Clinical Research Newsletter Volume - 7, July 2015

LAMBDA

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GLOBAL NEWS

1.1. Axial Spondyloarthritis Treatment Market Value Will Almost Double to $2.9 Billion by 2024

June 10, 2015

- The global market value for axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) therapeutics will expand from $1.5 billion in 2014 at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.1% to reach $2.9 billion by 2024, driven primarily by increased diagnosis of the condition and use of biologics, according to research and consulting firm Global Data. The company's latest report states that the US will cement its position as the largest of the seven major treatment markets (7MM) for axSpA, which also include the five European countries (5EU) of France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the UK, and Japan. The US share will grow from 73% in 2014 to 77% by 2024, with the market increasing slightly above the 7MM rate, at a CAGR of 7.5%.

1.2. NSAIDs significantly inhibit ovulation in women with mild musculoskeletal pain June 12, 2015

- The results of a study presented at the European League Against Rheumatism Annual Congress (EULAR 2015) show that diclofenac, naproxen and etoricoxib significantly inhibit ovulation in women with mild musculoskeletal pain. Of the women receiving NSAIDs, only 6.3% (diclofenac), 25% (naproxen) and 27.3% (etoricoxib) ovulated, compared with 100% of the control group. These findings suggest that readily available NSAIDs could have a harmful effect on fertility and should be used with caution in women wishing to start a family. These findings highlight the harmful effects NSAIDs may have on fertility and could open the door for research into a new emergency contraception with a more favourable safety profile than those currently in use.

1.3. Australia's PBAC makes world-first biosimilar drug substitution decision June 19, 2015

- The PBAC has made a world-first recommendation to allow clinicians and pharmacists to give patients the option of substituting expensive biologic medicines at the chemist if there is a cheaper replacement or 'biosimilar' available that has been determined by experts to be a safe, equally-effective treatment. The PBAC has made it clear that any biosimilar version of a biologic medicine would have to be approved as a safe and equally effective treatment by both the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the PBAC before it could be considered for substitution. The PBAC has also made it clear each case for listing a biosimilar for optional substitution at the chemist would be individually assessed on its merit – it would not mean blanket approvals for biosimilar substitution.

DOMESTIC NEWS

2.1. DoP issues draft National Medical Device Policy-2015 June 09,2015

The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has issued the draft National Medical Device Policy-2015, for strengthening the 'Make in India' drive in medical device sector by reducing the dependence on imports. As per the draft policy, an autonomous body 'National Medical Device Authority' (NMDA) will be created which will provide a single window mechanism to the industry with an objective of promotion of the medical device industry to make the country not only self reliant but also a global hub of production and innovation in medical devices. The authority will be responsible for setting up and managing, through appropriate corporate body/SPV, Medical Devices Mega Parks of approximately 500 hectares and above, of various specialisations in the vicinity of Centres of Excellence.

2.2. IPC launches android mobile application for ADR reporting facilities

June 19, 2015

- The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) launched revolutionary mobile application for adverse drug reaction (ADR) reporting facilitated to ensure hassle free ADR reporting for the stakeholders. Developed as a part of joint venture between the IPC and NSCB Medical College, Jabalpur, the mobile application is expected to provide a platform for the private healthcare professionals to report ADRs to safeguard and enhance public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy and quality of drugs.

REGULATORY NEWS

3.1. US FDA issues draft guidance on reportable CMC changes for approved drug & biologics

June 9, 2015

- US FDA has issued a draft guidance on the established conditions: Reportable Chemistry, Manufacturing and Control (CMC) changes for approved drug and biologic products. The regulator expects the biopharmaceutical industry to provide their comments before July 31, 2015. The guidance has been developed to address the lack of clarity with respect to what chemistry, manufacturing, and controls information in a marketing application. There was need for a better understanding on whether certain CMC changes could be made solely under the Pharmaceutical Quality System (PQS) without the need to report to FDA. For those changes that required reporting, a better understanding of established conditions would allow for a more effective post-approval submission strategy by the industry.

3.2. Central repository for periodic safety reports - EMA

June 12, 2015

- The European Medicines Agency (EMA) Management Board gave its green light for the central repository for periodic safety update reports (PSURs) for medicines authorised in the European Union (EU). In one year's time, on 13 June 2016, the central repository will become the single, central platform for these reports to be used by all regulatory authorities and pharmaceutical companies in the EU to exchange information on the safety of medicines.

