The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use

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CPMP/2590/99

PRESS RELEASE

The Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products (CPMP) held its 52nd plenary meeting from 21 September 1999 to 23 September 1999.

On 20 September 1999, an ICH preparatory meeting with CPMP/Experts took place, followed by a joint meeting with EFPIA.

Centralised Procedures[1]

The Committee adopted:

- Two positive opinions on initial centralised applications:

- One positive opinion was adopted by consensus relating to a medicinal product containing a new active substance (Part B), a drug for treatment of imminent pre-term labour, indicated to delay imminent pre-term birth in pregnant women.
- One positive opinion under exceptional circumstances was adopted by consensus relating to a medicinal product containing a new active substance (Part B), indicated for the control of hyperphosphataemia in adult patients on haemodialysis.

- Four positive opinions on line extension applications (in accordance with Annex II of the Commission Regulation (EC) No 542/95):

- One positive opinion under exceptional circumstances was adopted by consensus relating to an application for a new pharmaceutical form concerning an already centrally authorised medicinal product containing an interferon (Part A), indicated for relapsing-remitting and secondary progressive multiple sclerosis.
- One positive opinion was adopted by consensus relating to an application for three additional strengths concerning an already centrally authorised medicinal product containing an antianaemic preparation (Part A), indicated for a variety of treatments related to anaemia or its prevention or to increase the yield of autologous blood from patients in a pre-donation programme.
- One positive opinion was adopted by consensus relating to an application for a new presentation concerning an already centrally authorised medicinal product containing an enzyme (Part A), indicated as long-term enzyme replacement therapy in patients with Type I Gaucher Disease.
- One positive opinion was adopted by majority vote relating to an application for two additional strengths concerning an already centrally authorised medicinal product containing a gonadotropin (Part A), indicated for the treatment of female infertility.

- Three positive opinions by consensus for centralised type I variations following the type II procedure.

- 11 positive opinions for centralised type II variations by consensus and one by majority vote.

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[1] Note for Editors:
Applicants may appeal any CPMP opinion, provided they notify the EMEA in writing of their intention to appeal within 15 days of receipt of the opinion.

7 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London E14 4HB, UK
Switchboard: (+44-171) 418 8400 Fax: (+44-171) 418 8420
E_Mail: mail@emea.eudra.org http://www.eudra.org/ emea.html

The CPMP adopted four lists of questions (two Part A/two Part B) concerning three active substances (one Part A/two Part B), all of which were considered to be non approvable based on the information available to the CPMP at this time.

The Committee considered the need for GMP inspections for eight medicinal products (Part B) and requested an inspection for one of them (bulk finished product).

The Committee heard four oral presentations from applicants concerning ongoing procedures and one oral presentation regarding type II variations.

An overview of centralised applications is given in Annex I.

For marketing authorisations granted by the European Commission since the last CPMP in July 1999, see Annex II.

The CPMP strongly reminds marketing authorisation holders that post-authorisation commitments as imposed by the CPMP and accepted by such marketing authorisation holders must be fulfilled.

Scientific Advice

The Committee adopted the following scientific advice letters:

Part	Indication	Topic
A	Chronic plaque psoriasis	Pre-clinical and clinical development programme
A	Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma	Clinical development programme
A	Thrombolytic therapy in acute myocardial infarction	Pre-clinical development programme
B	Prophylaxis of malaria	Pre-clinical and clinical development programme
B	Management (treatment and prevention) of pain	Clinical development programme
B	Venous thromboembolic events and prophylaxis of deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism following major orthopaedic surgery of the lower limb	Clinical development programme

The Committee accepted eight new requests from companies for scientific advice. Co-ordinators were appointed.

Working Parties, Ad Hoc Expert Groups and Organisational Matters

The CPMP heard reports from its Quality, Biotechnology, Safety, Efficacy and Pharmacovigilance Working Parties and from the Multidisciplinary Group on Thiomersal, the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Update of Guidance of SPCs and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Blood Products.

