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Human Medicines Research and Development Support Division

Public summary of the evaluation of the proposed product-specific waiver

Ranibizumab for treatment of choroidal neovascularisation and treatment of macular oedema

On 20 June 2014 the Paediatric Committee of the European Medicines Agency agreed a product-specific waiver* for ranibizumab for the treatment of choroidal neovascularisation and for the treatment of macular oedema (EMA-000527-PIP03-13).

What is Lucentis (ranibizumab), and how is it expected to work?

Lucentis (ranibizumab) is a medicine currently authorised in adults for the treatment of neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration, for the treatment of visual impairment due to diabetic macular oedema, for the treatment of visual impairment due to macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion, and for the treatment of visual impairment due to choroidal neovascularisation secondary to pathologic myopia. Its safety and efficacy have not yet been studied in children.

This medicine is expected to prevent oedema of the retina (light-sensitive membrane lining the inner eyeball) and the development of new blood vessels (neovascularisation) in the choroidea (thin vascular layer between the sclera and the retina). Choroidal neovascularisation and retinal / macular oedema (swelling of macula, a special area in the centre of retina) can lead to vision loss.

What was the proposal from the applicant?

For children, the applicant proposed:

Not to do any study in children (from birth to less than 18 years of age), because

- age-related macular degeneration does not occur in the paediatric population.
- clinical studies in paediatric patients with choroidal neovascularisation (CNV) and macular oedema (ME) are considered not feasible.

Therefore, the applicant requested an exemption (waiver*) from the obligation to study the medicine in any children, in the condition(s) treatment of choroidal neovascularisation and treatment of macular oedema.

What did the Paediatric Committee conclude on the potential use of this medicine in children?

The Committee agreed with the request of the applicant to be exempt from performing studies in children from birth to less than 18 years of age, because:

- age-related macular degeneration does not occur in the paediatric population.
- clinical studies with a meaningful number of comparable paediatric patients with choroidal neovascularisation (CNV) and macular oedema (ME) allowing a robust assessment of the risk and therapeutic benefit of ranibizumab as a treatment option for vision impairment due to CNV and ME are considered not feasible due to rarity and the great variety of underlying diseases leading to CNV and ME in the paediatric population.

What happens next?

The applicant has now received the EMA Decision* on this medicine. The Decision itself is necessary for the applicant to request a new indication, a new route of administration* or a new pharmaceutical form*, as this medicine is already authorised and protected by a patent*.

***Definitions:**

Applicant	The pharmaceutical company or person proposing the Paediatric Investigation Plan or requesting the Product-Specific Waiver
Children	All children, from birth to the day of the 18 th birthday.
Paediatric investigation plan (PIP)	Set of studies and measures, usually including clinical studies in children, to evaluate the benefits and the risks of the use of a medicine in children, for a given disease or condition. A PIP may include “partial” waivers (for example, for younger children) and/or a deferral (see below).
Waiver	An exemption from conducting studies in children, for a given disease or condition. This can be granted for all children (product-specific waiver), or in specific subsets (partial waiver): for example, in boys or in children below a given age.
Deferral	The possibility to request marketing authorisation for the use of the medicine in adults, before completing one or more of the studies /measures included in a PIP. The Paediatric Committee may grant a deferral to avoid a delay in the availability of the medicine for adults.
Opinion	The result of the evaluation by the Paediatric Committee of the European Medicines Agency. The opinion may grant a product-specific waiver, or agree a PIP.
Decision	The legal act issued by the European Medicines Agency, which puts into effect the Opinion of the Paediatric Committee.
Pharmaceutical form	The physical aspect of the medicine (the form in which it is presented), for example: a tablet, capsule, powder, solution for injection, etc. A medicine can have more than one pharmaceutical form.
Placebo	A substance that has no therapeutic effect, used as a control in testing new drugs.
Active control	A medicine with therapeutic effect, used as a control in testing new drugs.
Historical control	A group of patients with the same disease, treated in the past and used in a comparison with the patients treated with the new drug.
Route of administration	How a medicine is given to the patient. For example: for oral use, for intramuscular use, for intravenous use, etc. The same medicine, or the same pharmaceutical form, may be given through more than one route of administration.
Patent	A form of protection of intellectual property rights. If a medicinal product is protected by a patent, the patent holder has the sole right to make, use, and sell the product, for a limited period. In certain circumstances, a patent for a medicinal product may be extended for a variable period by a Supplementary Protection Certificate.
Marketing Authorisation	When a Marketing Authorisation is granted, the pharmaceutical company may start selling the medicine in the relevant country (in the whole European Union, if the procedure was a centralised one).