HYBRIGENICS

Hybrigenics Updates Inecalcitol Phase II Study Results in Combination with Taxotere® for Hormone-Refractory Prostate Cancer

Presentation at the 2009 meeting of the European Society for Medical Oncology in Berlin, Germany, shows results continue to be encouraging

Paris, 22 September 2009 - Hybrigenics (ALHYG), a bio-pharmaceutical company listed on Alternext (NYSE-Euronext) in Paris with a focus on research and development of new cancer treatments and specialised in protein interactions, today presents an update on the interim results from its phase II clinical trial of inecalcitol in patients with hormone-refractory prostate cancer. The update is the subject of a poster presentation at the 34th annual meeting of the European Society for Medical Oncology in Berlin, Germany.

Oral daily doses of inecalcitol have been given in combination with the standard Taxotere® chemotherapy. The clinical tolerance of inecalcitol was excellent, and no changes in calcium parameters have been observed in any of the 42 patients who have completed their treatment period, even at the highest dose of 1,000 µg/day (*i.e*. 1 mg/day). This safety profile is especially positive for inecalcitol because hypercalcemia is the usual specific toxic effect of most vitamin D analogues, limiting their use at doses as low as 10 µg/day.

Out of the 42 patients, 38 were evaluable and 33 showed a decrease in Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) levels of more than 30 percent within three months of initiation of treatment. This means that the response rate to the combination of inecalcitol and Taxotere® was 87 percent. This is a confirmation of the high response rate which was observed on 31 evaluable patients treated with daily doses up to 600 µg/day, and which was presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Orlando in May this year.

As an indication, although not a direct comparison, when Taxotere® has been studied as a single agent in previously published clinical trials, this PSA response rate was around 65 percent. These numbers would mean that about one third more patients responded to the combination of inecalcitol and Taxotere®.

"The preliminary results with inecalcitol continue to be very encouraging, in terms of both safety with no hypercalcemia, and presumption of efficacy with a high PSA response rate," said Dr. Jean-François Dufour-Lamartinie, Head of Clinical R&D at Hybrigenics.

About inecalcitol

Inecalcitol is an orally active agonist targeting the vitamin D receptor. The therapeutic rationale behind its development is to add its cytostatic potential to the established efficacy of the reference treatments of the two stages of prostate cancer: anti-hormonals (LH-RH agonists and anti-androgens) for the hormone-dependent stage and Taxotere®-based chemotherapy for the hormone-refractory stage.

About Hybrigenics

Hybrigenics (www.hybrigenics.com) is a bio-pharmaceutical company listed (ALHYG) on Alternext (NYSE-Euronext) in Paris, focusing its internal R&D programs on innovative targets and therapies for the treatment of cancer. Hybrigenics' development program is based on inecalcitol, a vitamin D analogue, for the treatment of hormone-refractory prostate cancer in combination with Sanofi-Aventis' Taxotere®, which is the current gold-standard chemotherapeutic treatment for this indication. Hybrigenics' research program explores the role of enzymes known as ubiquitin-specific proteases (USP) in the degradation of onco-proteins, and the effectiveness of proprietary USP inhibitors in treating various types of cancer.

Hybrigenics is also the market leader in Yeast-Two Hybrid (Y2H) and related services to identify, validate and inhibit protein interactions for researchers in all areas of life sciences, using its ISO 9001-certified high-throughput Y2H screening platform, its sophisticated bioinformatics tools and extensive database, along with its chemical library and chemical screening platform.

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HYBRIGENICS is listed on the Alternext by NYSE Euronext

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