Heavily Pretreated, Relapsed and Relapsed Refractory Multiple Myeloma Patients Showed Significant Clinical Benefit, as Measured by Overall Response Rate and Progression Free Survival, when Treated with Melflufen and Dexamethasone

Stockholm, Sweden

Oncopeptides AB, a clinical stage company developing a peptidase targeted therapy - melflufen - presented clinical results from an ongoing Phase I/II study in patients with relapsed and relapsed refractory multiple myeloma in combination with dexamethasone. The results, presented at the European Hematology Association meeting in Vienna, showed an overall response rate (partial response or better) of 52% and clinical benefit rate (minimal response or better) of 67% in efficacy evaluable patients. At the date of analysis, the median progression-free survival was 7.6 months in the total population with 56% of the patients still without disease progression. 90% of the patients were refractory patients, 67% of patients were refractory to last line of treatment and 48% of patients were double refractory to both IMiDs and proteasome inhibitors. The response rates were similar across the different patient refractory status groups (single, double and triple refractory patients).

Melflufen 40 mg was well tolerated and the few treatment related serious adverse events reported in this late stage patient population, 3 out of 29 patients, suggest that the primary toxicities of thrombocytopenia and neutropenia are clinically manageable.

The results are from a clinical trial being carried out across four centers in Europe (Sweden, Italy, the Netherlands and Denmark) and two in the USA (Boston, MA and Chapel Hill, NC), the results support Oncopeptides' belief that melflufen has the potential to provide an alternative when conventional therapies have failed in relapsed and relapsed-refractory multiple myeloma.

Melflufen is a peptidase-targeted therapy and a potent antiangiogenic compound. It triggers rapid, robust, and irreversible DNA damage and exerts it cytotoxicity through alkylation of DNA.

CEO, Jakob Lindberg commented "The trial results on the activity and safety of melflufen in combination with dexamethasone are most encouraging and I am looking forward to building upon these findings as we continue with the melflufen clinical program. There is a real need for more effective therapies to treat refractory multiple myeloma and I believe that melflufen has the potential to deliver better treatment of the disease."

The poster entitled 'Encouraging Preliminary Data in Ongoing Phase I/II study of Safety and Efficacy of Melflufen and Dexamethasone for Patients with Relapsed and Relapsed-Refractory Multiple Myeloma' can be downloaded here www.oncopeptides.se

Multiple myeloma is the second most common hematological cancer and worldwide more than 180,000 people are living with the disease, with approximately 86,000 new cases diagnosed annually (ref: International Agency for Research on Cancer).

About Oncopeptides AB
Oncopeptides is a clinical stage pharmaceutical company developing oncology therapies around peptidase targeting.

Melflufen, Oncopeptides' lead compound in clinical development, is a peptidase targeted therapy and a potent antiangiogenic compound. It triggers rapid, robust, and irreversible DNA damage and exerts it cytotoxicity through alkylation of DNA.

Many peptidases that are overexpressed in cancer cells, such as in multiple myeloma cells, cleave melflufen so that the concentration of active compound increases at the most advantageous places within the diseased cells. This results in targeted delivery of the molecule and more effective treatment of the disease.

Oncopeptides is currently in a Phase II clinical trial with melflufen in patients with relapsed and relapsed-refractory multiple myeloma. The study is being carried out across six centers; in Sweden, Italy, the Netherlands, Denmark and two sites in the US with Dana Faber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA being the lead investigator site.

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