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EMA/COMP/663120/2015
Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products

# Recommendation for maintenance of orphan designation at the time of marketing authorisation

## Kolbam (cholic acid) for the treatment of inborn errors in primary bile acid synthesis responsive to treatment with cholic acid



During its meeting of 6 to 8 October 2015, the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP) reviewed the designation EU/3/09/683 for Kolbam (cholic acid) as an orphan medicinal product for the treatment of inborn errors in primary bile acid synthesis responsive to treatment with cholic acid. The COMP assessed whether, at the time of marketing authorisation, the medicinal product still met the criteria for orphan designation. The Committee looked at the seriousness and prevalence of the condition, and the existence of other methods of treatment. As other methods of treatment for patients with this condition are authorised in the European Union (EU), the COMP also looked at the significant benefit of the product over existing treatments. The COMP recommended that the orphan designation of the medicine be maintained[1].

### Life-threatening or long-term debilitating nature of the condition

The Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) recommended the authorisation of Kolbam for:

'treatment of inborn errors in primary bile acid synthesis due to Sterol 27-hydroxylase (presenting as cerebrotendinous xanthomatosis, CTX) deficiency, 2- (or α-) methylacyl-CoA racemase (AMACR) deficiency or Cholesterol 7α-hydroxylase (CYP7A1) deficiency in infants, children and adolescents aged 1 month to 18 years and adults'.

This falls within the scope of the product's designated orphan indication, which is: 'treatment of inborn errors in primary bile acid synthesis responsive to treatment with cholic acid'.

The COMP concluded that there had been no change in the seriousness of the condition since the orphan designation in 2009. Inborn errors in primary bile acid synthesis responsive to treatment with cholic acid remain a group of long-term debilitating and life-threatening diseases because they can severely damage the liver.

[1] The maintenance of the orphan designation at time of marketing authorisation would, except in specific situations, give an orphan medicinal product 10 years of market exclusivity in the EU. This means that in the 10 years after its authorisation similar products with a comparable therapeutic indication cannot be placed on the market.

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## Prevalence of the condition

The sponsor informed the COMP that there is no evidence to suggest an increase in the prevalence of inborn errors in primary bile acid synthesis.

On the basis of the information provided by the sponsor and the knowledge of the COMP, the COMP concluded that the prevalence of these conditions remains below the ceiling for orphan designation, which is 5 people in 10,000. At the time of the review of the orphan designation, the prevalence was estimated to be approximately 0.06 people in 10,000. This is equivalent to a total of around 3,000 people in the EU.

## Existence of other methods of treatment

At the time of the review of the orphan designation, Orphacol (cholic acid) was authorised in the EU for the treatment of inborn errors in primary bile acid synthesis due to a deficiency in two specific liver enzymes: 3β-hydroxy-Δ5-C27-steroid oxidoreductase or Δ4-3-oxosteroid-5β-reductase.

## Significant benefit of Kolbam

The COMP noted that another medicine containing cholic acid (Orphacol) is authorised for the treatment of inborn errors of primary bile acid synthesis; however Orphacol is authorised in patients lacking different liver enzymes than those in whom Kolbam is to be used. The Committee therefore concluded that the claim of a significant benefit of Kolbam in the treatment of inborn errors of primary bile acid synthesis is justified by the fact that this medicine is used in a specific group of patients for whom no treatment option exists.

## Conclusions

Based on the data submitted and the scientific discussion within the COMP, the COMP considered that Kolbam still meets the criteria for designation as an orphan medicinal product and that Kolbam should remain in the Community Register of Orphan Medicinal Products.

Further information on the current regulatory status of Kolbam can be found in the European public assessment report (EPAR) on the Agency's website ema.europa.eu/Find medicine/Human medicines/European public assessment reports.