



Your Contact

Phyllis Carter
Phone +49 6151-72 7144

News Release

June 23, 2006

Merck KGaA: Sarizotan Phase III Studies Did Not Meet Primary Efficacy Endpoint

Darmstadt, June 23, 2006 – Merck KGaA announced today the completion of two Phase III clinical trials of Sarizotan in advanced Parkinson's disease patients suffering from dyskinesia.

The two placebo-controlled double-blind Phase III studies (PADDY-1 and PADDY-2) were performed in 15 countries worldwide in over 1,000 Parkinson patients with disabling dyskinesia. The treatment duration was six months with the first endpoint reached after three months. Sarizotan 1-mg tablets or a matching placebo were administered twice daily. The primary target variable of efficacy was based on the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS) and included measures of severity as well as duration of patients' dyskinesia. Treatment response was defined as a 25% improvement or greater in the primary endpoint.

The Phase III studies in the present design did not confirm the Phase II findings nor the results from preclinical studies. A statistically significant difference of the primary target variable between Sarizotan and placebo could not be demonstrated in these studies. Therefore a filing and launch in this indication will not be possible. Merck does not plan to pursue further development of this compound.

It is planned to present the results of the PADDY-1 and PADDY-2 studies at the Movement Disorder Society's 10th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders in Kyoto later this year.

Page 1 of 2

Merck KGaA

Frankfurter Strasse 250
64293 Darmstadt
Hotline +49 (0) 6151 72-5000
www.merck.de

Head External Communications -2386
Corporate Media Relations -2578 / -7144
Fax +49 (0) 6151 72-7707
media.relations@merck.de

Media Relations
Darmstadt Site -2579 / -7109
Fax +49 (0) 6151 72-3138
pressestelle@merck.de



News Release

Sarizotan is a full agonist at serotonin 5-HT_{1A} receptors and also shows high affinity to dopamine D₃ and D₄ receptors.

Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease after Alzheimer's disease. The typical clinical symptoms of Parkinson's disease are tremor, rigidity and bradykinesia (slowing down of movements). The prevalence of Parkinson's is estimated at approximately 1 million patients in the US and 1.3 million in the EU. In the early stage, most patients can be treated sufficiently with available anti-Parkinson drugs. However, after years of treatment, unavoidable complications occur such as motor fluctuations (unstable response to treatment) and dyskinesia, which is characterized by involuntary turning or twisting movements. To date, no drug is approved for this troubling condition.

All Merck Press Releases are distributed by e-mail at the same time they become available on the Merck Website. Please go to <http://www.subscribe.merck.de> to register online, change your selection or discontinue this service.

Merck is a global pharmaceutical and chemical company with sales of EUR 5.9 billion in 2005, a history that began in 1668, and a future shaped by 29,624 employees in 54 countries. Its success is characterized by innovations from entrepreneurial employees. Merck's operating activities come under the umbrella of Merck KGaA, in which the Merck family holds a 73% interest and free shareholders own the remaining 27%. The former U.S. subsidiary, Merck & Co., has been completely independent of the Merck Group since 1917.