QUALITY WORKING PARTY

The following document was released for 6 months' consultation:

- Note for guidance on Process validation (CPMP/QWP/848/96 draft, EMEA/CVMP/598/99)

EFFICACY WORKING PARTY

Four documents were adopted*:*

- Concept paper on the development of a CPMP Points to consider on Biostatistical/methodological issues arising from recent CPMP discussions on licensing applications: Choice of delta (CPMP/EWP/2158/99)
- Concept paper on the development of a CPMP Points to consider on Biostatistical/methodological issues arising from recent CPMP discussions on licensing applications: Validity and interpretation of pooled analyses, and one pivotal study (CPMP/EWP/2330/99)

- Concept paper on the development of a CPMP Points to consider on Clinical investigation of medicinal products for the management of Crohn's disease (CPMP/EWP/2284/99)
- Points to consider on Wording of *helicobacter pylori* eradication therapy in selected SPC sections (CPMP/EWP/863/98) - *adopted following consultation in February 1999*

The following documents were released for 3 months' consultation:

- Points to consider on Biostatistical/methodological issues arising from recent CPMP discussions on licensing application: Superiority, non-inferiority and equivalence (CPMP/EWP/482/99 draft)
- Points to consider on Clinical investigation of medicinal products for treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) (CPMP/EWP/565/98 draft)

The following document was released for 6 months' consultation:

- Note for guidance on Involutional osteoporosis in women (CPMP/EWP/552/95 rev 1 draft)

Mutual Recognition

The CPMP noted the report from the mutual recognition facilitation group (MRFG) 20 September 1999, which is circulated together with this Press Release (Annex III).

Prof. Rolf Bass
Head of Unit
Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use

This Press Release and other documents are available on the Internet at the following address: http://www.eudra.org/emea.html

EMEA CENTRALISED PROCEDURES

	1995-1998			1999			Overall Total
	Part A	**Part B**	**Total**	**Part A**	**Part B**	**Total**	
Scientific Advice	33	45	78	20	23	43	121
Follow-up to scientific advice	9	4	13	1	2	3	16

	1995-1998			1999			Overall Total
	Part A	**Part B**	**Total**	**Part A**	**Part B**	**Total**	
Applications submitted	62	115	177	16	23	39	216
Withdrawals	11	19	30	1	5	6	36
Positive CPMP opinions	35	65	100	6	15	21	121[1]
Negative CPMP opinions[2]	1	2	3	0	0	0	3[3]
Marketing authorisations granted by the Commission	28	60	88	12	16	28	116[4]

	1995-1998			1999			Overall Total
	Part A	**Part B**	**Total**	**Part A**	**Part B**	**Total**	
Variations type I	99	168	267	54	139	193	460
Positive opinions, variations type II	41	77	118	37	37	74	192
Negative opinions, variations type II	0	2	2	0	0	0	2
Extensions	25	6	31	7	8	15	46

[1] 121 positive opinions corresponding to 95 substances
[2] In case of appeal the opinion will not be counted again
[3] 3 negative opinions corresponding to 2 substances
[4] 116 Marketing Authorisations corresponding to 92 substances

Medicinal products granted a Community Marketing Authorisation under the Centralised Procedure since the July 1999 Press Release

Brand name	Integrilin
INN	Eptifibatide
Marketing Authorisation Holder	SP Europe, BE
ATC code	B01AC16
Indication	Prevention of early myocardial infarction
Opinion receipt date	30 March 1999
Date of Commission decision	1 July 1999

Brand name	Vitravene
INN	Fomivirsen
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Ciba Vision Europe, Ltd., UK
ATC code	S01AD
Indication	Local treatment of cytomegalovirus in patients with AIDS
Opinion receipt date	26 May 1999
Date of Commission decision	29 July 1999

Brand name	Zeffix
INN	Lamivudine
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Glaxo Group Limited, UK
ATC code	J05AF05
Indication	Treatment of chronic hepatitis B
Opinion receipt date	26 May 1999
Date of Commission decision	29 July 1999

Brand name	Remicade
INN	Infliximab
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Centocor BV, NL
ATC code	A07EX
Indication	Treatment of Crohn’s disease
Opinion receipt date	23 June 1999
Date of Commission decision	13 August 1999

Brand name	Synagis
INN	Palivizumab
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Abbott, UK
ATC code	J06BC
Indication	Prevention of serious lower respiratory tract disease
Opinion receipt date	22 June 1999
Date of Commission decision	13 August 1999

Brand name	Ferriprox
INN	Deferiprone
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Apotex Europe Ltd., UK
ATC code	V03AC
Indication	Second line treatment for iron overload in patients with thalassemia major
Opinion receipt date	12 July 1999
Date of Commission decision	25 August 1999

Brand name	Arava
INN	Leflunomide
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Hoechst Marion Roussel Deutschland GmbH, DE
ATC code	M01CD
Indication	Treatment of active rheumatoid arthritis as a disease-modifying antirheumatic drug
Opinion receipt date	22 June 1999
Date of Commission decision	2 September 1999

Brand name	NovoRapid
INN	Insulin aspart
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Novo Nordisk A/S, DK
ATC code	A10AB05
Indication	Treatment of patients with diabetes mellitus
Opinion receipt date	28 June 1999
Date of Commission decision	7 September 1999

Report from the meeting held on 20 September 1999

The MRFG noted that 46 new mutual recognition procedures were finalised during the months of July and August 1999, as well as 120 type I and 74 type II variations.

