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Human Medicines Division

CAT monthly report of application procedures, guidelines and related documents on advanced therapies

February 2021 meeting

The Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT) held its 134th meeting on 17 – 19 February 2021.

The CAT Monthly Report includes statistical data on CAT scientific recommendations on Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product (ATMP) classification, certifications, initial evaluations, CAT contributions to Scientific Advice and Paediatric Investigation Plans, as well as variations, line extensions, renewals.

New safety information for Strimvelis and Zolgensma

The CAT adopted the recommendation from the Pharmacovigilance Risk Management Committee (PRAC) and the direct healthcare professional communications (DHPCs) containing important safety information for Strimvelis and Zolgensma.

For Strimvelis, the DHPC warns doctors of the risk of a genetic mutation with the potential to cause cancer. This recommendation is based on a careful analysis of a single case of acute leukaemia (lymphoid T cell leukaemia) reported in a patient who was treated with Strimvelis almost 5 years prior to the cancer diagnosis. Long-term monitoring for cancerous changes is advised.

For Zolgensma, the DHPC warns doctors of the risk of thrombotic microangiopathy (an acute and life-threatening condition characterised by thrombocytopenia, haemolytic anaemia and acute kidney injury) following administration of the product.

More information can be found here.

Referral procedure for Zynteglo

CAT discussed the information provided by the marketing authorisation holder (MAH) of Zynteglo on a case of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) in a patient with sickle cell disease treated with an investigational product that uses the same lentiviral vector to transduce the cells as for Zynteglo. As a precautionary measure, the MAH has put on hold all trials with the investigational product and also the marketing of Zynteglo. Investigations are ongoing to determine if the AML is caused by an insertional mutagenesis event by the lentiviral vector.

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An Article 20 referral procedure[1] has been initiated to confirm the benefit-risk profile of Zynteglo in the light of the new safety signal. PRAC and CAT will be involved in this referral.

Scientific recommendation on advanced therapy product classification[2]

Further to consultation with the European Commission, the CAT finalised two scientific recommendations on the classification of advanced therapy medicinal products.

The following products were classified as tissue engineered products:

- Autologous bone marrow aspirate concentrate, intended for bone repair in a variety of bony defects such as fractures, arthroplasty, bone cysts, osteonecrosis or avascular necrosis;
- *In vitro* expanded autologous human articular chondrocytes, intended for the repair of symptomatic, localised, full-thickness cartilage defects of the knee joint in patients with closed epiphyseal growth plates.

Organisational matters

- CAT discussed the Options paper on using the European Society for Blood & Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) as a data source for long-term safety and efficacy follow-up of EU patients receiving ATMPs and agreed on next steps.
- CAT discussed the collaboration with the re-engineered Innovation Task Force.
- CAT noted to intention of the European Commission to update the Question and Answer document related to the assessment of similarity for ATMPs in the context of the orphan legislation. CAT members were appointed to contribute to this revision.

Overview of product-related activities

The Committee discussed ongoing evaluation procedures for ATMPs and other related procedures as summarised in the following tables:

[1] More information on referral procedures can be found here: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/post-authorisation/referral-procedures

[2] It is stressed that the scientific recommendation on advanced therapy classification does not amount to any endorsement of the plausibility of the product, including the mode of action or therapeutic indication(s) claimed by the applicant.

Initial Evaluation of Marketing Authorisation Applications (MAA) for ATMP								
	2009-2015	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**Total**
Submitted MAAs	14	1	4	3	2	8	0	31
Positive draft Opinion	7 [i]	2	2	3	1	3	0	18*
Negative draft opinions	4 [i,ii,iii]	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Withdrawals	4 [ii]	0	0	1	1[iv]	2[v]	0	8
Ongoing MAAs								6

*** Corresponding to 17 ATMPs**

[i] One negative draft opinion and two positive draft opinions for the Glybera
[ii] Negative draft opinion and withdrawal for the Cerepro
[iii] Two negative draft opinions for Heparesc
[iv] Luxceptar
[v] Roctavian; Artobend

Variations (Type II) for authorised ATMP								
	2009-2015	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**Total**
Positive opinion	18	6	3	8	16	27	7	85

Scientific recommendation on advanced therapy classification								
	2009-2015	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**Total**
Submitted	184	60	46	55	70	74	20	509
Adopted	150	87	49	43	67	87	6	489

Certification of quality and non-clinical data for small and medium-sized enterprises developing ATMPs								
	2009-2015	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**Total**
Submitted	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	14
Adopted	6	1	3	1	1	2	0	14

Scientific advice procedure for ATMPs								
	2009-2015	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**Total**
Number of procedures	171	46	55	53	56	61	2	444

Paediatric Investigation Plans (PIP) for ATMPs								
	2009-2015	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**Total**
Number of procedures	31	5	3	3	2	1	0	45

Prime Eligibility for ATMPs							
	2016	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**Total**
Discussed	22	16	14	16	23	4	95
Granted	8	6	6	10	9	1	40

Upcoming meetings following the February 2021 CAT meeting

- The 135th meeting of the CAT will be held on 17 – 19 March 2021.

NOTE:

This Monthly Report, the Agenda of this meeting, the Minutes of the previous CAT meeting and other documents can be found on the internet at the following location: European Medicines Agency - Committee meeting reports - CAT: Committee meeting reports

Specific information related to ATMPs and the activities of the CAT (role, responsibilities and composition) can be found at: European Medicines Agency - CAT - Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT)

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