PMDA Updates

May, 2020

News

1. PMDA's Response to COVID-19 Pandemic -As of May 28, 2020

The PMDA, along with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) and other organizations, has expeditiously responded to the emergency situation caused by the SARS-CoV-2. As part of our commitment to protect public health from this unprecedented crisis, the PMDA has been taking necessary actions in a timely manner, including facilitation of product development for COVID-19. In this article, we would like to share an overview of the important steps the PMDA has taken to address this global health threat. More detail is provided on PMDA's website. Relevant information in Japanese is also available here.

■ Timely Product Approvals for COVID-19

As of 28th May, many medical products have been approved for COVID-19 as provided below. A list of such products is published and updated here.

1. Drugs
   - Remdesivir

   On 7th May, the MHLW granted the Special Approval for Emergency to remdesivir, the potential treatment of COVID-19, with approval conditions to allow its fast patient access. The Special Approval for Emergency is granted only to certain products that meet specific criteria provided in article 14-3 of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act to prevent damage to the public health caused by the spread of diseases. Further information on the approval of remdesivir is provided here.

2. *In Vitro* Diagnostics

   As of 28th May, 7 IVDs have been approved to detect SARS-CoV-2, including 6 nucleic acid amplification tests (NAT), such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, and an antigen test. Please see the list for detail.

3. Medical Devices

   As of 28th May, 3 medical devices have been approved to be used for the patients with SARS-CoV-2, mainly ventilators. The response in April to the increased demand of ventilators and other products for COVID-19 is introduced here.

■ Supporting product development for COVID-19

The PMDA provided regulatory and operational flexibility as shown below to facilitate and expedite development of products for COVID-19.

1. Clinical Trials Starting Without Waiting for 30 Days

   Under the Administrative Notice issued by the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division and the Medical Device Evaluation Division of the Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau of the MHLW on 19th March, the PMDA allowed sponsors of candidate products for COVID-19 shorter timelines for the initial clinical trial notifications (CTN) in starting first in human clinical trials. For detail, please visit this page.

2. Close Interaction with Sponsors

   In order to streamline the development of products for COVID-19, the PMDA held a number of meetings on specific products between sponsors to discuss and ensure the efficient development of such products. In addition, the PMDA published a Q&A document on how to manage the conduct of clinical trials in general when the process predetermined in the study protocol is not deemed feasible due to the COVID-

19 situation. Further information is provided here.

3. Discussion at the ICMRA

Under the umbrella of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA), regulatory considerations related to the development of product candidates for COVID-19 were discussed with representatives. Please visit this page for more information.

4. Other Actions

In addition to the actions provided above, the PMDA offered flexibility in many ways in accordance with the Administrative Notices issued by the MHLW, e.g. allowing IRB meetings held virtually or via email, and disseminating information to healthcare professionals on safe use of ventilators. All relevant information is provided here.

The PMDA, cooperating with the MHLW and other regulatory authorities, will continue to facilitate early patient access to safe and effective medical products with reliable qualities, by closely communicating with product developers and healthcare professionals.

2. ICH 30th Anniversary

The International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH)[1)] was established in 1990 for the purpose of streamlining and standardizing pharmaceutical review for approval, and this year marked the 30th anniversary of its foundation. While initially ICH was composed of regulatory authorities and industry member from Japan, US and Europe, it carried out reforms in 2015 in light of globalization for drug development, manufacturing and marketing. As a result, regulatory authorities and related industry satisfying certain conditions participated in ICH, and this made ICH more an international organization. As of November 2019, 16 member organizations and 32 observers are participating in ICH. Under ICH activities, over 70 guidelines being the basis of pharmaceutical regulation related to quality, efficacy, and safety of new drugs have been developed so far, and it has contributed to reducing the time to approval by multinational clinical studies etc. It has been supplying effective and safe drugs with assured quality faster to patients worldwide. ICH activities would be considered the most successful one among international cooperative activities for pharmaceuticals.

On the other hand, current challenge within ICH is to develop new guidelines more strategically and operate the organization more efficiently, based on increasing number of participating organizations and subsequent diversification of interest area, new guidelines becoming complicated and consideration of updating guidelines prepared by early 2000's. Also, it is important to make sure that ICH participants implement ICH guidelines, ICH need to strengthen the support of ICH guideline trainings. In addition, it will be important that effectively push forwarding the cooperation activity with other international collaborative activities (such as WHO and PIC/S) through guideline trainings and preparation of the training materials.

It has been 30 years after the establishment of ICH and we are facing a new phase as described above, we, Japan as a founding member, are going to make a positive contribution from here on out.

