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EISAI AND MSD ANNOUNCE SCOTTISH MEDICINES CONSORTIUM RECOMMENDATION OF NEW FIRST-LINE TREATMENT LENVIMA® ▼ (LENVATINIB) FOR ADULTS WITH ADVANCED, UNRESECTABLE HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA

Lenvatinib extends treatment choice for patients in Scotland with difficult to treat liver cancer

HATFIELD, HERTFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND, April 8, 2019 – Eisai and MSD, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., U.S.A., announced today that the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) recommended the use of Lenvima® (lenvatinib) within NHS Scotland as a monotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with advanced or unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) who have received no prior systemic therapy.[1] Lenvatinib, an oral receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK) inhibitor, is the first new, approved first-line treatment for advanced or unresectable HCC in a decade to show an overall survival treatment effect by statistical confirmation of non-inferiority to the current standard of care (sorafenib).[2,3]

Liver cancer is the seventh most common cause of cancer mortality in Scotland, with the disease killing 572 individuals in 2015; a 52% increase since 2005.[4] While the incidence of liver cancer is on the rise, five-year relative survival rates in Scotland remains below the European average.[5] As HCC accounts for nearly 90% of primary liver cancer cases in the UK, and is often unresectable by surgery, systemic therapies are an increasingly important option.[2,6] Treatment options for unresectable HCC in the UK are limited and the prognosis is poor, making this an area of high unmet need.[2]

“HCC is a devastating disease that has seen little progress in recent years in terms of innovation and new systemic treatment options, so lenvatinib as an alternative option is a very welcomed step forward for physicians, HCC patients and their families”, said Vanessa Hebditch, Director of Policy at the British Liver Trust. “We are delighted that the Scottish Medicines Consortium has agreed to the use of this drug for patients in Scotland."

“This is really welcome news for clinicians and for patients across Scotland, where previously the limited availability of treatment options created an additional challenge when diagnosed with HCC”, said Professor Jeff Evans, Professor of Translational Cancer Research, University of Glasgow. “This new option will allow us greater flexibility in managing patients who may not be suitable for other treatment options.”

This recommendation was based on results from REFLECT (Study 304), an open-label phase III trial where lenvatinib demonstrated a treatment effect on overall survival (OS) by statistical confirmation of non-inferiority when compared with the standard of care, sorafenib, in 954 patients with previously untreated unresectable HCC.[2] Lenvatinib also demonstrated statistically significant superiority and clinically meaningful improvements in the secondary endpoints, progression-free survival (PFS) and objective response rate (ORR).[2] The most frequently reported adverse reactions (all grades) (occurring in ≥30% of lenvatinib patients) were hypertension (42%), diarrhoea (39%), decreased appetite (34%), decreased weight (31%) and fatigue (30%).[2]

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The positive SMC announcement follows the recent decision from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).[7] Currently, lenvatinib is approved as a treatment for HCC in China, Europe, Japan, South Korea, Australia and the United States.

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Notes to editors

About Lenvima® (lenvatinib)

Lenvatinib, discovered and developed by Eisai, is an oral RTK inhibitor that selectively inhibits the kinase activities of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) receptors (VEGFR1 (FLT1), VEGFR2 (KDR) and VEGFR3 (FLT4)), and fibroblast growth factor (FGF) receptors FGFR1, 2, 3 and 4 in addition to other proangiogenic and oncogenic pathway-related RTKs (including the platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) receptor PDGFRα; KIT; and RET) involved in tumour proliferation.[3] Lenvatinib possesses a distinct binding mode (Type V) to VEGFR2, as confirmed through X-ray crystal structural analysis, and exhibits rapid and potent inhibition of kinase activity, according to kinetic analysis in pre-clinical models.[8]

Studies of lenvatinib are currently ongoing in several types of cancer including renal cell carcinoma (phase III) and endometrial cancer (phase III).[9,10]

About the Eisai and Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., U.S.A. Strategic Collaboration

In March 2018, Eisai and Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., U.S.A. (known as MSD outside the United States and Canada), through an affiliate, entered into a strategic collaboration for the worldwide co-development and co-commercialisation of Lenvima® (lenvatinib). Under the agreement, the companies will jointly develop and commercialise lenvatinib, both as monotherapy and in combination with the Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., U.S.A.'s anti-PD-1 therapy. In addition to ongoing clinical studies of the combination, the companies will jointly initiate new clinical studies evaluating the combination to support 11 potential indications in six types of cancer (bladder cancer, endometrial cancer, head and neck cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma, melanoma, and non-small cell lung cancer), as well as a basket trial targeting six additional cancer types. The combination is not approved in any cancer types today.

About Eisai Co., Ltd.

Eisai Co., Ltd. is a leading global research and development-based pharmaceutical company headquartered in Japan. We define our corporate mission as "giving first thought to patients and their families and to increasing the benefits health care provides," which we call our human health care (hhc) philosophy. With over 10,000 employees working across our global network of R&D facilities, manufacturing sites and marketing subsidiaries, we strive to realise our hhc philosophy by delivering innovative products in multiple therapeutic areas with high unmet medical needs, including oncology and neurology.

As a global pharmaceutical company, our mission extends to patients around the world through our

investment and participation in partnership-based initiatives to improve access to medicines in developing and emerging countries.

For more information about Eisai Co., Ltd., please visit www.eisai.com

The development of lenvatinib underscores Eisai's *human health care* mission, the company's commitment to innovative solutions in disease prevention, cure and care for the health and well-being of people worldwide. Eisai is committed to the therapeutic area of oncology and to address the unmet medical needs of patients and their families.

About MSD

For more than a century, MSD, a leading global biopharmaceutical company, has been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for the world's most challenging diseases. MSD is a trade name of Merck & Co., Inc., with headquarters in Kenilworth, N.J., U.S.A. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies 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 health care through far-reaching policies, programmes and partnerships. Today, MSD continues to be at the forefront of research to advance the prevention and treatment of diseases that threaten people and communities around the world. For more information, visit www.msd-UK.com and connect with us on Twitter @MSDintheUK.

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