European Medicines Agency
Pre-authorisation Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use

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PRESS RELEASE
Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products
September 2005 Meeting

The sixtieth meeting of the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP) took place on 8-9 September 2005.

The Committee welcomed Dr. Mariana Todorova from the Bulgarian Drug Agency as a COMP observer.

COMP Opinions

The Committee adopted its first opinion recommending orphan designation following review of an application based on the so-called "insufficient return on investment" criterion pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 3.1(a) of Regulation (EC) No 141/2000. Orphan designation of recombinant modified vaccinia virus Ankara expressing tuberculosis antigen 85A, a booster vaccine for prevention of tuberculosis disease, was recommended on the grounds that marketing of the medicinal product would be unlikely to generate sufficient return to justify the necessary investment.

- Recombinant modified vaccinia virus Ankara expressing tuberculosis antigen 85A, from the University of Oxford, for prevention of **tuberculosis disease in BCG vaccinated individuals** (review time: 89 days).

A further 12 positive opinions on orphan medicinal product designation on the prevalence criterion were adopted during this meeting:

- (1R,2R,4S)-4-{(2R)-2-[(3S,6R,7E,9R,10R,12R,14S,15E, 17E,19E,21S,23S,26R,27R,34aS)-9,27-dihydroxy-10,21-dimethoxy-6,8,12,14,20,26-hexamethyl-1,5,11,28,29-pentaoxo-1,4,5,6,9,10,11,12,13,14,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,31,32,33,34,34a-tetra-cosahydro-3H-23,27-epoxypyrido[2,1-c][1,4]oxazacyclohentriacontin-3-yl]propyl}-2-methoxy-cyclohexyldimethyl-phosphinate, from Orphix Consulting GmbH, for treatment of **primary malignant bone tumours** (review time: 47 days).

- (*E*)-(1*S*,4*S*,10*S*,21*R*)-7-[(*Z*)-ethylidene]-4,21-diisopropyl-2-oxa-12,13-dithia-5,8,20,23-tetraazabicyclo [8.7.6]tricos-16-ene-3,6,9,19,22-pentone, from The Matthews Consultancy Ltd., for treatment of **peripheral T-cell lymphoma (nodal, other extranodal and leukaemic/disseminated)** (review time: 47 days).

- Alfimeprase, from QuadraMed, for treatment of **acute peripheral arterial occlusion** (review time: 47 days).

- Bacterial lipase, from Nordmark Arzneimittel GmbH u. Co. KG, for treatment of **malabsorption due to exocrine pancreatic enzyme insufficiency** (review time: 47 days).

- Levamisol hydrochloride, from ACE Pharmaceuticals BV, for treatment of **nephrotic syndrome** (review time: 47 days).

- Mannitolum, from Stricent AB, for treatment of **cystic fibrosis** (review time: 47 days).

- Oligonucleotide phosphorothioate (TAAACGTTATAACGTTATGACGTCAT), sodium salt, from Oligovax, for treatment of **glioma** (review time: 47 days).

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- Peptide 144 TGF-beta1-inhibitor, from Digna Biotech S.L., for treatment of **systemic sclerosis** (review time: 89 days).
- Peptide 144 TGF-beta1-inhibitor, from Digna Biotech S.L., for treatment of **localised scleroderma** (review time: 89 days).
- Recombinant microbial lipase, from Solvay Pharmaceuticals GmbH, for treatment of **malabsorption due to exocrine pancreatic enzyme insufficiency** (review time: 47 days).
- Human *Staphylococcus aureus* immunoglobulin, from Nabi Biopharmaceuticals Europe Ltd, for treatment of ***Staphylococcus aureus*** **bacteraemia** (review time: 47 days).
- Tilarginine acetate, from Dr Ulrich Granzer, for treatment of **cardiogenic shock** (review time: 89 days).

Four oral explanations took place during the meeting. The COMP noted that two applications for orphan medicinal product designation were withdrawn by sponsors, one during the evaluation phase and one during the validation phase of the procedure.

Prior to this meeting, the Committee adopted one positive opinion via written procedure on 19 August 2005:

- Imatinib mesilate, from Novartis Europharm Limited, for treatment of **chronic eosinophilic leukaemia and the hypereosinophilic syndrome** (review time: 32 days).

Overview of orphan designation procedures

The European Commission granted twelve positive decisions on orphan designation[1] since the last COMP meeting on 12-13 July 2005 (see Annex 1).

The status of orphan designation procedures, to date for 2005, is summarised below:

Applications submitted	*Positive COMP Opinions*	*Applications withdrawn*	*Appeals ongoing*	*Final negative COMP Opinions*	*Designations granted by Commission*
77	71	17	-	-	52

An overview of orphan designation procedures for 2000-2004 is provided in Annex 2.

Further information on designated orphan medicinal products is publicly available in the form of summarised COMP Opinions[2], which the Agency routinely publishes following adoption of the respective decisions on orphan designation by the European Commission.

Applications for Marketing Authorisation for Orphan Medicinal Products

Details of those designated orphan medicinal products that have been the subject of a centralised application for marketing authorisation since the last COMP meeting are provided in Annex 3.

COMP Report to the European Commission

Since its last meeting in July 2005, the COMP has finalised and published its report to the Commission in relation to Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 141/2000. This report (EMEA/35218/2005), which is available on the EMEA's web-site[3], reflects upon the more than 5 years of experience gained as a result of the application of this legislation and provides an account of the public health benefits which have been obtained through orphan legislation. It is published as a

[1] Details of all orphan designations granted to date by the European Commission are entered in the Community Register of Orphan Medicinal Products (http://pharmacos.eudra.org/F2/register/index.htm)

[2] These documents are available on the EMEA web-site.