3.3. FDA-draft guidance on design of early phase clinical trials of cellular and gene therapy products

June 12, 2015

- US FDA released draft guidance related to the design of early stage clinical trials involving cellular and gene therapy (CGT) products. Development of cellular and gene therapy products differ drastically from the development of small molecule drugs, implying changes in trial design necessary. The guidance emphasizes on evaluation of safety and pharmacologic activity for a substantial period of time in the subjects to understand the safety profile. Also the agency encourages the sponsors to meet the FDA review staff early in the development process. The guidance also hones in on dose exploration, feasibility and activity assessments, how sponsors should select a study population, control group and blinding, dose, regimen, treatment plan, monitoring and follow-up of patients.

3.4. FDA Finalizes New Approach on Naming Drugs Containing Salt Drug Substances

June 16, 2015

- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has finalized a new policy detailing how manufacturers of drug products containing salts should name their products. The policy stipulates that USP will use the name of the active moiety, instead of the name of the salt, for such a drug product when creating a drug product monograph title," FDA explains in the guidance. FDA intends to apply the policy to all new prescription drug products approved under Section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Existing drugs will not be impacted at this time unless specific safety concerns are raised.

3.5. US FDA: Generic pills must look similar to reference drugs to minimize patient safety risk

June 23, 2015

- The US FDA has made the recommendations in guidance on 18th June 2015 on new generic pills and capsules to be in similar shape and size to originator products to avoid issues on patient compliance, acceptability and medication errors. It suggested that a reference drug's size, weight and film coating be considered during development of quality target product profiles (QTPPs) for new generic medicines. The agency also said generic pharmaceutical products should also be of a similar shape to the reference drug.

DRUG APPROVALS AND LAUNCHES

4.1. US FDA recommends approval of Sprout Pharma's Addyi(Fibanserin) to treat HSDD in premenopausal women

June 9, 2015

- The US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) joint meeting of the Bone, Reproductive and Urologic Drugs Advisory Committee and the Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee determined by an 18 to 6 vote that the benefit/risk profile of Sprout Pharmaceuticals' Addyi (flibanserin) supports FDA approval for Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder (HSDD) in premenopausal women, but only if certain risk management options beyond labeling are implemented.

4.2. Two PCSK9 inhibitors recommended for approval by FDA advisory panel

June 10, 2015

- An FDA advisory committee voted 11-4 on Wednesday recommending clearance of Amgen's cholesterol-lowering drug Repatha (evolocumab). In addition, the panel voted 15-0 in favour of backing approval of the therapy for patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia. Earlier this week, an agency advisory panel backed approval of Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals' PCSK9 inhibitor Praluent (alirocumab) also. Amgen has completed enrolment in a 27,500-patient study seeking to clarify whether the effects of Repatha on LDL cholesterol levels translate into cardiovascular benefits, with results from the trial expected in 2017. Sanofi and Regeneron have initiated a similar study of Praluent, with data anticipated within the same time frame.

4.3. GSK announces FDA's approval of mepolizumab for the treatment of adults with severe asthma

June 11, 2015

- The FDA Advisory Committee voted unanimously (14 yes, 0 no) that the efficacy and safety data for mepolizumab, an anti IL-5 monoclonal antibody delivered as a 100mg fixed dose via a subcutaneous injection every four weeks, supported approval in adults 18 years of age and older with severe asthma. The Committee also voted that the efficacy data provided substantial evidence of a clinically meaningful benefit in this population (14 yes, 0 no) and safety in adults with severe asthma had been adequately demonstrated (13 yes, 1 no). The BLA for mepolizumabwas submitted to the FDA in November 2014 for approval as an add-on maintenance treatment for patients with severe asthma with eosinophilic inflammation, identified by a blood eosinophil count of at least 150 cells per microlitre at the start of treatment or 300 cells per microlitre in the past 12 months.

4.4. Intas pharma launches RAZUMAB - biosimilar to LUCENTIS June 20, 2015

- Intas is the first company globally to develop and launch a biosimilar version of Ranibizumab. Ranibizumab is a therapeutic antibody fragment designed specifically for treating degenerative conditions of the eye. It blocks the production of vascular endothelial cell growth factor A (VEGF-A), a protein which when overexpressed leads to abnormal blood vessel growth in the retina, that can cause leaks and vision loss. Ranibizumab is indicated for the treatment of Neovascular (Wet) Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD), a common degenerative condition of the eyes in the elderly. It is also indicated for Macular Edema following Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO), Diabetic Macular Edema (DME), Diabetic Retinopathy in patients with Diabetic Macular Edema and vision loss resulting from choroidal neovascularization in pathologic myopia (mCNV). The biosimilar version would be available at much affordable cost, at about 25% lower than Lucentis.

