

Bayer to further 5 crucial drugs to phase III in 2015

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Singapore: Bayer, which introduced five new products to market in recent years including blockbusters like eye treatment Eylea and anticoagulant Xarelto, expects to launch five products in oncology, cardiology and women's health by 2015.

These drugs that the German giant plans to launch include, finerenone (BAY 94-8862), a mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist which the company is developing as an oral treatment for chronic heart failure; BAY 1021189, a oral soluble guanylate cyclase stimulator; and molidustat (BAY 85-3934), which is currently in phase II for anaemia associated with chronic kidney disease and/or end-stage renal disease.

Bayer, which recently tated success in oncology with the launch of Stivaraga (regorafenib) for stomach cancer, will expand its cancer portfolio with copanlisib (BAY 80-6946), which is an oral phosphatidylinositol-3 kinases (PI3K) inhibitor that has demonstrated potential across a range of tumours. It is in phase I for patients with follicular lymphoma and phase II for patients with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The fifth product that Bayer expects to launch is sPRM (BAY 1002670), an oral progesterone receptor modulator for gynaecological conditions. A phase III study investigating its use in patients with symptomatic uterine fibroids is planned for mid-2014.

Dr Marijn Dekkers, CEO, Bayer, said that, "Our pharma R&D has done a tremendous job of bringing five new products to the market offering physicians and patients new treatment alternatives for serious diseases. Following our mission statement 'Science For A Better Life', the five chosen further drug candidates all have the potential to impact the way diseases are treated for the benefit of patients."