PRESS RELEASE

Wilex Antibody Study Receives Science Award:

Study on Clinical Phase II Trial with Antibody cG250 against Renal Cell Carcinoma Receives Clinical Science Award 2002

Munich/Hamburg (Germany), 28 November 2002. The study on the clinical phase II trial with Wilex’ monoclonal antibody cG250 (WX-G250) in patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC) was awarded with the first Clinical Science Award 2002 of the “Deutsche Gesellschaft für Immuntherapie e.V.” (German Society for Immune Therapy). Participants in the study are physician scientists from the Universities Marburg, Nijmegen and Rotterdam and from Wilex AG, Munich. First author is Dr. Zoltan Varga from the Department for Urology and Children’s Urology at the University hospital of Philipps University, Marburg, and one of the investigators of the phase II trial with WX-G250. Three further groups were awarded. The “Deutsche Gesellschaft für Immuntherapie e.V.” will honour outstanding achievements in clinical immune therapy with the Clinical Science Award on an annual basis.

The prospective, open label phase II clinical trial was conducted in five European centres to evaluate the safety and efficacy of WX-G250. 32 evaluable patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma (RCC) were included. More than half of the patients were pre-treated. The trial showed an excellent safety profile of WX-G250 with good tolerability and no allergic reactions. The median survival rate was 15 months. A clinically significant benefit meaning tumor remission or disease stabilization for six months or more was achieved in 25% of the patients.

About the „Deutsche Gesellschaft für Immuntherapie e.V.“ [www.dgfit.de]

The „Deutsche Gesellschaft für Immuntherapie e.V.“ (DGFIT), Hamburg, was founded by leading oncologists, urologists, gynecologists und dermatologists in April 2000. Goals of the DGFIT are to promote science and research in the field of immune therapy and to inform the public about the possibilities to stimulate the immune system in order to treat and prevent diseases. Today, 67 persons and companies are members of the DGFIT. President of the DGFIT is Prof. Dr. Dr. Edith Huland, Head of Transplantations Immunology and Tumor Immunology of the Urological Clinic at University hospital of Eppendorf, Hamburg.

Immune therapy stimulates the immune system and thus strengthens patients’ biological defence mechanisms against the tumor. This can be achieved through cytokines such as interleukin-2 or interferon alpha, which control the immune cells, or through antibodies. Immune therapy is being developed for certain tumor indications such as renal cell carcinoma, where traditional therapies such as chemotherapy show no satisfactory clinical benefit.

About Renal Cell Carcinoma

Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC) is the 10th most common cancer in the USA where it accounts for about 3% of all adult cancers and causes more than 12,000 deaths per year with an increasing incidence. In Germany RCC causes 14,000 new cancer cases and 6,000 cancer
deaths per year. Some 25% of all patients will present with metastatic disease at the time of their initial diagnosis and up to 50% of those resected for cure are expected to have relapse during the course of disease. To date radiation, chemo- and hormonal therapy have not demonstrated sufficient anti-tumor activity to prolong the survival of RCC patients with metastatic disease.

About Wilex’ antibody WX-G250 against Renal Cell Carcinoma

WX-G250 is a chimeric monoclonal IgG1 antibody that binds to a cell surface antigen, the MN antigen, found on up to 95% of clear cell renal cancer (RCC). The antibody was originally developed at the university of Leiden, The Netherlands, by Prof. Dr. Sven Warnaar, the Chief Scientific Officer of Wilex AG. A clinical phase II trial with WX-G250 has been completed. Two further phase II clinical trials of WX-G250 in combination therapy with Interleukin-2 and Interferon alpha are ongoing. Wilex received „Orphan Drug Status“ for WX-G250 from the regulatory agencies FDA and EMEA, which grants exclusive marketing rights to Wilex for 7 years in the USA and for 10 years in the European Union.

About Wilex

Wilex develops novel cancer therapies for the treatment of various tumors such as kidney (renal cell) cancer, breast, gastric and colon cancer. Therapies are tailored to the individual needs of cancer patient subpopulations to provide effective and tolerable treatment. The company has two therapeutic anti-cancer platforms, antibody-based and small molecule-based therapies. Today, Wilex has three products in clinical trials and five in R&D. The company was founded in 1997 by clinical oncologists of Technical University of Munich and has today 40 employees.

Weitere Informationen

Jochen Orlowski, Wilex AG, Public Relations
Tel.: +49-(0)89 413138-29 (-0)
Fax: +49-(0)89 413138-99
Mail: Jochen.Orlowski@wilex.com
Web: www.wilex.com