

Company News

January 25, 1999

Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical and Ono Pharmaceutical Conclude Licensing Agreement for Bone Resorption Inhibitor YM529

Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Masayoshi Onoda, President) and Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Toshio Ueno, President) concluded a licensing agreement in January this year for the bone resorption inhibitor YM529 (minodronate acid), developed by Yamanouchi.

The agreement gives Ono Pharmaceutical exclusive rights to the development and sale of YM529 in Japan with respect to osteoporosis, hypercalcemia, and other indications. Clinical development of this drug has been advanced to phase II clinical studies by Yamanouchi, and Ono will inherit this development process. Furthermore, Yamanouchi is proceeding with development with respect to indications for bone metastasis of various forms of cancer and multiple myeloma, and Ono has been granted the right to participate in development and sales relating to these indications.

Bisphosphonates are compounds that reduce bone resorption by suppressing osteoclasts that resorb (dissolve) bone. These compounds have attracted considerable attention as having the potential to provide effective treatment for osteoporosis, hypercalcemia, and other disorders. YM529 is a third-generation bisphosphonate with imidazopyridine in its structure. It has demonstrated favorable results in early phase II clinical studies against both osteoporosis and hypercalcemia accompanying malignancy.

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