



News Release



TAIHO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD.

MSD K.K.

Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

MSD K.K. and Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. Enter into Distribution Agreement for the Anticancer Compound Vorinostat in Japan

MSD K.K.(Head Office: Tokyo, President: Tony Alvarez, hereafter MSD) and Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.(Head Office: Tokyo, President: Toru Usami, hereafter Taiho) have entered into distribution agreement to market Vorinostat (generic name), an anticancer compound for the treatment of cutaneous T-cell lymphomas, in Japan. New drug application for Vorinostat submitted by MSD is currently under regulatory review.

Under the agreement, Taiho will promote and distribute Vorinostat in Japan following the receipt of marketing approval. MSD therefore will be the marketing authorization holder of the drug, while Taiho will be the distributor.

With a new mechanism of action in which histone deacetylase enzymes are inhibited to suppress the manifestation of cancerous genes, Vorinostat has been shown to work against tumor. MSD's new drug application was submitted to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in June 2010.

Marketing collaboration between MSD and Taiho is expected to enable the two companies to respond more effectively to the needs of healthcare professionals and patients. For MSD, oncology field with significant unmet medical needs will remain important areas of focus. Following Vorinostat, it continues to develop further innovative anticancer agents for the Japanese market with the goal of further supporting medical professionals and patients engaged in cancer treatment. Through this agreement with MSD, Taiho also aims to assist medical professionals and patients in oncology, a field where remain many unmet medical needs.

About Vorinostat (generic name)

- Classified as a histone deacetylase enzyme inhibitor, Vorinostat is an effective new anticancer drug that is administered orally.
- Vorinostat's mechanism of action is unlike any other anticancer drug currently approved in Japan. In June 2010, it was designated by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare as orphan drug.

About cutaneous T-cell lymphomas (CTCL)

- CTCL is a type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma among malignant lymphomas, which often occurs in organs other than lymph nodes, such as the gastrointestinal tract, skin and brain. It is categorized as primary cutaneous T-cell lymphoma of which lesions observed only in the skin at the initial diagnosis.
- CTCL is a rare disease associated with persisting refractory skin lesions, such as multiple occurrence and repeated recurrence, and includes mycosis fungoides and Sezary syndrome.

About MSD

Today's MSD is a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. MSD is a tradename of Merck & Co., Inc., with headquarters in Whitehouse Station, N.J., U.S.A. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies, and consumer care and animal health products, we work with customers and operate in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to healthcare through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. For more information, visit www.msd.co.jp

About Taiho Pharmaceutical

.Taiho Pharmaceutical, a subsidiary of Otsuka Holdings Co., Ltd., is an R&D-driven specialty pharma focusing on the three fields of oncology, allergies and immunology, and urology. Its corporate philosophy takes the form of a pledge: "We will help to further human health and create a fulfilling society." In the field of oncology in particular, Taiho Pharmaceutical is known as a leading company in Japan and around the world for developing evidence-based medicines for the treatment of cancer. In areas other than oncology, as well, the company creates products that can help improve people's quality of life. Always putting customers first, Taiho Pharmaceutical also aims offers over-the-counter medical products that support people's efforts to lead fulfilling and rewarding lives.

For more information about Taiho Pharmaceutical, please visit www.taiho.co.jp/english/index.html.