European Medicines Agency
Pre-authorisation Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use

Document Date: London, 29 July 2008
Doc.Ref.: EMEA/COMP/414041/2005 Rev.1

Please note that this product was withdrawn from the Community Register of designated Orphan Medicinal Products in July 2008 on request of the sponsor.

COMMITTEE FOR ORPHAN MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

PUBLIC SUMMARY OF POSITIVE OPINION FOR ORPHAN DESIGNATION OF human monoclonal antibody against HLA-DR for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia

On 24 January 2006, orphan designation (EU/3/05/347) was granted by the European Commission to GPC Biotech AG, Germany, for human monoclonal antibody against HLA-DR for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia.

What is chronic lymphocytic leukaemia?
Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia is a disease in which cancer cells are found in the blood and the bone marrow. The bone marrow is the spongy tissue inside the large bones in the body. Normally, the bone marrow makes cells called "blasts" that mature into several different types of blood cells that have specific functions in the body. These include red cells, white cells and platelets. Red blood cells carry oxygen and other materials to all tissues of the body. White blood cells fight infection. Platelets support blood clotting. When leukaemia develops, the bone marrow produces large numbers of abnormal blood cells. There are several types of leukaemias. Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia is a cancer of a type of white blood cells called B-lymphocytes. The lymphocytes multiply too quickly and live too long, so there are too many of them circulating in the blood. These leukaemic lymphocytes look normal, but they are not fully developed and do not work properly. Over a period of time these abnormal cells replace the normal white cells, red cells and platelets in the bone marrow. Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia is the most common type of leukaemia and mainly affects older people and is rare in people under the age of 40. Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia is chronically debilitating and life-threatening due to the severe prognosis and the poor long-term survival for high-risk patients.

What are the methods of treatment available?
Treatment for leukaemia is complex and depends on a number of factors including the type of leukaemia, the extent of the disease and whether the leukaemia has been treated before. It also depends on the age, the symptoms, and the general health of the patient. Some people with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia do not have treatment if their illness is not causing any symptoms and is progressing only very slowly. Treatment is only started if and when the symptoms become troublesome. Current main treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia is chemotherapy (using drugs to kill cancer cells). Several products were authorised for the condition in the Community at the time of submission of the application for orphan drug designation.
Human monoclonal antibody against HLA-DR might be of potential significant benefit for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia because it might act differently from other medicinal products. This assumption will have to be confirmed at the time of marketing authorisation. This will be necessary to maintain the orphan status.

7 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4HB, UK
Tel. (44-20) 74 18 84 00 Fax (44-20) 75 23 70 40
E-mail: orphandrugs@emea.europa.eu http://www.emea.europa.eu

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, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia was considered to affect approximately 2.7 in 10,000 persons in the European Union, which, at the time of designation, corresponded to about 124,000 persons.

How is this medicinal product expected to act?
Antibodies are proteins in the body that target and bind specific structures on the surface of foreign bodies, such as bacteria or cancer cells. Human monoclonal antibody against HLA-DR is an antibody that recognises a specific area of human leucocyte antigen-DR (HLA-DR), which is a protein present in the surface of some cells in the body, belonging to the immune system. In experimental conditions it has been shown that when the antibody binds the HLA-Dron malignant cells, it triggers their death Through this mechanism human monoclonal antibody against HLA-DR might induce the death of multiple myeloma cells.

What is the stage of development of this medicinal product?
The effects of human monoclonal antibody against HLA-DR were evaluated in experimental models.

At the time of submission of the application for orphan designation, clinical trials including patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia were ongoing.

The medicinal product was not authorised anywhere worldwide for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia or designated as orphan medicinal product elsewhere for this condition, at the time of submission.

According to Regulation (EC) No 141/2000 of 16 December 1999, the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP) adopted on 7 December 2005 a positive opinion recommending the grant 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.