4.5. FDA approves new antiplatelet drug used during heart procedure June 22, 2015

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Kengreal (cangrelor), an intravenous antiplatelet drug that prevents formation of harmful blood clots in the coronary arteries, the blood vessels that supply blood to the heart. It is approved for adult patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), a procedure used to open a blocked or narrowed coronary artery to improve blood flow to the heart muscle.

DRUGS IN DEVELOPMENT AND CLINICAL TRIALS

5.1. Pfizer announces positive results from PALOMA-3 study June 1, 2015

- Pfizer Inc. announced study results demonstrating palbociclib in combination with fulvestrant was superior to treatment with a standard of care, fulvestrant, by significantly extending progression-free survival (PFS) in women with hormone receptor-positive (HR+), human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-negative (HER2-) metastatic breast cancer whose disease has progressed during or after endocrine therapy.

5.2. TECOS: No Increase in HF Hospitalization With Sitagliptin June 9, 2015

- Merck has released top-line results from TECOS, its major cardiovascular-outcomes trial with the type 2 diabetes drug sitagliptin (Januvia), showing it achieved its main goal: noninferiority for the cardiovascular composite end point of first time to myocardial infarction, nonfatal stroke, unstable angina requiring hospitalization, or cardiovascular-related death. The Merck study dissipates a cloud that had been hanging over the DPP-4 drug class as a whole. The trial's success can boost 2020 sales of Januvia and Janumet by up to 10%--taking the drug to $7.3 billion.

5.3. Sanofi's Lyxumia demonstrated CV safety in people with type 2 diabetes and high CV risk

June10, 2015

- Sanofi presents full results of the phase IIIb ELIXA study, which was designed to assess the cardiovascular (CV) safety of Lyxumia (lixisenatide) in adults with type 2 diabetes and high CV risk. As previously reported, lixisenatide met the pre-specified criterion of non-inferiority versus placebo for the composite primary endpoint of CV death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, non-fatal stroke and hospitalization for unstable angina but did not demonstrate superiority. The full results will be included in the US New Drug Application for lixisenatide, which is on track to be resubmitted to the US FDA in Q3 2015. Additional safety findings include no signal for increased risk of heart failure, pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer or severe symptomatic hypoglycemia. Lixisenatide was generally safe and well tolerated; nausea and vomiting, which are known side effects of the GLP-1 RA class, were observed more frequently with lixisenatide.

5.4. Biogen and Samsung Bioepis Announce New Data for 3 Anti-TNF Biosimilars in Development

June 10, 2015

- Biogen and Samsung Bioepis Co., Ltd announced that results from their anti-TNF biosimilar portfolio are being presented at the European League Against Rheumatism Annual Congress (EULAR 2015) in Rome, June 2015. Highlights include results from separate head-to-head Phase III studies showing clinical comparability of SB4 (etanercept) and SB2 (infliximab), which are biosimilar development candidates to their respective reference products Enbrel® and Remicade®. Also being presented are equivalence data from a Phase I pharmacokinetic (PK) study comparing SB5 (adalimumab), a biosimilar development candidate, with the reference product Humira®3. These results profile a promising anti-TNF biosimilar portfolio for the two companies.

5.5. Positive results from Phase 3 study evaluating Cimzia in DMARD-naïve rheumatoid arthritis patients June 16, 2015

- UCB has announced data that may in the future offer alternative care options for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients who are DMARD-naïve and at risk for highly progressive disease. The Phase 3 C-EARLY™ study showed benefits, at 52 weeks, of adding Cimzia® (certolizumab pegol) to optimized methotrexate treatment. The study found that adding Cimzia to optimized methotrexate achieved sustained remission and low disease activity in this at risk patient population. These findings demonstrate the importance of quickly identifying RA patients who will benefit from combination therapy following RA diagnosis.

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MERGER/ACQUISITIONS/COLLABORATION

6.1. Merck KGaA, Illumina and Genea Form the Global Fertility Alliance June 08, 2015

- Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany announced the formation of the Global Fertility Alliance, a new collaboration to advance excellence in fertility technologies and processes within the assisted reproductive treatment (ART) laboratory. The alliance is a partnership between the biopharmaceutical business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Illumina Inc., San Diego, US, a leader in developing and commercializing systems for analysis of genetic variation and function, and Genea Limited, Sydney, Australia, which develops innovative fertility technologies. The alliance aims to improve the consistency in ART worldwide and addresses the need for more standardization of fertility processes within the ART laboratory.

