European Medicines Agency

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON RECOMMENDATION FOR THE REFUSAL OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION
for
KIACTA

International non-proprietary name (INN): ***eprodisate disodium***

On 13 December 2007, the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) adopted a negative opinion, recommending the refusal of the marketing authorisation for the medicinal product Kiacta 400 mg capsules, intended for the treatment of amyloid A amyloidosis. The company that applied for authorisation is Neurochem Luxco II SARL. It may request a re-examination of the opinion within 15 days of receipt of notification of this negative opinion.

What is Kiacta?
Kiacta is a medicine containing the active substance eprodisate disodium. It was to be available as capsules.

What was Kiacta expected to be used for?
Kiacta was expected to be used to treat amyloid A amyloidosis. This is a rare, life-threatening disease that occurs in patients with long-lasting inflammation, most commonly due to rheumatoid arthritis. Amyloid A amyloidosis is caused by the build-up of insoluble 'fibrils' (fine threads) of a protein called 'amyloid A' (AA) in the organs of the body. AA is produced in the body from a protein called 'serum amyloid A', which is released by liver cells in response to inflammation. The most serious symptoms of the disease are caused by AA deposits building up in the kidneys and damaging them. Kiacta was designated as an orphan medicinal product on 31 July 2001 for the treatment of AA amyloidosis.

How is Kiacta expected to work?
The active substance in Kiacta, eprodisate disodium, is expected to work by interfering with the formation of fibrils of AA, preventing the deposits from building up in the organs. This was expected to help to prevent organ damage.

What documentation did the company present to support its application to the CHMP?
The effects of Kiacta were first tested in experimental models before being studied in humans.
The effectiveness of Kiacta was studied in one main study involving 183 patients with AA amyloidosis, in which Kiacta was compared with placebo (a dummy treatment). The main measure of effectiveness was the number of patients whose kidney function got significantly worse or who died over two years of treatment.

What were the major concerns that led the CHMP to recommend the refusal of the marketing authorisation?
The CHMP was concerned that the effectiveness of Kiacta in treating AA amyloidosis had not been demonstrated sufficiently in the single main study. Although there was a suggestion that Kiacta may be active, the Committee concluded that another study would be needed to demonstrate the medicine's effectiveness.
In addition, following an inspection of the site where the data from the study were analysed, the CHMP had concerns over the reliability of the study's findings because of the way the analysis was carried out.

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At that point in time, the CHMP was of the opinion that the benefits of Kiacta in the treatment of AA amyloidosis did not outweigh its risks. Hence, the CHMP recommended that Kiacta be refused marketing authorisation.

What are the consequences of the refusal for patients in clinical trials using Kiacta?
The company informed the CHMP that there are no immediate consequences for patients currently included in clinical trials with Kiacta. However, the company is considering whether it will continue the clinical development programme for the medicine. If you are in a clinical trial and need more information about your treatment, contact the doctor who is giving it to you.