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ASIA EDITION

Hong Kong approves Eisai's anti-insomnia drug Dayvigo

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First New Drug Application for Dayvigo in Asia outside Japan

Japanese firm Eisai Co., Ltd. has announced that the new drug application for approval of its in-house-discovered and developed orexin receptor antagonist DAYVIGO (generic name: lemborexant) for the treatment of adults with insomnia, characterized by difficulties with sleep onset and/or sleep maintenance, has been accepted by the Hong Kong Department of Health. This application is the first application for DAYVIGO in Asia outside of Japan. Eisai plans to continue further applications for approval in respective Asian countries.

DAYVIGO is a dual orexin receptor antagonist that inhibits orexin neurotransmission regulating sleep-wake rhythm by binding competitively to the two subtypes of orexin receptors (OX1R and OX2R). Blocking the binding of wake-promoting neuropeptides orexin to orexin receptors is thought to balance sleep-wake circuitry by suppressing excessive wake drive. DAYVIGO binds to orexin receptors OX1R and OX2R and acts as a competitive antagonist with stronger inhibition effect on OX2R, which suppresses both REM and non-REM sleep drive, such that DAYVIGO can be expected to provide faster sleep onset and better sleep maintenance to patients.

In June 2020, DAYVIGO was launched in the U.S. for the treatment of adult patients with insomnia, characterized by difficulties with sleep onset and/or sleep maintenance; and in July 2020, DAYVIGO was launched in Japan for the treatment of insomnia.

Eisai will continue its efforts to deliver DAYVIGO as a new treatment option to insomnia patients in Asia, contributing to restoration of daytime function and recovery for patients with insomnia by delivering an active daytime life through fast sleep onset and good quality sleep.