News Release

Santen Launches DIQUAS Ophthalmic Solution 3% for Dry Eye Treatment in Japan

December 13, 2010, Osaka, Japan---Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. today announced that it has launched its new dry eye treatment drug, DIQUAS Ophthalmic Solution 3% (generic name: diquafosol sodium; hereafter “DIQUAS”) in Japan.

DIQUAS is an ophthalmic solution with a new mechanism of action for dry eye which was licensed for certain ophthalmic uses from Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (U.S.A) and developed by Santen. In clinical studies conducted in Japan, DIQUAS was shown to improve dry eye symptoms by promoting secretion of mucin and water as main components of tears, thereby bringing the tear film closer to a normal state. In addition, no serious ocular or systemic adverse drug reactions were found during the clinical trials.

Dry eye is a chronic disorder of the keratoconjunctival epithelium and tear film caused by various factors, and is accompanied by symptoms such as ocular discomfort and visual function disorder. It begins with symptoms of ocular discomfort such as burning, stinging or a foreign body sensation. However, when aggravated, the disease can become very serious when it interferes with everyday activities. Recently, studies have shown that the number of dry eye patients is increasing primarily due to increased visual activities (computer work, etc.), dry air caused by air conditioning, increased prevalence of contact lens wear, and in LASIK (laser assisted in-situ keratomileusis) refractive surgery. Currently, sodium hyaluronate ophthalmic solution and artificial tears are the primary products used for the treatment of dry eye syndrome in Japan.

Santen currently markets “Hyalein Ophthalmic Solution 0.1%” and several other dry eye treatment products. Now that DIQUAS with a new mechanism of action joins in Santen’s product lineup, Santen expects that DIQUAS will offer a new treatment option for medical professionals, and contribute to improving QOL (quality of life) of dry eye patients.

Product Characteristics

- DIQUAS is the first approved $P2Y_2$ receptor agonist in the world to be formulated as ophthalmic solution, and has a new mechanism of action for dry eye treatment.
- DIQUAS improves symptoms of dry eye as it promotes secretion of water and mucin.
- DIQUAS was well tolerated in dry eye patients in long-term administration, and therefore is expected to have long-term improvement effect against the clinical symptoms of dry eye.
- No serious ocular or systemic adverse drug reactions have been found.

About DIQUAS

Product name	DIQUAS Ophthalmic Solution 3%
Generic name (JAN)	Diquafosol sodium
Dosage form	Aqueous ophthalmic solution
Indication	Dry eye
Dose method	Usually, 1drop at a time, 6 times a day
Storage method	Can be stored at room temperature
Package	A box contains 5mL×10
Price	623.40 JPY for 5mL (1container)
Date of approval	April 16, 2010
Date of NHI price listing	December 10, 2010
Date of launch	December 13, 2010

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