[3] The COMP Report (EMEA35218/2005) is published on the EMEA web site: http://www.emea.eu.int/pdfs/human/comp/3521805en.pdf

contribution to support the European Commission in finalising its general report before 22 January 2006.

In the report, the Committee does not see a need to revise the Regulation, but rather recommends a number of minor amendments to assure the smooth running of the system. The report includes recommendations to the European Commission to stimulate and foster EU policy on orphan medicinal products. Amongst the recommendations the need for continued support for the policy on fee reductions and the EU Special Contribution; commitment to the long-term sustainability of the Orphan legislation; reinforcement of orphan medicinal product research through the 7th Framework Programme; encouragement of Member States to actively adopt national incentives; and the importance of ensuring orphan drug availability to patients are underlined.

Date of next COMP meeting

The next COMP meeting will be a one-day meeting to be held on 19 October 2005.

NOTE: This Press Release, together with other information about the work of the EMEA, may be found on the internet at the following location: http://www.emea.eu.int/

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Medicinal products Designated as Orphan Medicinal Products since the July 2005 COMP Meeting

Active substance	Hydrocortisone (modified release tablet)
Sponsor	Professor Richard JM Ross
Orphan Indication	Treatment of congenital adrenal hyperplasia
Opinion receipt date	24/06/2005
Date of Commission Decision	27/07/2005

Active substance	Nemorubicin hydrochloride
Sponsor	Nerviano Medical Sciences Srl
Orphan Indication	Treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma
Opinion receipt date	24/06/2005
Date of Commission Decision	27/07/2005

Active substance	4-imino-1, 3-diazobicyclo-[3.1.0]-hexan-2-one
Sponsor	ICON Clinical Research Limited
Orphan Indication	Treatment of pancreatic cancer
Opinion receipt date	24/06/2005
Date of Commission Decision	27/07/2005

Active substance	Adeno-associated viral vector containing a modified U7-snRNA gene
Sponsor	Généthon
Orphan Indication	Treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy
Opinion receipt date	24/06/2005
Date of Commission Decision	27/07/2005

Active substance	Mifepristone
Sponsor	Laboratoire HRA Pharma
Orphan Indication	Treatment of Cushing's syndrome secondary to ectopic ACTH secretion
Opinion receipt date	24/06/2005
Date of Commission Decision	27/07/2005

Active substance	A mixture of anti-CD3 mAb (SPV-T3a)-ricin A chain fusion protein and anti- CD7 mAb (WT1)-ricin A chain fusion protein
Sponsor	Henogen S.A.
Orphan Indication	Treatment of graft-versus-host-disease
Opinion receipt date	2/08/2005
Date of Commission Decision	26/08/2005

Active substance	2-{4-[(5,6-diphenylpyrazin-2-yl)(isopropyl)amino]butoxy}-N-(methylsulfonyl)acetamide
Sponsor	Nippon Shinyaku Co. Ltd
Orphan Indication	Treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension and chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension
Opinion receipt date	2/08/2005
Date of Commission Decision	26/08/2005

Active substance	(2S)-2-[(4R)-2-oxo-4-propyltetrahydro-1H-pyrrol-1-yl] butanamide
Sponsor	UCB S.A.
Orphan Indication	Treatment of progressive myoclonic epilepsies
Opinion receipt date	2/08/2005
Date of Commission Decision	26/08/2005

Active substance	(1R,2S) 6-bromo-alpha-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2-methoxyalpha-(1-naphthyl)-beta-phenyl-3-quinolineethanol
Sponsor	Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
Orphan Indication	Treatment of tuberculosis
Opinion receipt date	2/08/2005
Date of Commission Decision	26/08/2005

Active substance	Autologous CD34+ cells transfected with retroviral vector containing adenosine deaminase gene
Sponsor	Fondazione Telethon
Orphan Indication	Treatment of severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) due to adenosine deaminase (ADA) deficiency
Opinion receipt date	4/08/2005
Date of Commission Decision	26/08/2005

Active substance	Extract of Sorghum bicolour leaf, Pterocarpus osun stem, Piper guineense seed and Caryophylli flower
Sponsor	Xechem UK Ltd
Orphan Indication	Treatment of sickle cell disease
Opinion receipt date	4/08/2005
Date of Commission Decision	26/08/2005

Active substance	Human autologous mesenchymal adult stem cells extracted from adipose tissue
Sponsor	CELLERIX S.L.
Orphan Indication	Treatment of anal fistula
Opinion receipt date	4/08/2005
Date of Commission Decision	26/08/2005

Overview of Procedures for Orphan Medicinal Product Designation for 2000-2004

Year	*Applications submitted*	*Positive COMP Opinions*	*Applications withdrawn*	*Final negative COMP Opinions*	*Designations granted by Commission*
2004	108	75	22	4	72
2003	87	54	41	1	55
2002	80	43	30	3	49
2001	83	64	27	1	64
2000	72	26	6	0	14

Overview of Designated Orphan Medicinal Products that have been the subject of a Centralised Application for Marketing Authorisation

- update since the last COMP meeting on 12-13 July 2005 -

Active substance	***Sponsor/applicant***	***EU Designation Number & Date of Orphan Designation***	***Designated Orphan Indication***
Betaine anhydrous (Cystadane)	Orphan Europe SARL	EU/3/01/045 09/07/2001	Treatment of homocystinuria
Dexrazoxane (Savene)	TopoTarget A/S	EU/3/01/059 19/09/2001	Treatment of anthracycline extravasations
Carboxypeptidase G2	Protherics PLC	EU/3/02/128 03/02/2003	Adjunctive treatment in patients at risk of methotrexate toxicity
Sitaxsentan sodium (Thelin)	Encysive (UK) Ltd	EU/3/04/234 21/10/2004	Treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension and chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension