

10 December 2018
EMA/674141/2018

Public summary of opinion on orphan designation

Avapritinib for the treatment of mastocytosis

On 26 October 2018, orphan designation (EU/3/18/2074) was granted by the European Commission to PhaRA bvba, Belgium, for avapritinib (also known as BLU-285) for the treatment of mastocytosis.

What is mastocytosis?

Mastocytosis is a group of disorders in which there are too many mast cells (a type of white blood cell) in various organs in the body. These cells release large amounts of histamine and other substances into the blood, causing symptoms such as a skin rash, itchy skin and hot flushes.

In children, the disorder usually only affects the skin ('cutaneous mastocytosis') and causes a red and itchy rash, which may disappear on its own. In some adults, the disorder progresses into 'systemic mastocytosis', in which the mast cells infiltrate organs, such as the intestine, the liver, the spleen and the bone marrow. This causes various symptoms such as palpitations, fainting, bone pain, tiredness, weight loss, diarrhoea, nausea (feeling sick), vomiting and stomach ache.

Mastocytosis is a condition that is debilitating in the long term and may be life threatening in those patients who develop the systemic form of the disorder.

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

At the time of designation, mastocytosis affected approximately 3 in 10,000 people in the European Union (EU). This was equivalent to a total of around 155,000 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).

^{*}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 517,400,000 (Eurostat 2018).

What treatments are available?

At the time of designation, the medicine Rydapt (midostaurin) was authorised in the EU for the treatment of systemic mastocytosis. Treatments to relieve some of the symptoms of mastocytosis, including antihistamines such as cimetidine or famotidine, were also available.

The sponsor has provided sufficient information to show that the medicine might be of significant benefit for patients with mastocytosis because preliminary results showed that more patients responded to treatment with avapritinib than with midostaurin. This assumption will need to be confirmed at the time of marketing authorisation, in order to maintain the orphan status.

How is this medicine expected to work?

Avapritinib is a tyrosine kinase inhibitor. This means that it blocks the action of certain enzymes known as tyrosine kinases. These enzymes, which can be found on the surface of mast cells, are involved in stimulating the growth of mast cells in mastocytosis. By blocking these enzymes, avapritinib is expected to control the growth of mast cells, slowing down the progression of mastocytosis.

What is the stage of development of this medicine?

The effects of avapritinib have been evaluated in experimental models.

At the time of submission of the application for orphan designation, clinical trials with avapritinib in patients with mastocytosis were ongoing.

At the time of submission, avapritinib was not authorised anywhere in the EU for mastocytosis. 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 13 September 2018 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:

Contact details of the current sponsor for this orphan designation can be found on EMA website, on the medicine's [rare disease designations page](#).

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	Avapritinib	Treatment of mastocytosis
Bulgarian	Авапритиниб	Лечение на мастоцитоза
Croatian	Avapritinib	Liječenje mastocitoze
Czech	Avapritinib	Léčba mastocytózy
Danish	Avapritinib	Behandling af mastocytose
Dutch	Avapritinib	Behandeling van mastocytose
Estonian	Avapritinib	Mastotsütoosi ravi
Finnish	Avapritinibi	Mastosytoosin hoito
French	Avapritinib	Traitement de la mastocytose
German	Avapritinib	Behandlung der Mastozytose
Greek	Αβαπριτινίμπη	Θεραπεία της μαστοκυττάρωσης
Hungarian	Avapritinib	Mastocytosis kezelése
Italian	Avapritinib	Trattamento della mastocitosi
Latvian	Avapritinibs	Mastocitozes ārstēšana
Lithuanian	Avapritinibas	Mastocitozės gydymas
Maltese	Avapritinib	Kura tal-mastocitosi
Polish	Awapritinib	Leczenie mastocytozy
Portuguese	Avapritinib	Tratamento da mastocitose
Romanian	Avapritinib	Tratamentul mastocitozei
Slovak	Avapritinib	Liečba mastocytózy
Slovenian	Avapritinib	Zdravljenje mastocitoze
Spanish	Avapritinib	Tratamiento de la mastocitosis
Swedish	Avapritinib	Bahandling av mastocytos
Norwegian	Avapritinib	Behandling av mastocytose
Icelandic	Avapritinib	Meðferð við mastfrumnageri

¹ At the time of designation