

Santen Announces Approval of TAPROS MINI Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015% for Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension Treatment in Japan

January 18, 2013-- Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. is pleased to announce that on January 11, 2013, MHLW of Japan granted manufacturing and marketing approval for the glaucoma and ocular hypertension treatment drug, TAPROS Mini Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015% (Generic name: tafluprost).

TAPROS MINI Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015% is a sterile, preservative-free, disposable type unit dose product containing the same active ingredient tafluprost, a prostaglandin $F_{2\alpha}$ analogue, at the same concentration, with equivalent IOP-lowering effect as TAPROS Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015%, a glaucoma and ocular hypertension drug which was co-developed by Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and Asahi Glass Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo), and launched in 2008. Currently, prostaglandin $F_{2\alpha}$ analogues are chosen as first-line drugs, and most commonly prescribed for treatment of glaucoma and ocular hypertension.

Glaucoma is a disease in which the optic nerve is damaged by IOP elevation, etc., causing progressive visual field loss, which, if left untreated, may lead to blindness. It is a major cause of visual disturbance (visual acuity loss, blindness) by ocular disease. Glaucomatous optic nerve damage and visual field loss is generally progressive and irreversible, so the basic treatment menu includes IOP-lowering and IOP control over an extended period of time. Since the disease is chronic and requires long-term treatment, products which contain no preservatives (e.g. benzalkonium chloride (BAK)) are in demand by patients who are allergic to BAK or have severe corneal and/or conjunctival epithelial disorder.

Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. already has several types of glaucoma treatment drugs on the market, and expects that the addition of preservative-free TAPROS MINI Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015% to the product lineup would further enhance treatment choices for medical care givers, and contribute to improving the patients' QOL (quality of life).

<About TAPROS MINI>

Product Name:	TAPROS MINI Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015%
Generic name:	Tafluprost
Dosage form:	Preservative-free, aqueous ophthalmic solution in a unit-dose, disposable type container
Indication:	Glaucoma and ocular hypertension
Dosage:	One drop at a time, once daily topical instillation
Storage method	Store at 2-8°C with light protection

Product Characteristics:

- It is a preservative-free ophthalmic solution containing tafluprost, a prostaglandin F_{2α} analogue, which is currently the most frequently used first-line treatment for glaucoma and ocular hypertension.
- It is a unit-dose, disposable type container product.
- It contains the same active ingredient as TAPROS Ophthalmic Solution 0.0015%, with equivalent IOP-lowering effect.