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Human Medicines Research and Development Support Division

Public summary of the evaluation of a proposed paediatric investigation plan

Masitinib (mesylate) for treatment of mastocytosis

On 20 March 2015, the Paediatric Committee of the European Medicines Agency did not agree a Paediatric Investigation Plan* (PIP) for masitinib (mesylate) for the treatment of mastocytosis (EMEA-001266-PIP02-14).

What is masitinib (mesylate), and how is it expected to work?

This medicine is a tyrosine-kinase inhibitor (c-kit, Lyn and Fyn). This means that it blocks certain enzymes known as tyrosine kinases. These enzymes can be found in some receptors on the surface of mast cells, including the receptors that are involved in stimulating the mast cell activity and proliferation, involved in the onset of mastocytosis. By this mechanism of action, masitinib is able to reduce symptoms in patients with mastocytosis. This medicine is proposed in adults for the treatment of systemic mastocytosis with severe handicap.

Masitinib (mesylate) is not authorised in the European Union. Studies in adults are currently on-going.

What was the proposal from the applicant?

For children, the applicant proposed to study the medicine in children from 7 years to less than 18 years of age affected by mastocytosis, in a paediatric investigation plan*. The plan includes a proposal to determine the right dose and to show efficacy and safety of the medicine in clinical studies. The future indication proposed for children is treatment mastocytosis (and specifically with a juxtembrane (JM) mutation of c-kit on exons 8, 9, 10 and 11 and without a JM mutation of c-kit (wild-type)).

Is there a need to treat children affected by mastocytosis?

Taking into account the proposed indication in adults, and the characteristics of the medicine, the Paediatric Committee considered, for the time being, this medicine was of no potential use for the treatment of mastocytosis in children.

30 Churchill Place ● Canary Wharf ● London E14 5EU ● United Kingdom
Telephone +44 (0)20 3660 6000 **Facsimile** +44 (0)20 3660 5555
Send a question via our website www.ema.europa.eu/contact

What did the Paediatric Committee conclude on the potential use of this medicine in children?

The Committee disagreed with the plan proposed by the applicant, and granted an exemption (waiver*) from conducting studies, instead.

The Committee concluded, considering the current available data, that this medicinal product cannot be expected to be of significant therapeutic benefit to or fulfil a therapeutic need of the specified paediatric subset(s).

The Committee came to this conclusion because the condition for which the medicinal product could potentially be used, has a favourable prognosis in the paediatric population.

In particular paediatric mastocytosis with juxtamembrane mutation of c-kit on exons 8, 9, 10 and 11 and without a JM mutation of c-kit (wild-type) usually corresponds with well differentiated mastocytosis characterised by high probability to spontaneous regression at the puberty and very good prognosis.

Therefore, the clinical development of masitinib for paediatric patients with mastocytosis could be re-considered only once the benefit and risk profile of the product has been clearly defined in adults.

What happens next?

The applicant has now received the EMA Decision (P/0093/2015)* on this medicine. The Decision itself is necessary for the applicant to request in the future a marketing authorisation* for this medicine in adults.

*Definitions:

Applicant	The pharmaceutical company or person proposing the Paediatric Investigation Plan or requesting the Product-Specific Waiver
Children	All children, from birth to the day of the 18th birthday.
Paediatric investigation plan (PIP)	Set of studies and measures, usually including clinical studies in children, to evaluate the benefits and the risks of the use of a medicine in children, for a given disease or condition. A PIP may include "partial" waivers (for example, for younger children) and/or a deferral (see below).
Waiver	An exemption from conducting studies in children, for a given disease or condition. This can be granted for all children (product-specific waiver), or in specific subsets (partial waiver): for example, in boys or in children below a given age.
Deferral	The possibility to request marketing authorisation for the use of the medicine in adults, before completing one or more of the studies /measures included in a PIP. The Paediatric Committee may grant a deferral to avoid a delay in the availability of the medicine for adults.
Opinion	The result of the evaluation by the Paediatric Committee of the European Medicines Agency. The opinion may grant a product-specific waiver, or agree a PIP.
Decision	The legal act issued by the European Medicines Agency, which puts into effect the Opinion of the Paediatric Committee.
Pharmaceutical form	The physical aspect of the medicine (the form in which it is presented), for example: a tablet, capsule, powder, solution for injection, etc. A medicine can have more than one pharmaceutical form.
Placebo	A substance that has no therapeutic effect, used as a control in testing new drugs.
Active control	A medicine with therapeutic effect, used as a control in testing new drugs.
Historical control	A group of patients with the same disease, treated in the past and used in a comparison with the patients treated with the new drug.
Route of administration	How a medicine is given to the patient. For example: for oral use, for intramuscular use, for intravenous use, etc. The same medicine, or the same pharmaceutical form, may be given through more than one route of administration.
Patent	A form of protection of intellectual property rights. If a medicinal product is protected by a patent, the patent holder has the sole right to make, use, and sell the product, for a limited period. In certain circumstances, a patent for a medicinal product may be extended for a variable period by a Supplementary Protection Certificate.
Marketing Authorisation	When a Marketing Authorisation is granted, the pharmaceutical company may start selling the medicine in the relevant country (in the whole European Union, if the procedure was a centralised one).