News from the EMA

Activities of the CHMP

During its meeting from 16-19 July 2012 the Committee for Human Medicinal Products (CHMP) adopted:

- four positive opinions for the **granting of a marketing authorisation** for:

- **Adcetris** (brentuximab vedotin) 50 mg, powder for concentrate for solution for infusion, from Takeda, intended for the treatment of of adult patients with relapsed or refractory CD30+ Hodgkin lymphoma (HL): (1) following autologous stem cell transplant (ASCT) or (2) following at least two prior therapies when ASCT or multi-agent chemotherapy is not a treatment option as well as for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory systemic anaplastic large cell lymphoma (sALCL). Adcetris was designated as an orphan medicinal product on 15 January 2009.
- **Dacogen** (decitabin) 50 mg, powder for concentrate for solution for infusion, from Janssen-Cilag, intended for the treatment of acute myeloid leukaemia. Dacogen was designated as an orphan medicinal product on 8 June 2006.
- **Glybera** (alipogene tiparvovec) 3 x 1012 gc/ml, solution for injection, from uniQure biopharma B.V., for treatment of patients diagnosed with lipoprotein lipase deficiency and suffering of severe or multiple pancreatitis attacks. Glybera was designated as an orphan medicinal product on 8 March 2004.
- **Xalkori** (crizotinib) 200 mg, 250 mg, hard capsule, from Pfizer, intended for the treatment of adults with previously treated anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK)-positive advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

- a negative opinion, recommending refusal of the marketing authorisation for:

- **Istodax,** from Celgene, intended for the treatment of peripheral T-cell lymphoma. Istodax was designated as an orphan medicinal product on 28 October 2005.

- two positive opinions for the following extensions of indications:

- **Humira** (adalimumab), from Abbott, is also indicated for treatment of moderately (*currently: only severely*) active Crohn's disease, in adult patients who have not responded despite a full and adequate course of therapy with a corticosteroid and/or an immunosuppressant; or who are intolerant to or have medical contraindications for such therapies
- **Prezista** (darunavir), from Janssen-Cilag, is also indicated for treatment of HIV 1-infected antiretroviral therapy (ART)-experienced paediatric patients from the age of 3 years *(currently: six years)* and at least 15 kg body weight.

Pharmacovigilance

Finalisation of reviews: For the following medicines quality and/or safety reviews were finalised:

Alli (orlistat)**, Mircera** (methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta)**, Pegasys** (peginterferon alfa-2a), **Tamiflu** (oseltamivir), **Xeloda** (capecitabine**) and Xenical** (orlistat): The EMA completed a review of these six centrally authorised medicines which contain ingredients manufactured at Roche Carolina Inc., Florence, USA. The review was initiated following shortcomings in quality assurance identified at this site. On the basis of this review the CHMP has recommended that the benefits of these centrally authorised medicines continue to outweigh their risks and recommended that their marketing authorisations be maintained.

Conbriza (bazedoxifene), **PecFent** (fentanyl) and **Torisel** (temsirolimus): Following concerns over the conduct of certain studies submitted as part of their marketing authorisation applications, which were conducted at the Cetero Research facilities in Houston, Texas, USA the EMA completed a review of these medicines. On the basis of this review the CHMP concluded that the findings have no impact on the benefit-risk balance of these three medicines, and that the marketing authorisations should be maintained across the EU.

Calcitonin-containing medicines: The EMA completed a review of the benefits and risks of calcitonin-containing medicines, concluding that there was evidence of a small

increased risk of cancer with long-term use of these medicines. On the basis of this review the CHMP recommended that they should only be authorised for short-term use in Paget's disease, acute bone loss due to sudden immobilisation and hypercalcaemia caused by cancer. The CHMP also concluded that the benefits of calcitonin-containing medicines did not outweigh their risks in the treatment of osteoporosis and that they should no longer be used for this condition.

Preflucel (seasonal influenza vaccine): The EMA completed a review of this vaccine, following an increase in the number of reported suspected side effects including hypersensitivity (allergic) reactions, which led to a recall of Preflucel batches from the EU market. The CHMP concluded that the likely cause has been identified and that a number of corrective measures should be integrated into the manufacturing process to resolve the problem.

Finalisation of arbitration procedures:

Glimepirida Parke-Davis (glimepiride, tablets 2, 3 and 4 mg): The CHMP concluded that the benefits of Glimepirida Parke-Davis outweigh its risks, and that the marketing authorisation can be granted in Portugal and in the following Member States of the EU: Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom

Mometasone Furoate Sandoz: The CHMP concluded that the benefits of this product outweigh its risks, and that the marketing authorisation can be granted in the Netherlands and in the following Member States of the EU: Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as Norway.

Start of reviews for the following medicines:

Temodal, Tygacil, Ribavirin Teva, Ribavirin Teva Pharma: The European Commission had asked for a review of these products potentially impacted by inspection findings of the FDA at the Cetero Research facilities in Houston, Texas, USA raising doubts on the reliability of data generated at this site during a specific period.

Nicardipine-containing medicinal products for intravenous use: UK has asked for a review of the benefit-risk balance for these medicines due to efficacy and safety concerns.

New contraindications: The CHMP adopted the following new contraindications

Ozurdex (dexamethasone):

- Aphakic eyes with rupture of the posterior lens capsule;
- Eyes with Anterior Chamber Intraocular Lens (ACIOL) and rupture of the posterior lens capsule.

Pradaxa (dapigatran etexilate mesilate): Concomitant treatment with systemic dronedarone.

Date of the next CHMP meetings: 20-23 August (usually no face-to-face meeting) and 17-20. September 2012.

Exclusively reported by Dr. Siegfried Throm, German Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (e-mail: s.throm@vfa.de)
for:
Guide to Drug Regulatory Affairs www.drugregulatoryaffairs.eu