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Press Release

Eli Lilly Japan K.K.
Daiichi Sankyo Company, Limited

Eli Lilly Japan and Daiichi Sankyo Enter a Collaborative Agreement to Commercialize Lasmiditan Succinate in Japan for the Acute Treatment of Migraines

Eli Lilly Japan K.K. (headquartered in Kobe-shi, Hyogo, Japan; Representative Director and President: Simone Thomsen; hereinafter “Eli Lilly Japan”) and Daiichi Sankyo Company, Limited (headquartered in Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan; Representative Director, President, and CEO: Sunao Manabe; hereinafter “Daiichi Sankyo”) have concluded an agreement on commercialization collaboration in Japan for the 5-HT_{1F} receptor agonist lasmiditan succinate, for which Eli Lilly Japan has submitted a new drug application for the treatment of migraines.

Under the terms of the agreement, Eli Lilly Japan will hold authorization for marketing lasmiditan succinate, similar to the humanized anti-CGRP monoclonal antibody Emgality® (generic name: galcanezumab (genetic recombination)) to which a sales agreement has already been concluded between the two companies, and Daiichi Sankyo will take charge of its distribution and sales after marketing approval. Both companies will provide healthcare professionals with information on the drug.

Through this commercialization collaboration with Daiichi Sankyo, which has a solid operating foundation in Japan based on its established position and global network in the fields of central nervous system diseases and pain management, Eli Lilly Japan will strengthen its system for providing healthcare professionals with proper information through both Emgality and lasmiditan succinate after obtaining marketing approval.

Daiichi Sankyo will make efforts to improve the quality of life for many more patients with migraine by providing total care support through Emgality as a prophylaxis of migraine attacks and lasmiditan succinate.

Eli Lilly Japan and Daiichi Sankyo will work more closely together than ever before through this commercialization collaboration for galcanezumab and lasmiditan succinate to advance the medical treatment of migraine in Japan and contribute to give people with migraine opportunities to live moments that matter and days.

About lasmiditan succinate

Lasmiditan succinate is a small-molecule serotonin (5-HT)_{1F} receptor agonist developed for the acute treatment of migraines. Given that the pathophysiology of migraines is related to overactivity in the trigeminal nervous system, and that 5-HT_{1F} receptors are expressed on trigeminal nerve cells, the relevance of 5-HT_{1F} receptors to the pathophysiology of migraines has been suggested. Lasmiditan succinate selectively binds to 5-HT_{1F} receptors, which are distributed centrally and expressed on central and peripheral trigeminal nerve cells. By acting on 5-HT_{1F} receptors, lasmiditan succinate suppresses pain transmission in the central nervous system, overactivity in the trigeminal nerve system, and the release of the neurotransmitters involved in migraines (calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) and glutamic acid) from the trigeminal nerve, which is expected to be effective for migraine attacks. This drug was approved for the acute treatment of migraines in November 2019 in the United States and is currently used for patients with migraine in 4 countries around the world.

About migraine

Migraine is a neurological disease found in 3.6% of men and 12.9% of women^{*1} characterized by a moderate to severe headache in one or both sides of the head that lasts for 4 to 72 hours and typically accompanied by other symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and sensitivity to light and sound. It has been reported to be the second most disabling disease that affects daily activities among all diseases^{*2}.

*1: Sakai F. et al, Cephalalgia. 1997;17:15-22

*2: Lancet. 2017 Sep 16;390(10100):1211-1259; <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28919117/>

About Eli Lilly Japan

Eli Lilly Japan is a Japanese subsidiary of Eli Lilly and Company. It contributes to medical treatment in Japan through the import, development, manufacture, and sale of innovative pharmaceutical products that allow people to live longer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives, focusing on the therapeutic areas such as cancer, diabetes, musculoskeletal diseases, central nervous system diseases, autoimmune diseases, growth disorder, and pain. For more information, please visit our website. <https://www.lilly.co.jp>

About Daiichi Sankyo

Daiichi Sankyo is dedicated to creating new modalities and innovative medicines by leveraging our world-class science and technology for our purpose “to contribute to the enrichment of quality of life around the world.” In addition to our current portfolio of medicines for cancer and cardiovascular disease, Daiichi Sankyo is primarily focused on developing novel therapies for people with cancer as well as other diseases with high unmet medical needs. With more than 100 years of scientific expertise and a presence in more than 20 countries, Daiichi Sankyo and its 16,000 employees around the world draw upon a rich legacy of innovation to realize our 2030 Vision to become an “Innovative Global Healthcare Company Contributing to the Sustainable Development of Society.” For more information, please visit www.daiichisankyo.com.

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