6.2. Bayer sells Diabetes Care business for $1.15 billion June 10, 2015

- As part of its overall restructuring, Germany's Bayer has reached agreement to sell its Diabetes Care business to Panasonic Healthcare, a company which is backed by funds sponsored by investment firm KKR and the Panasonic Corp. Panasonic Healthcare, also a maker of blood glucose meters, said in a statement the combined business would use its size to offer more affordable devices in response to a overall decline in prices and growing volumes in the industry. Rivals in the market for glucose meters include Abbott (ABT.N), Roche's (ROG.VX) diagnostics division and Johnson & Johnson's (JNJ.N) Lifescan unit.

6.3. BIND and MacrophageThera.Inc Collaborate to Engineer Accurins with Manocept Targeting Platform June 11, 2015

- BIND Therapeutics, Inc., a clinical-stage nanomedicine company developing targeted and programmable therapeutics called Accurins and Macrophage Therapeutics, a subsidiary of Navidea Biopharmaceuticals, Inc. announced they have entered into a research collaboration to engineer Accurins with the Manocept™ targeting platform that enables selective, efficient binding to CD206 positive disease-associated macrophages. Upon achievement of proof-of-concept, the companies anticipate expanding the collaboration to develop Manocept-linked Accurins as a novel, potent approach to impact the tumor microenvironment which, in many forms of cancer, is a barrier to immune effector cells.

PATENT (NEW APPROVAL/ LITIGATION/SETTLEMENTS)

7.1. Eleven drugs going off-patent this year to bolster generic manufacturing prospects in Emerging markets June 4, 2015

- Eleven drugs of global pharma majors will be going off patent this year and this would augment generic drug manufacturing in the emerging markets (Ems). It is observed that patent expirations up to 2016 will reduce brand spending in worldwide developed markets by $127 billion, but will be counterbalanced by generic spending, resulting in a five-year global savings of close to $106 billion.

7.2. India's patent law may face legal hurdle at WTO June 12, 2015

- India's amended national patent law, particularly a provision which defines what inventions are, could face a legal challenge arising from an aggressive move by the US and Switzerland.The move, which could hurt India's pharma companies, arises from efforts by the US and Switzerland to terminate the existing moratorium on non-violation complaints to the World Trade Organization's trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) agreement.Non-violation complaints refer to complaints by a WTO member that claims another member's actions or policies caused it a loss, even if there is no violation of a WTO agreement. Developing countries such as India are understandably wary of these complaints. Currently, there is a moratorium on such complaints till later this year.

TECHNOLOGY/NDDS NEWS

8.1. Evaluate teams up with Adverse Events inc to create new insight on FDA adverse event reporting June 4, 2015

- Evaluate Ltd, a life science market intelligence firm, has partnered with AdverseEvents, Inc. (AEI), a leading healthcare informatics company focused on drug safety data, to fill a critical gap in commercial insight by enabling detailed FDA post-approval drug safety analysis. AEI has developed a rigorous proprietary method to standardize and analyse FAERS post-marketing safety data to provide accessible, actionable, and predictive drug safety measures derived from real-world, patient populations. Its' proprietary analytics determine a drug's potential risk to a patient, identify future safety alerts/labelling changes by the FDA, and enable the determination of a drug's total medical cost and the long-term economic impact of prescribing a particular drug. The integration of adverse event analyses within EvaluatePharma empowers the industry with new drug safety and healthcare economic insights to support strategic and operational decision-making.

8.2. US FDA grants 510(k) clearance to Oculus' new atopic dermatitis dermatology product, Alevicyn SG June 10, 2015

- Oculus Innovative Sciences, Inc., has received a new 510(k) clearance from the US FDA for its new Alevicyn SG antipruritic spray gel with both prescription and OTC indications. Alevicyn SG is indicated to manage and relieve the burning, itching and pain experienced with various types of dermatoses, including radiation dermatitis and atopic dermatitis. It may also be used to relieve the pain of first- and second-degree burns and helps to relieve dry waxy skin by maintaining a moist wound and skin environment, which is beneficial to the healing process.

8.3. FDA approves brain implant to help reduce Parkinson's disease & tremor symptoms June 12, 2015

- The USFDA has approved the Brio Neurostimulation System, an implantable deep brain stimulation device to help reduce the symptoms of Parkinson's disease and essential tremor. The Brio Neurostimulation System can help some patients when medication alone may not provide adequate relief from symptoms such as walking difficulties, balance problems, and tremors.