

November 9, 2020

**FOIPAN® Tablets, a Protease Enzyme Inhibitor,  
Started Clinical Study in Patients with Novel Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19)**

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka, Japan; President, Representative Director, Gyo Sagara; “ONO”) announced that ONO has started Phase III study with a proteinase inhibitor, Foipan® (generic name: camostat mesilate) Tablets (“Foipan”) in patients with a novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19).

Taking into account the basic research literature suggesting the effectiveness of camostat mesilate and the blood concentrations in humans, ONO had conducted a clinical study to investigate the safety of Foipan in healthy adults using higher doses than the currently approved dosage since this June. Based on the result, ONO has started a randomized double-blind comparative Phase III study in patients with COVID-19.

<Summary of clinical study>

- Design: Randomized double-blind comparative clinical study
- Dosage: Foipan
- Target subjects: 110 patients

The causative virus of COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, binds to the ACE2 receptor on cells of the human respiratory tract, then invades and infects by fusing the viral and cellular membranes. In order to cause membrane fusion, a protease enzyme, TMPRSS2, on the surface of cell side is engaged in cleaving the spike protein on the virus surface. Foipan has a mechanism that inhibits the action of this enzyme. Having such mechanistic characteristics, Foipan is expected to be effective against COVID-19.

**About Foipan® Tablets**

Foipan® Tablets is an oral protease enzyme inhibitor created internally at ONO, and obtained a manufacturing and marketing approval in 1985 for the alleviation of acute symptoms associated with chronic pancreatitis. Foipan was also approved in 1994 for the treatment of postoperative reflux esophagitis. The substance patent for the product expired in January 1996.

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