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Launch of Rivastach[®] Patch, for the Treatment of Dementia of Alzheimer's Type - To Offer New Treatment Option for Dementia of Alzheimer's Type (Transdermal Patch) -

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka, Japan) announced today that Rivastach[®] Patch 4.5mg, 9mg, 13.5mg and 18mg (rivastigmine transdermal patch) for the treatment of mild to moderate dementia of Alzheimer's type was launched in Japan on July 19, 2011.

Rivastach[®] Patch is a class of drugs known as a cholinesterase inhibitor and to suppress the progress of symptoms associated with dementia of Alzheimer's type. In the clinical study performed in Japan, Rivastach[®] Patch has shown efficacy in controlling progress of cognitive dysfunction* over placebo.

Rivastach[®] Patch is the first transdermal patch therapy for dementia of Alzheimer's type in Japan and is once-daily treatment simply by applying to the skin either on the back, upper arm or chest. The drug is therefore expected to reduce the burden on caregivers in dosing control. Because it also enables a visual confirmation of dosing, it is expected to improve patient compliance and continuation of dosing. In addition, sustained release of the drug absorbed through the skin controls a sharp increase in blood concentration of the drug and reduces gastrointestinal side-effect such as nausea and vomiting.

Launch of Rivastach[®] Patch offers an additional transdermal treatment as a new option for patients with dementia of Alzheimer's type. We will actively provide medical professionals with evidence-based information on the drug such as drug's pharmacological and clinical properties for their proper use.

Rivastach[®] Patch is a drug discovered by Novartis Pharma of Switzerland. In Japan, Ono and Novartis Pharma K.K. had jointly developed it since 2007. The drug was first approved in the United States in July 2007 and in the EU in September 2007. Since then, it has been approved as one of the standard therapies for mild-to-moderate dementia of Alzheimer's type in more than 82 countries around the world (as of January 2011).

* Clinical endpoints evaluating cognitive functions in the clinical study mainly included word regeneration, verbal ability, auditory understanding ability of language, designation of manual fingers and articles, and orientation.

PRODUCT SUMMARY:

Product Name	Rivastach [®] Patch 4.5mg, 9mg, 13.5mg, or 18mg
Generic Name	Rivastigmine transdermal system
Indication	Suppression of the progress of symptoms associated with mild to moderate dementia of Alzheimer's type
Dosage and Administration	Usually, for adults, starting with a single dose of 4.5mg as rivastigmine, once daily, the dose can be increased by 4.5mg each time every 4 weeks in principle and up to the maintenance dose of 18mg once daily. Rivastach [®] Patch should be applied to intact healthy skin either on the back, upper arm or chest, and replaced with a new one every 24 hours.
Date of Approval	April 22, 2011
Date of NHI Price listing	July 19, 2011
NHI Prices	Rivastach [®] Patch 4.5mg: JPY 337.20 Rivastach [®] Patch 9mg: JPY 379.70 Rivastach [®] Patch 13.5mg: JPY 407.00 Rivastach [®] Patch 18mg: JPY 427.50
Date of launch	July 19, 2011
Manufactured and Distributed by	Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.