a method known as ‘recombinant DNA technology’: it is made by a cell that has received a gene (DNA) that makes it able to produce factor VIIa. It has also been modified by a process called ‘pegylation’, meaning that it has been coated with a chemical called polyethylene glycol. This decreases the rate at which the substance is removed from the body and allows the medicine to be given less often than other products that are available.

What is the stage of development of this medicinal product?

The effects of pegylated recombinant factor VIIa were evaluated in experimental models. At the time of submission of the application for orphan designation, clinical trials were ongoing.

At the time of submission pegylated recombinant factor VIIa was not authorised anywhere in the world for the treatment of haemophilia A or designated as orphan medicinal product elsewhere for this condition.

According to Regulation (EC) No 141/2000 of 16 December 1999, the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP) adopted a positive opinion on 8 April 2008, recommending the granting of the above-mentioned designation.

Opinions on orphan medicinal products designations are based on the following cumulative criteria: (i) the seriousness of the condition, (ii) the existence or not of alternative methods of diagnosis, prevention or treatment and (iii) either the rarity of the condition (considered to affect not more than five in ten thousand persons in the Community) or the insufficient return of development investments.

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

For more information:

Sponsor’s contact details:

Novo Nordisk A/S

Novo Allé

Denmark

Telephone: +45 44 44 88 88

Telefax: +45 44 49 05 55

E-mail: ibnc@novonordisk.com

Patients' associations contact points:

Association Française des Hémophiles

6 Rue Alexandre Cabanel
75739 Paris Cedex 15
France
Telephone: +33 1 45 67 77 67
Telefax: +33 1 45 67 85 44
E-mail: info@afh.asso.fr

The Haemophilia Society

57a Hatton Garden
London
United Kingdom
EC1N 8JG
Telephone: +44 20 78 31 10 20
Telefax: +44 20 74 05 48 24
E-mail: info@haemophilia.org.uk

DHG : Deutsche Hämophiliegesellschaft zur Bekämpfung von Blutungskrankheiten e.V.

Neumann-Reichardt-Straße 34
22041 Hamburg
Germany
Telephone: +49 40 67 22 970
Telefax: +49 40 67 24 944
E-mail: dhg@dhg.de

**Translations of the active ingredient and indication in all EU languages
and Norwegian and Icelandic**

Language	Active Ingredient	Indication
English	Pegylated recombinant factor VIIa	Treatment of haemophilia A
Bulgarian	Пегилиран рекомбинантен фактор VIIa	Лечение на хемофилия А
Czech	Polyethylenglykolovaný rekombinantní faktor VIIa	Léčba hemofilie A
Danish	Pegyleret rekombinant faktor VIIa	Behandling af hæmofili A
Dutch	Gepegyleerde recombinant factor VIIa	Behandeling van hemofilie A
Estonian	Pegüleeritud rekombinantne faktor VIIa	Hemofilia A ravi
Finnish	Pegylöitu rekombinantti hyytymistekijä VIIa	Hemofilia A:n hoito
French	Facteur VIIa recombinant pegylé	Traitement de l'hémophilie A
German	Pegylierter rekombinanter Faktor VIIa	Behandlung von Hämophilie A
Greek	Pegylated ανασυνδυασμένος παράγοντας VIIa	Θεραπεία της αιμορροφιλίας Α
Hungarian	Pegilált rekombináns VIIa faktor	A típusú hemofília kezelése
Italian	Fattore VIIa ricombinante pegilato	Trattamento dell'emofilia A
Latvian	pegilēts rekombinētais VIIa faktors	A tipa hemofilijas ārstēšana
Lithuanian	Pegiliuotas rekombinantinis VIIa faktorius	Hemofilijos A gydymas
Maltese	Fattur VIIa rikombinanti pegilat	Kura ta' l-emofilja A
Polish	Pegylowany rekombinowany czynnik VIIa	Leczenie hemofilii A
Portuguese	Factor VIIa recombinante pegilado	Tratamento da hemofilia A
Romanian	Factor VIIa recombinant pegilat	Tratamentul hemofiliei A
Slovak	Pegylovaný rekombinantný faktor VIIa	Liečba hemofilie A
Slovenian	Pegiliran rekombinantni faktor VIIa	Zdravljenje hemofilije A
Spanish	Factor VIIa pegilado recombinante	Tratamiento de la hemofilia A
Swedish	Pegylerad rekombinant faktor VIIa	Behandling av hemofili A
Norwegian	Pegylert rekombinant faktor VIIa	Behandling av hemofili A
Icelandic	Raðbrigða PEG-tengdur storkuþáttur VIIa	Meðferð við dreyrasyki A