The status as of 31 August 1999 of procedures under mutual recognition is as follows:

Year	Procedures from New applications finalised	Procedures from New applications in process	Procedures from Type I variations finalised	Procedures from Type I variations pending	Procedures from Type II variations finalised	Procedures from Type II variations pending	Arbitrations referred to CPMP
1999	104	82	472	47	225	117	1 N.A.+ 1 var.

61 new procedures (regarding 151 products) started in July and August 1999. The categories of these procedures are as follows:

New active substance[1]	Line extensions[2]	Fixed comb.	Generics	Herbal products[3]	OTC[4]	Blood products	Immuno-logicals	Others[5]
18	8	3	25	0	1	0	1	5

1. When in one of the involved Member States it concerns a new active substance according to the definition in the Notice to Applicants Volume IIA; the number given includes multiple applications and repeat use procedures.
2. Line extensions are those applications which extend a range of products, e.g. an additional strength, or a new pharmaceutical form from the same Marketing Authorisation Holder;
3. In this category products are classified as herbals when the RMS has considered them as herbal product;
4. In this category products are classified as OTC products when the RMS has approved it for OTC use, although the legal status is not part of the Mutual Recognition Procedure;
5. When the product is not classified in the other eight categories.

Each application can be classified in only one category.

Number of countries involved in the new applications procedures started in July and August 1999:

Reference Member State (number of products involved in the procedure)	Number of CMSs involved in the procedure
AT (5)	5
DE (1)	10
DE (1)	14
DE (1)	14
DE (1)	2

Reference Member State (number of products involved in the procedure)	Number of CMSs involved in the procedure
DE (1)	13
DE (2)	10
DE (2)	13
DE (2)	13
DE (2)	2
DE (2)	10
DE (1)	14
DE (3)	3
DE (3)	8
DE (4)	11
DE (1)	10
DE (1)	4
DK (1)	1
DK (1)	1
DK (4)	4
DK (2)	2
DK (4)	1
FI (1)	5
FI (2)	11
FI (1)	8
FI (2)	2
FR (1)	14
FR (9)	9
FR (2)	2
FR (1)	3
FR (1)	7
FR (3)	4
FR (1)	5
IR (4)	3
IR (3)	5
IR (2)	2
NL (4)	10
NL (3)	8
NL (3)	6
NL (3)	1
NL (3)	5
NL (3)	3
SE (1)	8
SE (1)	10
SE (3)	3
SE (3)	14
SE (6)	13
SE (6)	10
SE (6)	6

Reference Member State (number of products involved in the procedure)	Number of CMSs involved in the procedure
SE (6)	4
SE (1)	4
SE (1)	1
UK (3)	12
UK (1)	4
UK (1)	8
UK (1)	6
UK (3)	3
UK (4)	14
UK (4)	14
UK (2)	4

General issues

- Recommendations for implementation of the guideline on 'Residual solvents in the Marketed Products' (July 1999) in the Member States were adopted.
- Member States recommendations on Annex II applications of Regulation (EC) No 541/95 in Mutual Recognition were revised.
- MRFG wants to warn the applicants regarding the Millennium problem: any procedure starting in October 1999 should be scheduled so that the critical stages, Days 75 to 90 do not occur between 21 December 1999 and 6 January 2000.
- **MRFG wants to remind that the applicants must ensure that their responses to Concerned Member States are received by day 65 of the procedure.**

All documents mentioned in this press release can be found at the MRFG website at the European Medicines Authorities Windows under the heading SOP.

Information on the above mentioned issues can be obtained by the presiding chair of the MRFG:

Dr.Veijo Saano
National Agency for Medicines (NAM)
P.O. Box 55
FIN-00301 HELSINKI

Phone: *+ 358 9 47 334 224*
Fax: *+ 358 9 47 334 260*
e-mail: *veijo.saano@nam.fi*

*Or you could visit the **MRFG web site** at the EUROPEAN NATIONAL MEDICINES AUTHORITIES WINDOW:*
http://heads.medagencies.org/