



Wyeth K.K.
Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited

ANNOUNCING LAUNCH OF ENBREL, TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Tokyo and Osaka, March 29, 2005 – Wyeth K.K. and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited (“Takeda”) today announced that ENBREL[®] (etanercept) will be launched in Japan for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) on March 30 under the co-promotion agreement of both parties. The launch follows regulatory approval in January and National Health Insurance (NHI) listing on March 18.

ENBREL[®] is the only fully human, anti-TNF receptor approved to reduce the signs and symptoms of RA in patients who had an inadequate response to existing disease-modifying antirheumatic medicines. The biological product can be used alone as a monotherapy and is administered twice weekly as a subcutaneous injection. Initially the product will be made available to medical institutions participating in an all-patient surveillance program.

“The results of the clinical studies with ENBREL[®] in Japan were very encouraging, with some patients responding as early as two weeks after beginning treatment and reaching maximum relief within the first two months,” said the primary investigator Prof. Nobuyuki Miyasaka, M.D., Department of Bioregulatory Medicine and Rheumatology of Tokyo Medical and Dental University.

“The launch of this therapeutic breakthrough brings physicians and patients a new option in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. We look forward to providing ENBREL[®] to patients who have gone for so long with few effective options to significantly reduce the painful symptoms of their disease,” says Dr. Michio Suzukawa, Corporate Officer, Director, Medical Affairs Division of Wyeth K. K.

“We are pleased to introduce ENBREL[®], which already has been widely used for RA patients worldwide, with Wyeth K.K. in Japan,” says Mr. Makoto Yamaoka, Managing Director, General Manager of Pharmaceutical Marketing Division of Takeda.

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ABOUT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Rheumatoid arthritis is a systemic, chronic and potentially disabling disorder that affects about 700,000 people in Japan. The serious rheumatic disease causes the body's immune system to attack the lining of the joints, resulting in pain and swelling and may lead to fatigue, disability, deformity, organ damage, or premature death if not managed effectively. In RA, the immune system attacks the body's own healthy cells, mistaking them for cells that do not belong. This causes inflammation in the lining and connective tissues of the joints. Generally, in Japan the disease affects about four times as many women as men*. RA can develop at all ages including childhood; in most cases it develops between the ages of 25 and 50.

* The Japan Medical Association

ABOUT ENBREL

In Japan ENBREL[®] was approved for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in patients who had an inadequate response to existing therapies. ENBREL[®] acts by binding TNF, one of the dominant inflammatory cytokines or regulatory proteins that play an important role in both normal immune function and the cascade of reactions causing the inflammatory process of rheumatoid arthritis. The binding of ENBREL[®] to TNF renders the bound TNF biologically inactive, resulting in significant reduction in inflammatory activity. Additionally, ENBREL[®] binds to lymphotoxin (LT)-alpha, another cytokine involved in the inflammatory process of RA.

Globally physicians have become familiar with the benefits and proven long-term profile of ENBREL[®]. As of today, the product has been approved in more than 70 countries around the world, and has been used to treat more than 280,000 patients worldwide across various indications.

Important Treatment Considerations

Since the product was first introduced globally, serious infections, some involving death, have been reported in patients using ENBREL[®]. The product should be used with caution in patients prone to infection. There have been reports of serious nervous-system disorders such as multiple sclerosis, or inflammation of the nerves of the eyes. There also have been rare reports of serious blood disorders, some involving death. It is unclear if ENBREL[®] has caused these nervous-system or blood disorders. The most frequent adverse events in clinical trials in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) were infections, injection-site reactions, headaches, and respiratory disorders. In medical studies of all TNF-inhibitors, a higher rate of lymphoma (a type of cancer) was seen compared to the general population, however, the risk of lymphoma may be up to several fold higher in RA patients. The role of TNF-inhibitors in the development of lymphoma is unknown. The incidence of other cancers has not increased with extended exposure to ENBREL[®] and is similar to the expected rate.

ABOUT Wyeth K.K.

Wyeth K.K. is engaged in a full range of pharmaceutical business activities including developing, importing, manufacturing and marketing pharmaceutical products with the aim of becoming a leading company in the pharmaceutical industry in Japan. Our corporate vision is *Leading the way to a healthier world*. We strive to achieve this vision by bringing to the world pharmaceutical and health-care products that improve peoples' lives and deliver outstanding value to our customers. Wyeth K.K. (WKK), previously known as Wyeth Lederle Japan, Ltd., was established in 1998 with the combination of Lederle Japan, Ltd. and Wyeth (Japan) Corporation, both of which were founded in the mid-1950's. WKK's major shareholders are Wyeth with 60 percent of the equity and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited with 40 percent. Headquartered in Tokyo, WKK has more than 1,200 employees with manufacturing facilities located in the city of Shiki, Saitama Prefecture and business offices located in seven major cities throughout Japan. See details, at www.wyeth.jp

ABOUT TAKEDA

Takeda, in its management plan, sets a course by which the company will become an "R&D-driven world-class pharmaceutical company". Takeda will exert its best efforts to enhance its R&D pipeline in selected core therapeutic classes such as "lifestyle-related diseases", "cancer and urological diseases and gynecological disorders", "central nervous system disorders, and bone and joint diseases", and "life-cycle management of drugs for digestive system disorders". Takeda is reinforcing its in-house R&D, promoting life cycle management, and actively introducing new products and form alliances in order to realize its management mission of 'striving toward better health for individuals and progress in medicine by developing superior pharmaceutical products'. See details at www.takeda.co.jp

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