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Licensing Agreement on PDE4 Inhibitor ONO-6126

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka, Japan. President: Takashi Iwai) and Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka, Japan. President: Takakazu Morita) announced that they entered into a licensing agreement on exclusive development, manufacturing and marketing rights in Japan for ONO-6126 for ophthalmic use (allergic conjunctivitis as the first indication). ONO-6126 is a PDE4 (Phosphodiesterase type 4) inhibitor discovered and currently developed by Ono for respiratory disorders. Ono retains the development, manufacturing and marketing rights for ONO-6126 outside Japan.

Under the terms of the agreement, Ono will receive an upfront payment and milestone payments as well as royalties on sales of ONO-6126 from Santen.

Allergic conjunctivitis is an inflammatory disorder associated with activation of various types of inflammatory cells evoked by invasion into eyes by antigens such as pollen, ticks, and house dusts. Symptoms of allergic conjunctivitis include ocular itching, foreign body sensation, tearing, edema, redness, etc. PDE4 is related to the activation of inflammatory cells and basic research showed that ONO-6126 is expected to be effective for allergic conjunctivitis through its inhibitory effect against PDE4.

This mechanism of action of ONO-6126 is different from the existing drugs for the treatment of allergic conjunctivitis and Santen expects that ONO-6126 will provide a new option for its treatment.

Ono expects that this arrangement with Santen, a leading ophthalmic pharmaceutical company, will expand other applications of ONO-6126 into ophthalmic field.

Santen expects that the addition of ONO-6126 to their anti-allergic ophthalmic pipeline will enrich the treatment options for each patient and contribute to more patients by improving their Quality of Life.

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