

Santen Launches OPHTHAGREEN for Intravenous Injection 25 mg, Fluorescein Fundus Angiography Contrast Medium

Osaka, Japan, August 21, 2002 --- Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. announced it will launch OPHTHAGREEN for Intravenous injection 25 mg (generic name: indocyanine green), a fluorescein fundus angiography contrast medium, in Japan on August 22.

OPHTHAGREEN for Intravenous injection 25 mg is the ophthalmic application of indocyanine green, currently marketed by Daiichi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. as a diagnostic for liver and cardiovascular diseases. OPHTHAGREEN for Intravenous injection 25 mg will be the only product available in Japan for the diagnosis of chorioretinal diseases under retinal pigment epithelium or hemorrhagic lesion, the conditions not sufficiently diagnosed by conventional contrast mediums.

The product will be used to diagnose various fundic diseases, including exudative age-related macular degeneration. This disease ranks highest among the causes of acquired blindness in the United States and Europe, and the number patients has been increasing rapidly in Japan as well.

OPHTHAGREEN for Intravenous injection 25 mg has the following features:

- The first contrast medium for fundus angiography having excitation and fluorescence wavelengths in the near infrared band
- Enables the diagnosis of chorioretinal disease under pigment epithelium and hemorrhagic lesion
- The incidence of adverse reactions was 1.8% (1 out of 57 cases), based on in-house analysis as of the time of obtaining manufacturing approval



[References]

1. Chorioretina

A term used for choroid and retina. The retina is a thin transparent membrane, which compares to camera film, located inside the eyeball. The choroid, located outside the retina, is rich in vascular vessels and pigments and nourishes the retina.

2. Exudative age-related macular degeneration

A disease caused by age-related changes in the macula, characterized by rapid loss of visual acuity and development of central scotoma (loss of central vision) due to the deterioration of the macula, the part of the retina most closely associated with visual acuity, as a result of neovascularization from the choroid.

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