

## **Santen Announces the Launch of TAPROS MINI Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015% for Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension**

October 10, 2013, Osaka, Japan-- Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka) announced the launch of TAPROS Mini Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015% (generic name: tafluprost) for the treatment of glaucoma and ocular hypertension.

The active ingredient of TAPROS MINI Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015%, tafluprost is the same prostaglandin  $F_{2\alpha}$  analogue used in TAPROS Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015%, a glaucoma and ocular hypertension drug co-developed by Santen and Asahi Glass Co., Ltd. (Tokyo), and launched in 2008. TAPROS MINI offers the same tafluprost concentration and intraocular pressure-reducing effect of the original TAPROS in a sterile, preservative-free solution in single-dose disposable containers. Prostaglandin  $F_{2\alpha}$  analogues are currently the most commonly prescribed first-line treatment for glaucoma and ocular hypertension.

Glaucoma is a disorder characterized by optic nerve damage and progressive visual field loss resulting from abnormally elevated intraocular pressure (IOP). The disease is the major cause of visual impairments such as loss of vision; left untreated, it may even lead to blindness. Because optic nerve damage and visual field loss from glaucoma is generally considered to be irreversible, treatment concentrates on reduction and control of IOP over an extended period of time. Long-term glaucoma therapy needs to take into account patients who are allergic to the preservative benzalkonium chloride (BAK) or suffer from serious disorders of the corneal and conjunctival epithelia. This has consequently led to a demand for preservative-free drugs for such patients requiring special care.

Santen already markets several types of glaucoma drugs, and expects the addition to our lineup of preservative-free TAPROS MINI Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015% will help improve the quality of life of patients by giving health care professionals a wider range of treatment options.

Upon the launch of TAPROS MINI Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015%, Santen does not revise their current fiscal year (from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014) financial forecasts, respectively.

### Product Characteristics:

- Contains the prostaglandin F<sub>2α</sub> analogue tafluprost, currently the first-line treatment of choice for glaucoma and ocular hypertension, in a preservative-free solution
- Packaged in single-dose disposable containers
- Offers the same active ingredient and IOP-reducing effect as TAPROS Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015%

### Product Outline

Product Name:	TAPROS MINI Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015%
Generic name:	Tafluprost
Dosage form:	Aqueous ophthalmic solution
Indication:	Glaucoma and ocular hypertension
Dosage:	One drop at a time, once daily topical instillation
Storage method:	Store at 2-8°C with light protection
Package:	0.3 mL/bottle, plastic eye dropper bottles x 30 (10 bottles per one aluminum foil envelope x 3 envelopes)
Price:	96.90 JPY per 0.3 mL bottle
Insurance Coverage:	Insurance will cover this drug for patients who are or believed to be highly sensitive to the preservative benzalkonium chloride.
Date of approval:	January 11, 2013
Date of NHI price listing:	May 31, 2013
Date of launch:	October 10, 2013

### Product Image



**Forward-looking Statements**

Information provided in this press release contains so-called “forward looking statements”. The realization of these forecasts is subject to risk and uncertainty from various sources. Therefore, please note that the actual results may differ significantly from the forecasts. Business performance and financial conditions are subject to the effects of changes in regulations made by governments in Japan and other nations concerning medical insurance, drug pricing and other systems, as well as fluctuations in market variables such as interest and foreign exchange rates.