

September 26, 2002

Taisho and Nissan Chemical agree to enter co-development of NM-702

Taisho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd.

Taisho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Toshima-ku, Tokyo, President: Mr. Akira Uehara) (hereinafter referred to as “Taisho”) and Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, President: Mr. Nobuichiro Fujimoto) (hereinafter referred to as “Nissan Chemical”), have entered into a basic agreement to jointly develop the new pharmaceutical candidate substance known as “NM-702”, which was first created by Nissan Chemical Industries, as a therapeutic agent for atherosclerosis obliterans and spinal canal stenosis and have entered into discussions regarding the details of the development of the same.

NM-702, which is to be jointly developed, has expressed extremely strong vasodilation as well as platelet aggregation inhibition through its inhibitory effects on phosphodiesterase III (degradation enzyme of cAMP) and phosphodiesterase V (degradation enzyme of cGMP) as well as thromboxane synthase, making it a compound that will improve peripheral arterial circulation. At present, Phase I clinical trial has been completed in Japan, and early Phase II clinical trial with regard to atherosclerosis obliterans has been completed in the United States and results suggestive of its efficacy have been gained with regard to the indices of absolute claudication distance. Hereafter, development within Japan will be done jointly with Taisho implementing its clinical development and with both companies proceeding with development in the United States under a policy aimed at nurturing it so that it will become a pharmaceutical used around the world.

Atherosclerosis obliterans is a disease that is prevalent in elderly men, wherein the internal diameter of the arteries becomes gradually narrower due to atherosclerosis and other factors leading to their eventual occlusion. The extremities (in particular the lower extremities or legs) develop ischemia (an anoxic state due to insufficient blood circulation) and patients show symptoms of cold sensation, numbness, intermittent claudication (a condition in which leg symptoms develop after walking a certain distance, preventing continued walking and where the pain disappears after a few minutes of rest allowing the resumption of walking), rest pain (pain from ischemia, which occurs due to the serious obstruction of circulation even when resting, and it becomes a cause of sleep disorder), ischemic ulcer and gangrene, leading to amputation of the leg in advanced cases.

In addition to the patient’s QOL being impaired by these symptoms, a heavy burden is placed on the family with medical and nursing expenses in cases in which a leg is amputated.

Spinal canal stenosis occurs when the spinal canal (foraminal region that carries nerves in the center of the spine) is further narrowed due to changes in form of the vertebra or disk from advanced aging and from neighboring lumbar vertebrae slipping out of position (spondylolisthesis) and lumbago, lower limb pain, lower limb numbness, intermittent claudication, urinary bladder dysfunction and other symptoms appear from the nerve root compression and decrease in arterial circulation, thus making it a disease that impairs the patient's QOL.

From years past, Nissan Chemical has devoted its efforts in searching for pharmaceutical candidates that make use of its unique technologies in precision organic syntheses and has placed pharmaceuticals such as antiphlogistic analgesics for external use as well as Calcium antagonists on the market. In addition, in recent years it has aggressively developed pharmaceuticals directed at the cardiovascular system, and the cooperation this time on the development of this candidate pharmaceutical affords the possibility of speeding up the process.

On the one hand, Taisho ranks highest in Japan in OTC drugs and is the second highest ranked company in the world. At present, it is aiming to strengthen its position in the field of prescription pharmaceuticals and is actively expanding its cooperation with companies both inside and outside Japan. In addition, Taisho has developed its franchises in this area through the development and marketing of Palux injection and the cooperation this time will serve to further strengthen this.

Inquires regarding this may be directed to:

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