

September 15, 2011

ONO PHARMACEUTICAL Co., LTD.

President and Representative Director: Gyo Sagara

Code No.: 4528 at the 1st section of the Tokyo / Osaka Stock Exchange

INQUIRIES: Kinya Morimoto, Executive Officer, Director, Corporate Communications

ASTELLAS PHARMA INC.

President and CEO: Yoshihiko Hatanaka

Code No.: 4503 at the 1st section of the Tokyo / Osaka Stock Exchange

INQUIRIES: Makoto Kawamura, Vice President, Corporate Communications

**Launch of RECALBON[®] Tablets 50mg/ Bonoteo[®] Tablets 50mg,
Once per 4 Week Oral Osteoporosis Treatment in Japan**

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka, Japan “Ono”) and Astellas Pharma Inc. (Tokyo, Japan “Astellas”) announce that they will launch RECALBON[®] Tablets 50mg (Ono) / Bonoteo[®] Tablets 50mg (Astellas) (generic name: Minodronic Acid Hydrate) in Japan on September 16, 2011. The once-per-four-week oral drug has been jointly developed by the two companies for the treatment of osteoporosis and its Japanese marketing approval was granted on July 1, 2011.

Minodronic acid hydrate is an oral bisphosphonate that has been discovered by Astellas and has been co-developed by Ono and Astellas. This drug increases bone mineral density and strength by inhibiting osteoclastic bone resorption. RECALBON[®] Tablets 1mg / Bonoteo[®] Tablets 1mg, a once-a-day formulation of this drug, demonstrated significant efficacy in bone fractures prevention and was launched in Japan during April 2009.

In a Phase 2 / 3 study in Japan, RECALBON[®] Tablets 50mg / Bonoteo[®] Tablets 50mg, once-per-four-week formulation of this drug, demonstrated non-inferiority to the daily formulation 1 mg in average bone mineral density change in lumbar spines, the primary endpoint. Furthermore, in the safety evaluation of the Phase 2 / 3 study, once-per-four-week formulation 50 mg appeared to be safe, while the incidence of side-effects was low and comparable to the 1mg daily formulation. Based on the results of the study, the once-per-four-week RECALBON[®] Tablets 50mg / Bonoteo[®] Tablets 50mg has an equivalent effect in bone fractures prevention to the daily formulation and improves the patient’s convenience by reducing the dose frequency.

Since the launch of RECALBON[®] Tablets 1mg / Bonoteo[®] Tablets 1mg in Japan, Ono and Astellas have contributed to the improvement of the quality of life for patients suffering from

13.2% (30 out of 228 patients) including abnormal laboratory test values, and those include stomach and abdominal discomfort in 5 patients (2.2%), abdominal pain in 3 patients (1.3%), gastritis in 3 patients (1.3%) and a decrease in alkaline phosphatase in 3 patients (1.3%) as of approval. Disorders in upper gastrointestinal tract were reported as clinically significant adverse reactions. Decrease in blood calcium level, liver function disorder, jaundice, osteonecrosis and osteomyelitis in the jaw were reported in other bisphosphonate drugs as clinically significant adverse reactions.

Packaging: RECALBON[®] Tablets 50mg:
1tablet, 1tablet x 5 (PTP with a package for patients)
Bonoteo[®] Tablets 50mg:
1tablet x 3 (PTP with a package for patients)

NHI drug price: 50mg: JPY 3,433.40

NHI price list Date: September 12, 2011

Launch Date: September 16, 2011