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Public summary of opinion on orphan designation

3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)propanoic acid for the treatment of Stargardt's disease

On 24 April 2019, orphan designation (EU/3/19/2152) was granted by the European Commission to TMC Pharma (EU) Limited, Ireland, for 3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)propanoic acid (also known as STG-001) for the treatment of Stargardt's disease.

What is Stargardt's disease?

Stargardt's disease is a hereditary disorder of the eye that leads to progressive loss of sight. In the majority of cases Stargardt's disease is caused by abnormalities in a gene called *ABCA4*. The *ABCA4* gene is responsible for the production of a protein called ABCR that regulates the transport of substances in and out of some cells in the retina (the light-sensitive surface at the back of the eye). In patients with Stargardt's disease, ABCR does not work properly. As a result, deposits known as lipofuscins, made of fats and proteins, build up inside the retina cells, which become damaged and eventually die.

Stargardt's disease is a long-term debilitating disease, because the patient's sight becomes progressively worse and eventually leads to blindness.

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

At the time of designation, Stargardt's disease affected approximately 1 in 10,000 people in the European Union (EU). This was equivalent to a total of around 52,000 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 Stargardt's disease.

*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 518,400,000 (Eurostat 2019).



How is this medicine expected to work?

Vitamin A (retinol) is a key component of the toxic substances that build up in the retina of patients with Stargardt's disease. This vitamin is carried to the retina with the help of a protein called RBP4.

The medicine attaches to RBP4, stopping it from transporting vitamin A to the retina and thereby reducing the build-up of the toxic substances.

What is the stage of development of this medicine?

The effects of 3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)propanoic acid have been evaluated in experimental models.

At the time of submission of the application for orphan designation, no clinical trials with the medicine in patients with Stargardt's disease had been started.

At the time of submission, the medicine was not authorised anywhere in the EU for the treatment of Stargardt's disease or designated as an orphan medicinal product elsewhere for this condition.

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 141/2000, the COMP adopted a positive opinion on 21 March 2019, 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](#).

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	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)propanoic acid	Treatment of Stargardt's disease
Bulgarian	3-(3-(3,5-бис(трифлуорометил)фенил)-1H-пиразол-1-ил) пропионова киселина	Лечение на болест на Stargardt
Croatian	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluorometil)fenil)-1H-pirazol-1-il) propanska kiselina	Liječenje Stargardtove bolesti
Czech	Kyselina 3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)fenyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)propionová	Léčba Stargardtovy choroby
Danish	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl) propionsyre	Behandling af Stargardt sygdom
Dutch	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluormethyl)fenyl)-1H-pyrazool-1-yl) propaanzuur	Behandeling van de ziekte van Stargardt
Estonian	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluorometüül)fenüül)-1H-pürasool-1-üül) propaanhape	Stargardt'tõve ravi
Finnish	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluorimetyyli)fenyyli)-1H-pyratsol-1-yyli) propaanihappo	Stargardtin taudin hoito
French	Acide 3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluorométhyl)phényl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl) propanoïque	Traitement de la maladie de Stargardt
German	3-(3-(3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-Propionsäure	Behandlung der Stargardt-Krankheit
Greek	3-(3-(3,5-δισ(τριφθορομεθυλ)φαινυλ)-1H-πυραζολ-1-υλ) προπανοϊκό οξύ	Θεραπεία της νόσου Stargardt
Hungarian	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluorometil)fenil)-1H-pirazol-1-il) propionsav	Stargardt-kór kezelése
Italian	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluorometil)fenil)-1H-pirazol-1-il) acido propanoico	Trattamento della malattia di Stargardt
Latvian	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluormetil)fenil)-1H-pirazol-1-il) propānskābe	Stargardta slimības ārstēšana
Lithuanian	3-(3-(3,5-bis (trifluorometil)fenil) -1h-pirazol-1-il) propiono rūgštis	Stargardt ligos gydymas
Maltese	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl) propanoic acid	Kura tal-marda ta' Stargardt
Polish	Kwas 3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluorometrylo)fenylo)-1H-pirazolo-1-ylo) propanowy	Leczenie choroby Stargardta
Portuguese	Ácido 3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluorometil)fenil)-1H-pirazol-1-il) propanóico	Tratamento da doença de Stargardt

¹ At the time of designation

Language	Active ingredient	Indication
Romanian	Acid 3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluorometil)fenil)-1H-pirazol-1-il) propanoic	Tratamentul bolii Stargardt
Slovak	Kyselina 3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluórometyl)fenyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)propiónová	Liečba Stargardtovej choroby
Slovenian	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluorometil)fenil)-1H-pirazol-1-il) propanojska kislina	Zdravljenje Stargardtjeve bolezni
Spanish	Ácido propanoico 3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluorometil)fenil)-1H-pirazol-1-il	Tratamiento de la enfermedad de Stargardt
Swedish	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluorometyl)fenyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)propansyra	Behandling av Stargardts sjukdom
Norwegian	3-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluormetyl)fenyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl) propansyre	Behandling av Stargardts sykdom
Icelandic	3-(3-(3,5-bis(tríflúorómetýl)fenýl)-1H-pýrasól-1-ýl) própansýra	Meðferð við Stargardts sjúkdómi

Withdrawal