

Takeda drug Azilva launched in Japan

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Singapore: Takeda Pharmaceutical's Azilva (azilsartan) is now available for the treatment of hypertension in Japan. Discovered by Takeda, azilsartan is an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) that lowers blood pressure by blocking the action of angiotensin II, a vasoconstrictor hormone. Azilva is a once-daily, orally administered single tablet, and the available doses are 20 mg and 40 mg.

There were four phase III trials of Azilva conducted in Japan for submission. One of the four phase III trials was a multi-centre, double-blind study with 636 patients of grade I and II hypertension to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Azilva in comparison with Blopress (generic name: candesartan cilexetil), another ARB discovered and marketed by Takeda in Japan.

The trial showed Azilva was superior to Blopress with statistical significance in lowering the change from baseline in sitting diastolic blood pressure. In addition, Azilva was also superior to Blopress with statistical significance in lowering the mean diastolic blood pressure and systolic blood pressure in 24 hours, daytime and night time as well as in the early morning time, measured by Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM). Azilva was safe and well-tolerated, with the safety profile comparable to Blopress.

"Hypertension is one of the major risk factors for all cardiovascular diseases including cerebrovascular disease and myocardial infarction. According to the Japanese Society of Hypertension's Guidelines for the Management of Hypertension (JSH 2009), there are about 40 million hypertensive patients in Japan, with about half of that number said to be not receiving satisfactory treatment. In the situation where strict management of blood pressure is required for these patients, we believe that Azilva, having strong and persistent hypotensive effects, may offer a new therapeutic option. We will continue our earnest efforts to provide drug information for Azilva that will be more useful for both Japanese patients and medical specialists," said Masato Iwasaki, senior vice president, Pharmaceutical Marketing Division of Takeda.