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Public Relations
Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Clinical Study with New HIV Drug (Oral CCR5 Antagonist) Commenced in the US

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd (Ono) announced that Phase I clinical studies have commenced on the new HIV drug GW873140 (ONO-4128). GW873140 is a cellular chemokine receptor (CCR5) antagonist which was created by Ono. Clinical studies are being carried out by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), who were granted a license by Ono in December 2002 for the worldwide development, manufacture and sales of this compound.

GW873140 (ONO-4128), a low molecular weight compound created through Ono's genomic-based drug discovery research, inhibits HIV infection by blocking the CCR5 receptor. The CCR5 receptor is believed to be the predominant co-receptor used by HIV in the early and middle stages of infection.

It is expected that GW873140 (ONO-4128) will prevent HIV infection by its new mechanism of action totally different from those of traditional anti-HIV drugs (reverse transcriptase inhibitor and protease inhibitor), which inhibit multiplication of HIV virus. In addition, viral resistance, which is developed through rapid mutation of HIV after exposure to currently available drugs, has been a growing issue in the field of HIV. The CCR5 receptor, a target of GW873140 (ONO-4128), resides on the surface of human immune cells, and therefore the likelihood or incidence of viral resistance by mutant HIV may be lower

At the 2nd International AIDS Society Conference on Pathogenesis and Treatment being held in Paris from July 12 to 16, Dr. Kenji Maeda, M.D., a scientist working in conjunction with Dr. Hiroaki Mitsuya, at the Department of Internal Medicine II, Kumamoto University School of Medicine, presented data regarding the pharmacological features of GW873140 (ONO-4128). GSK commented that the data supports further clinical evaluation of the drug.