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Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products

Public summary of opinion on orphan designation

Triheptanoin for the treatment of long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-coA dehydrogenase deficiency

On 28 July 2015, orphan designation (EU/3/15/1524) was granted by the European Commission to Ultragenyx UK Limited, United Kingdom, for triheptanoin for the treatment of long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-coA dehydrogenase deficiency.

What is long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-coA dehydrogenase deficiency?

Long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase (LCHAD) deficiency is an inherited disease caused by the lack of an enzyme called LCHAD. LCHAD is one of the enzymes needed by the mitochondria (the energy-producing components within cells) to break down certain fatty acids in order to generate energy. If this enzyme is lacking, cells cannot function normally causing a wide range of signs and symptoms including hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar levels), abnormalities in the retina (the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye) and damage to the liver, brain, nerves and heart.

The condition is chronically debilitating and life-threatening, particularly since it causes hypoglycaemia and damage to the nerves and various organs.

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

At the time of designation, LCHAD deficiency affected approximately 0.8 in 10,000 people in the European Union (EU). This was equivalent to a total of around 41,000 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 designation, no satisfactory methods were authorised in the EU for the treatment of LCHAD deficiency. Treatment of patients primarily involved restriction of dietary fat, as well as

*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 28), Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. This represents a population of 512,900,000 (Eurostat 2015).

increased frequency of food intake to avoid overloading the body with fatty acids. However, these dietary regimens were of unproven value or only partially successful.

How is this medicine expected to work?

Triheptanoin is a synthetic (artificially produced) fat, which is broken down in the liver into substances that can be used to generate energy without the need for LCHAD. By bypassing the need for LCHAD, this medicine is expected to restore normal energy generation and ultimately improve the overall outcome of the patients.

What is the stage of development of this medicine?

The effects of the medicine have been evaluated in experimental models.

At the time of submission of the application for orphan designation, clinical trials with triheptanoin in patients with long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-coA dehydrogenase deficiency were ongoing.

At the time of submission, triheptanoin was not authorised anywhere in the EU for long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-coA dehydrogenase deficiency. Orphan designation of the medicine had been granted in the United States for this condition.

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 141/2000 of 16 December 1999, the COMP adopted a positive opinion on 18 June 2014 recommending the granting of this designation.

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:

Ultragenyx UK Limited
c/o Regus
Level 33, 25 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London E14 5LB
United Kingdom
Tel. +44 (0)20 7038 8025
Fax +44 (0)20 7038 8100
E-mail: inquiry@ultragenyx.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 languages¹, Norwegian and Icelandic

Language	Active ingredient	Indication
English	Triheptanoin	Treatment of long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
Bulgarian	Трихептаноин	Лечение на дефицит на дълговерижна 3-хидроксацил-CoA дехидрогеназа
Croatian	Triheptanoin	Liječenje nedostatka 3-hidroksiacil-CoA dehidrogenaze dugog lanca
Czech	Triheptanoin	Léčba deficitu 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenázy mastných kyselin s dlouhým řetězcem
Danish	Triheptanoin	Behandling af langkædet 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA-dehydrogenase mangel
Dutch	Triheptanoin	Behandeling van Lange keten 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA-dehydrogenase deficiëntie
Estonian	Triheptanoiin	Pika ahelaga 3-hüdroksüatsüül-CoA-dehüdrogenaasi defitsiidi ravi
Finnish	Triheptanoiini	Pitkäketjuisten rasvahappojen 3-hydroksiasyyli-CoA-dehydrogenaasin puutoken hoito
French	Triheptanoïne	Traitement du déficit en 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA déshydrogénase des acides gras à chaîne longue
German	Triheptanoin	Behandlung eines Long-Chain-3-Hydroxyacyl-CoA-Dehydrogenase-Mangel
Greek	Τριεπτανοΐνη	Θεραπεία της ανεπάρκειας 3-υδροξυακυλ-CoA αφυδρογονάσης μακράς αλύσου
Hungarian	Triheptanoin	Hosszú-láncú 3-hidroxi-acil-CoA dehidrogenáz hiány kezelésére
Italian	Trieptanoina	Trattamento del deficit di 3-idrossiacil-CoA deidrogenasi a catena lunga
Latvian	Triheptanoīns	Garā ķēžu 3-hidoksiacil-CoA-dehidrogenāzes deficīta ārstēšana
Lithuanian	Triheptanoinas	Ilgųjų grandinių 3-hidroksiacil-KoA dehidrogenazės stokos gydymas
Maltese	Triheptanoin	Kura ta' nuqqas ta' 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA-dehydrogenase b'katina twila
Polish	Triheptanoina	Leczenie niedoboru dehydrogenazy 3-hydroksyacylo-koenzymu A długołańcuchowych kwasów tłuszczowych
Portuguese	Tri-heptanoína	Tratamento da deficiência da desidrogenase de 3-hidroxi-acil-CoA de cadeia longa
Romanian	Triheptanoin	Tratamentul deficienței de 3-hidroxiacil-CoA-dehidrogenază cu lanț lung
Slovak	Triheptanoín	Liečba deficitu 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenázy mastných kyselín s dlhým reťazcom
Slovenian	Triheptanoin	Zdravljenje pomanjkanja dolgoverižne 3-hidroksiacil-CoA-dehidrogenaze

¹ At the time of designation

Language	Active ingredient	Indication
Spanish	Triheptanoína	Tratamiento de la deficiencia de 3-hidroxiacil-CoA-deshidrogenasa de cadena larga
Swedish	Triheptanoin	Behandling av långkedjigt 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA-dehydrogenasbrist
Norwegian	Triheptanoin	Behandling av langkjedet 3-hydroksyacyl-CoA-dehydrogenasedefekt
Icelandic	Tríheptanóín	Meðferð við skorti á langkeðju 3-hýdroxýasýl-CoA-dehýdrógenasa