

Sankyo and Santen Enter into Agreement on Development, Manufacture, and Marketing of a New Glaucoma Remedy

March 27, 2002 --- Sankyo Co., Ltd. (headquartered at Chuo-ku, Tokyo, president: Tetsuo Takafuji) and Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (headquartered at Higashiyodogawa-ku, Osaka, president: Takakazu Morita) entered into an agreement on the development, manufacture, and marketing of CS-088 (nonproprietary name not given), a glaucoma remedy under development by Sankyo. After the effective date of this agreement, Santen will be engaged in the development, manufacture, and marketing of CS-088 all over the world.

Glaucoma, an eye disease characterized by visual field defects, is caused by increased intraocular pressure associated with a disorder of the optic nerve.

CS-088, an angiotensin II receptor antagonist ^(*) discovered by Sankyo that acts by a new mechanism not found in any existing glaucoma remedy, will be the first in the world to reduce intraocular pressure.

Currently, there are an estimated three million glaucoma sufferers in Japan. The incidence of this disease among the middle-aged and elderly is so high that it is also called the “lifestyle-related disease of the eye.” The majority of patients are over 40 years old, the prevalence being 1 in 30 persons in this age group. The development of this drug is expected to contribute significantly to the treatment of glaucoma.

Although the phase I clinical study ^(*) of CS-088 in Japan was conducted by Sankyo Co., Ltd., further clinical studies will be undertaken by Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. after the effective date of this agreement.

[Reference]

- Glossary -

1. Angiotensin II receptor antagonist

Angiotensin II is a protein that elevates blood pressure by constricting blood vessels. An angiotensin II receptor antagonist acts on angiotensin II receptors to reduce blood pressure.

2. Phase I clinical study

A study to verify the safety of an investigational drug in a small number of healthy volunteers and a particular type of patient.