

Santen Launches TAPCOM Combination Ophthalmic Solution for the Treatment of Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension

November 25, 2014, Osaka, Japan—Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. has announced that it has launched TAPCOM Combination Ophthalmic Solution (generic name: tafluprost/timolol maleate; hereinafter "TAPCOM") for the treatment of glaucoma and ocular hypertension.

TAPCOM is a prescription ophthalmic pharmaceutical co-developed by Santen and Asahi Glass Co., Ltd. (Tokyo), and contains both tafluprost and timolol maleate, active ingredients in TAPROS Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015%, glaucoma and ocular hypertension treatment launched in 2008.

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 number one cause of visual impairments such as vision loss in Japan; left untreated, it may even lead to blindness. Because glaucomatous nerve damage and visual field loss is generally considered to be irreversible, treatment primarily focuses on reduction and control of IOP over an extended period of time.

Glaucoma treatment involves the administration of many types of IOP-lowering medications. Because it is often difficult to control IOP properly with a single agent, a combination of two or more types of drugs is used for treatment. However, therapy with a combination of single agents requires frequent doses and complicated dosing schedules, making it difficult for patients with glaucoma to properly comply with their treatment regimen. TAPCOM contains, in a single agent, not only a prostaglandin F_{2α} analogue that promotes the outflow of aqueous humor, the accumulation of which leads to high IOP, but also a β blocker that inhibits the production of aqueous humor. For this reason, TAPCOM is able to exert excellent IOP lowering effects with a single agent.

The approval obtained by Santen for the manufacture and sales of TAPCOM and the addition of TAPCOM to Santen's current lineup of advanced pharmaceuticals, which includes monotherapies such as TAPROS Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015%, will allow it to provide health care professionals with a wider range of treatment options, thereby contributing to improvement of the quality of life of patients.

Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. has no plans to revise the firm's financial forecasts because of the launch in Japan of TAPCOM.

Product Characteristics:

- Shows superior IOP reduction to tafluprost, with once daily, one drop instillation
- Improved prostaglandin F_{2α} analogue and β-blocker fixed dose combination (PG + β FDC) to achieve the well-controlled IOP reduction with advanced formulation technology.

Product Outline

Product Name:	TAPCOM Combination Ophthalmic Solution
Generic name:	Tafluprost/timolol maleate
Dosage form:	Aqueous ophthalmic solution
Indication:	Glaucoma and ocular hypertension
Dosage:	One drop at a time, once daily
Storage method:	Store at room temperature away from light in a sealed container
Package:	2,5mL Plastic containers x5, x10
Price:	1,060 JPY per 1 mL
Insurance Coverage:	None
Date of approval:	September 20, 2013
Date of NHI price listing:	November 25, 2014
Date of launch:	November 25, 2014

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 condition are subject to the effects of changes in regulations made by governments in Japan and other nations concerning medical systems, drug pricing and other systems, as well as fluctuations in market variables such as interest and foreign exchange rates.