EISAI PRESENTS LATEST DATA ON BACE INHIBITOR ELENBECESTAT (E2609) AT 9TH CLINICAL TRIALS ON ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

Eisai Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Tokyo, CEO: Haruo Naito, “Eisai”) announced today that it has presented the latest two clinical trials (Study 202 and Study 006) data on its in-house discovered oral BACE (beta amyloid cleaving enzyme) inhibitor elenbecestat※ (development code: E2609) at the 9th Clinical Trials on Alzheimer’s Disease (CTAD 2016) held from December 8 to 10 in San Diego, the United States.

Study 202 is a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled parallel-group phase II clinical study to evaluate the safety of elenbecestat and the change from baseline in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) amyloid beta Aβ(1-x)* level in patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) due to Alzheimer’s disease or mild to moderate dementia due to Alzheimer’s disease with confirmed accumulation of amyloid beta (Aβ) by PET (positron emission tomography) screening. Patients are administered 5, 15 or 50 mg of elenbecestat daily. The change in Aβ(1-x) level is evaluated by analyzing the concentrations of Aβ(1-x) in plasma and CSF before and after elenbecestat administration. The presentation highlighted the results from a preliminary analysis of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics data of Study 202 at the CTAD 2016 (poster presentation number: P3-28).

In Study 202, the pharmacokinetic profile of elenbecestat was similar to the results obtained from Phase I studies in healthy volunteers. A correlation between plasma concentration of elenbecestat and the decrease in CSF Aβ(1-x) was observed, which overlapped with exposure-response models combining data from this study and Phase I clinical study data (figure 1).

* Aβ(1-x) refers to Aβ peptides of all lengths

![Figure 1. Observed and predicted plasma pharmacokinetic CSF Aβ(1-x) relationship following repeat E2609 administration](image-url)
Furthermore, a dose-response model was established to explain the relationship between dosage of elenbecestat and the decrease in CSF $\text{A}\beta(1-x)$ using the same dataset. This model was able to describe the decrease in CSF $\text{A}\beta(1-x)$ in Study 202 well. The predicted median reduction in CSF $\text{A}\beta(1-x)$ at 50 mg/day dose of elenbecestat was 70% (figure 2). Based upon these results, a global Phase III clinical study (MISSION AD) is currently underway to confirm efficacy and safety of elenbecestat at a dosage of 50 mg/day.

Study 006 was a bridging study (Phase I clinical study) of elenbecestat to investigate similarity of the pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and safety profiles between Japanese and white healthy subjects (poster presentation number: P3-27). The study was conducted as a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. Single oral doses of 5, 50 or 200 mg/day of elenbecestat were administered in healthy adult Japanese and 50 mg/day of elenbecestat in white subjects, respectively. From the results of the study, a dose-dependent decrease in plasma $\text{A}\beta(1-x)$ level was observed in Japanese subjects. Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics profiles were similar between Japanese and white subjects. There were no specific racial differences in safety findings.

Discovered in-house by Eisai, elenbecestat is an investigational oral BACE inhibitor currently being investigated in a Phase III clinical study for Alzheimer’s disease. By inhibiting BACE, a key enzyme in the production of $\text{A}\beta$ peptides, elenbecestat decreases the formation of these peptides which can aggregate into toxic oligomers and protofibrils and eventually form amyloid plaques in the brain. It is believed that decreasing the formation of these plaques may potentially slow disease progression. Elenbecestat is being jointly developed by Eisai and Biogen Inc. (Headquarters: Massachusetts, United States, CEO: George A. Scangos, “Biogen”). In addition, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has granted Fast Track designation for the development of elenbecestat.

Eisai considers dementia a therapeutic area of focus and is committed to new drug such as elenbecestat development in this field. Eisai is striving to bringing promising therapies to patients worldwide as early as possible.

※The generic name is not yet fixed at this time.
[Notes to editors]

1. About the Phase III Clinical Trial Program MISSION AD for elenbecestat (E2609)
   The Phase III clinical trial program MISSION AD for elenbecestat consists of two global Phase III studies, MISSION AD1 (Study 301) and MISSION AD2 (Study 302).
   The first study of the MISSION AD program, MISSION AD1, is a multicenter, placebo-controlled, double-blind, parallel-group clinical study aiming to assess the efficacy and safety of elenbecestat in 1,330 patients with biomarker confirmed early Alzheimer’s disease. Patients will be randomized 1:1 to receive either a dosage of 50 mg of elenbecestat or placebo daily during the treatment period of 24 months, and the primary endpoint will utilize the Clinical Dementia Rating Sum of Boxes (CDR-SB).

2. About the Joint Development Agreement between Eisai and Biogen
   Based on the collaboration agreement, Eisai will serve as the operational and regulatory lead in the co-development of elenbecestat, a BACE inhibitor, and BAN2401, an anti-amyloid beta (Aβ) protofibril antibody, and will pursue marketing authorizations for both compounds worldwide. If approved, the companies will also co-promote the products, in major markets, such as the United States, the European Union and Japan. Both companies will equally split overall costs, including research and development expenses. Eisai will book all sales for elenbecestat and BAN2401 following marketing approval and launch, and profits will be equally shared between the companies. Also, Eisai has received from Biogen an upfront payment as well as the right to receive additional development, approval and commercial milestone payments. Under the same agreement, Eisai also holds options to jointly develop and commercialize two of Biogen’s candidates for Alzheimer’s disease, the anti-Aβ antibody aducanumab and an anti-tau antibody.