BioSpectrum
the business of Bio & Health Sciences
ASIA EDITION

Eisai launches antiepileptic drug in China

January 9, 2020 | News

Eisai considers neurology including epilepsy, a therapeutic area of focus

Japan based Eisai Co., Ltd. has announced that it has launched the in-house discovered and developed antiepileptic drug (AED) Fycompa®, for use in adjunctive treatment of partial onset seizures (with or without secondarily generalized seizures) in epilepsy patients 12 years of age and older.

In China, it is estimated that there are approximately 9 million patients with epilepsy, approximately 60% of whom are affected by partial-onset seizures. About 40% patients with partial-onset seizures require adjunctive treatment. As approximately 30% of patients with epilepsy are unable to control their seizures with currently available AEDs, this is a disease with significant unmet medical needs. Fycompa was designated for Priority Review by the National Medical Products Administration due to its significant clinical benefits compared to existing treatments after the submission in September 2018 and was approved on September 29, 2019.

Fycompa is a first-in-class AED and a once-daily tablet discovered at Eisai's Tsukuba Research Laboratories. In the United States and Europe, a new oral suspension formulation has been approved and is being marketed. The agent is a highly selective, noncompetitive AMPA receptor antagonist that reduces neuronal hyperexcitation associated with seizures by targeting glutamate activity at AMPA receptors on postsynaptic membranes.

Fycompa has been approved in over 65 countries around the world as an adjunctive treatment for partial-onset seizures with or without secondarily generalized seizures in patients with epilepsy 12 years of age and older. In addition, Fycompa has been approved in over 60 countries as an adjunctive treatment for primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures in patients with epilepsy 12 years of age and older. In the United States, Fycompa is also indicated for monotherapy and adjunctive use in the treatment of partial-onset seizures with or without secondarily generalized seizures in patients with epilepsy 4 years of age and older.

Eisai considers neurology including epilepsy, a therapeutic area of focus. With this launch of Fycompa in China, Eisai pursues our mission to provide “seizure freedom” to a greater number of patients with epilepsy across the world. Eisai seeks to address the diverse needs of, as well as increasing the benefits provided to, patients with epilepsy and their families.