4 February 2015
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Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products

Public summary of opinion on orphan designation

Everolimus for the treatment of gastro-entero-pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours

First publication	1 July 2008
Rev.1: withdrawal from the Community Register	1 September 2011
Rev.2: sponsor's change of address	4 February 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.

Please note that this product was withdrawn from the Community Register of designated orphan medicinal products in July 2011 on request of the sponsor.

On 14 November 2007, orphan designation (EU/3/07/488) was granted by the European Commission to Novartis Europharm Limited, United Kingdom, for everolimus for the treatment gastro-entero-pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours.

What are gastro-entero-pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours?

Gastro-entero-pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours (GEP-NET) are a group of tumours that share a number of common characteristics, for example they contain specific chemical substances called "neuroendocrine markers" on the tumour cell surface and they are able to produce hormones. There are two main types of GEP-NET: carcinoid tumours, and "pancreatic-type" endocrine tumours (these often occur in the pancreas, but also in other sites). GEP-NET are chronically debilitating as they often produce and secrete hormonal substances that may cause severe symptoms, and are life-threatening if they spread to other organs in the body.

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

At the time of designation, GEP-NET affected approximately 1.8 in 10,000 people in the European Union (EU). This was equivalent to a total of around 90,000 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 treatments are available?

At the time of the application for orphan designation, several products were authorised in the Community for the treatment of one or more of GEP-NET. In most cases, these products are active against the symptoms caused by the secretion of hormones, but are not active against the growth of the tumours.

Everolimus may be of potential significant benefit, as it is expected to be active against tumour growth, and thus reduce tumour size and improve survival. These assumptions will have to be confirmed at the time of marketing authorisation. This will be necessary to maintain the orphan status.

How is this medicine expected to work?

Enzymes are proteins produced by the human body that speed up the conversion of certain chemical substances of the body into other substances. Everolimus blocks (inhibits) a particular enzyme, called serine/threonine kinase. This enzyme plays a role in a number of molecular reactions, which control the growth and the division of the cells. In cancer cells, the function of this enzyme is disturbed, causing uncontrolled growth and multiplication of the cancer cells. Everolimus might, by inhibition of this enzyme activity, help slow down or stop the further growth of the cancer cells.

What is the stage of development of this medicine?

At the time of orphan designation the effects of everolimus were evaluated in experimental models.

At the time of submission of the application for orphan designation, clinical trials in patients with GEP-NET were ongoing.

Everolimus was not authorised anywhere worldwide for treatment of GEPNET, at the time of submission. Orphan designation of everolimus was granted in the European Union for the treatment of renal cell carcinoma in 2007.

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.

[*]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).

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.

For more information

Sponsor's contact details:

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United Kingdom
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E-mail: orphan.enquiries@novartis.com

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[1], Norwegian and Icelandic

Language	Active Ingredient	Indication
English	Everolimus	Treatment of gastro-entero-pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours
Bulgarian	Еверолимус	Лечение на гастро-ентеро-панкреатични невроендокринни тумори
Czech	Everolimus	Léčba gastroenteropankreatických neuroendokrinních tumorů
Danish	Everolimus	Behandling af gastroentero pankreatiske neuroendokrine tumorer
Dutch	Everolimus	Behandeling van gastro-entero-pancreatische neuro-endocriene tumoren
Estonian	Everoliimus	Gastroenteropankreaatiliste neuroendokriintuumorite ravi
Finnish	Everolimuusi	Maha-suolikanavan ja haiman neuroendokriinisten kasvainten hoito
French	Évérolimus	Traitement des tumeurs neuro-endocrines gastro-entéro-pancréatiques
German	Everolimus	Behandlung von gastro-entero-pankreatischen neuroendokrinen Tumoren
Greek	Everolimus	Θεραπεία των γαστρεντεροπαγκρεατικών νευροενδοκρινικών όγκων
Hungarian	Everolimus	Gastro-entero-pancreaticus neuroendokrin tumorok kezelése
Italian	Everolimus	Trattamento dei tumori neuroendocrini gastroenteropancreatici
Latvian	Everolīms	Kuņģa-zarnu trakta-aizkuņģa dziedzera neiroendokrīnu audzēju ārstēšana
Lithuanian	Everolimuzas	Skrandžio, žarnų, kasos neuroendokrininių navikų gydymas
Maltese	Everolimus	Kura ta' tumuri newroendokrini gastro-entero-pankrejatiċi
Polish	Ewerolimus	Leczenie pacjentów z guzami neuroendokrynnymi przewodu pokarmowego i trzustki
Portuguese	Everolimus	Tratamento de tumores neuroendócrinos gastro-entero-pancreáticos
Romanian	Everolimus	Tratamentul tumorilor neuroendocrine gastro-entero-pancreatice
Slovak	Everolimus	Liečba gastroenteropankreatických neuroendokrinných tumorov
Slovenian	Everolimus	Zdravljenje gastroenteropankreatičnih neuroendokrinih tumorjev
Spanish	Everolimus	Tratamiento de los tumores neuroendocrinos gastroenteropancreáticos
Swedish	Everolimus	Behandling av neuroendokrina tumörer i mage, tarm och bukspottkörtel

[1] At the time of designation

Language	Active Ingredient	Indication
Norwegian	Everolimus	Behandling av gastro-entero-pankreatiske neuroendokrine tumorer
Icelandic	Everolímus	Til meðferðar við maga-þarma- bris æxlum af taugainnkirtla¬toga