* 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 25), Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein. This represents a population of 459,700,000 (Eurostat 2004). This estimate is based on available information and calculations presented by the sponsor at the time of the application.

For more information:
Sponsor's contact details:
GPC Biotech AG
Fraunhoferstrasse 20
D-82152 Martinsried
Munich
Germany
Telephone: +49 89 85 65 32 10
Telefax: +49 89 85 65 26 97
E-mail: info@gpc-biotech.com

Patients' associations contact points:

Leukaemia Care
2 Shrubbery Avenue
Worcester
WR1 1QH
United Kingdom
0800 169 6680 (freephone for UK residents)
Telephone: +44 19 05 33 00 03 / + 44 84 57 67 32 03
Telefax: +44 19 05 33 00 90
E-mail: enquiries@leukaemiaCARE.org.uk

Associazione Italiana contro le Leucemie-linfomi e mieloma ONLUS
Via Ravenna 34
00161 Roma
Italy
Telephone: +39 06 44 03 763
Telefax: +39 06 44 04 226
E-mail: ail@ail.it

Leukaemia Research Fund
43 Great Ormond Street
London
WC1N 3JJ
United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 20 74 05 01 01
Telefax : +44 20 74 05
E-mail: info@lrf.org.uk

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

Language	Active Ingredient	Indication
English	Human monoclonal antibody against HLA-DR	Treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukemia
Czech	Lidská monoklonální protilátka proti HLA-DR	Léčba chronické lymfatické leukémie
Danish	Humant monoklonalt antistof mod HLA-DR	Behandling af kronisk lymfocytær leukæmi
Dutch	Humaan monoklonaal antilichaam tegen HLA-DR	Behandeling van chronische lymfocytaire leukemie
Estonian	HLA-DR vastane inimese monoklonaalne antikeha	Kroonilise lümfoidleukeemia ravi
Finnish	Humanisoitu monoklonaalinen HLA-DR-vasta-aine	Kroonisen lymfosyyttileukemian hoito
French	Anticorps monoclonal humain contre HLA-DR	Traitement de la leucémie lymphoïde chronique
German	Humaner monoklonaler Antikörper gegen HLA-DR	Behandlung der chronisch-lymphatischen Leukämie
Greek	Ανθρώπινο μονοκλωνικό αντίσωμα κατά HLA-DR	Θεραπεία της χρόνιας λεμφοκυτταρικής λευχαιμίας
Hungarian	HLA-DR elleni humán monoklonális ellenanyag	Krónikus lymphoid leukémia kezelése
Italian	Anticorpo monoclonale umano contro l'HLA-DR	Trattamento della leucemia linfocitica cronica
Latvian	Cilvēka monoklonālās antivielas pret HLA-DR	Hroniskas limfocitiskās leikēmijas ārstēšana
Lithuanian	Žmogaus monokloninis antikūnas prieš ŽLA-DR	Lėtinės limfocitinės leukemijos gydymas
Polish	ludzkie przeciwciało monoklonalne przeciwko HLA-DR	Leczenie przewlekłej białaczki limfatycznej
Portuguese	Anticorpo monoclonal humano contra o HLA-DR	Tratamento da leucemia linfocítica crónica
Slovak	Ľudské monoklonné protilátky proti HLA-DR	Liečba chronickej lymfocytovej leukémie
Slovenian	Človeška monoklonska protitelesa proti HLA-DR	Zdravljenje kronične limfatske levkemije
Spanish	Anticuerpo monoclonal humano contra HLA-DR	Tratamiento de la leucemia linfocítica crónica
Swedish	Human monoklonal antikropp mot HLA-DR	Behandling av kronisk lymfatisk leukemi
Norwegian	Humant monoklonalt antistoff mot HLA-DR	Behandling av kronisk lymfatisk leukemi
Icelandic	Einstofna mótefni úr mönnum gegn HLA-DR mótefnavökum	Meðferð á langvinnu eitilfrumuhvítblæði