1) Formerly named as "The International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH)". The name has been changed since October 2015.

English translations of review reports

The followings are current information about English version of review reports on PMDA website.

Pharmaceuticals

http://www.pmda.go.jp/english/review-services/reviews/approved-information/drugs/0001.html

Brand Name	Non-proprietary Name	Posting date
Tecentriq [Initial Approval]	atezolizumab (genetical recombination)	April 17

Tecentriq [Partial Change Approval]	atezolizumab (genetical recombination)	April 17
Abraxane [Partial Change Approval]	paclitaxel	April 17
Evrenzo [Initial Approval]	roxadustat	April 24

Safety Information

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Safety Information No. 372 (April 28, 2020)

1. Genome Research on Drug-related Severe Cutaneous Adverse Reactions
2. Important Safety Information
    1. Pembrolizumab (genetical recombination)
3. Revision of Precautions (No. 312)
    1. Spiperone
    2. Timiperone
    3. Pipamperone hydrochloride (and 12 others)

4 List of Products Subject to Early Post-marketing Phase Vigilance

https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/safety/info-services/drugs/medical-safety-information/0018.html

Pharmaceuticals Revisions of PRECAUTIONS (May 19, 2020)

- Insulin human (genetical recombination) (vial preparations)
- Insulin aspart (genetical recombination) (vial preparations without description for continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion (CSII) therapy in the Dosage and Administration section)
- Insulin glargine (genetical recombination) (vial preparations)
- Insulin human (genetical recombination) (cartridge preparations, prefilled preparations)
- Insulin aspart (genetical recombination) (cartridge preparations, prefilled preparations)
- Insulin glargine (genetical recombination) (cartridge preparations, prefilled preparations)
- Insulin glargine (genetical recombination) [insulin glargine biosimilar 1]
- Insulin glargine (genetical recombination) [insulin glargine biosimilar 2]
- Insulin glulisine (genetical recombination) (cartridge preparations, prefilled preparations)
- Insulin degludec (genetical recombination)
- Insulin degludec (genetical recombination)/insulin aspart (genetical recombination)
- Insulin detemir (genetical recombination)
- Insulin aspart (genetical recombination) (vial preparations with description for continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion (CSII) therapy in the DOSAGE and ADMINISTRATION section)
- Insulin glulisine (genetical recombination) (vial preparations)
- Insulin lispro (genetical recombination) (vial preparations)
- Insulin lispro (genetical recombination) [insulin lispro biosimilar 1] (vial preparations)
- Insulin lispro (genetical recombination) (cartridge preparations, prefilled preparations)
- Insulin lispro (genetical recombination) [insulin lispro biosimilar 1] (cartridge preparations, prefilled preparations)
- Insulin glargine (genetical recombination)/lixisenatide
- Insulin degludec (genetical recombination)/liraglutide (genetical recombination)
- Apalutamide
- Fulvestrant

https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/safety/info-services/drugs/revision-of-precautions/0008.html

Events

Conferences/Meetings PMDA hosts or participates in:

Date	Title	Location
June 14-18	56th DIA 2020 Global Annual Meeting	Virtual
June 29-July 3	32th DIA Europe Meeting	Virtual

Reports from overseas

Our officers deliver lively reports of their activities at their stationed overseas authorities.

Communication with External Stakeholders on EMA's Activities on COVID-19

A variety of efforts to tackle COVID-19 have been taken regionally and internationally. Many regulatory agencies including EMA [1)] and PMDA [2)] have established specific sections for COVID-19 on their websites and timely made stakeholders aware of this information. EMA had additional opportunities to transmit information about EMA's activities on COVID-19 this month.

The Executive Director, Guido Rasi, briefed the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety on EMA's response to COVID-19 and answered questions on 12th and 18th May 2020 [3), 4)]. EMA also held a virtual press briefing on 14th May 2020 [5)]. Through these opportunities EMA introduced its efforts to expedite the development and approval of COVID-19 treatments and vaccines, its measures to ensure the continued availability of crucial medicines in the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the publication of reliable information for patients and healthcare professionals. Of note, these are recorded and available to the public. These sources as well as information on EMA website [1)] would be of use to know EMA's activities on COVID-19.

1) https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-19-whats-new
2) https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/about-pmda/0002.html
3) https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/envi-committee-meeting_20200512-1400-COMMITTEE-ENVI_vd
4) https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/envi-committee-meeting_20200518-0930-COMMITTEE-ENVI_vd
5) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0JCg1q9aos&feature=youtu.be

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