Specialty Pipeline **MONTHLY UPDATE**

Critical updates in an ever changing environment

JANUARY 2022

NEW DRUG INFORMATION

- **Tezspire™ (tezepelumab-ekko):** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted priority approval of Amgen and AstraZeneca's Tezspire (tezepelumab-ekko) for the add-on maintenance treatment of adult and pediatric patients aged 12 years and older with severe asthma. Tezspire was approved based on a Phase 3 trial, NAVIGATOR, which demonstrated superiority in patients with a severe decreasing of the rate of asthma exacerbations (AAER), compared to placebo, when added to standard of care (SoC).[1] Tezspire has launched with a wholesale acquisition price (WAC) of $3,633 per 28 days.
- **Vyvgart™ (efgartigimod alfa-fcab):** Argenx SE's Vyvgart (efgartigimod alfa-fcab) has been approved by the FDA as a neonatal Fc receptor blocker indicated for the treatment of generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG) in adult patients who are anti-acetylcholine receptor (AChR) antibody positive. Approximately 85% of people with generalized MG have AChR antibodies. AChR antibodies disrupt the communication between nerves and muscles, resulting in muscle weakness. Vyvgart is the first FDA-approved neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn) blocker. The approval was based on results from the Phase 3 ADAPT trial, which demonstrated that 68% of AChR antibody positive gMG patients treated with Vyvgart were responders on the Myasthenia Gravis Activities of Daily Living (MG-ADL) scale compared with 30% of patients treated with placebo.[2] Vyvgart has launched with a WAC of $5,950 per vial, max $71,400 per cycle.
- **Yusimry™ (adalimumab-aqvh):** The FDA approved Coherus BioSciences' Yusimry (adalimumab-aqvh) as a Humira® (adalimumab) biosimilar. Yusimry is indicated for
  - ✓ plaque psorisis
  - ✓ psoriatic arthritis
  - ✓ rheumatoid arthritis
  - ✓ juvenile idiopathic arthritis
  - ✓ ankylosing spondylitis
  - ✓ Crohn's disease and
  - ✓ ulcerative colitis

Yusimry was approved on two clinical trials that confirmed pharmacokinetic and bioavailability between Yusimry and Humira. Yusimry has not been granted interchangeable status by the FDA. The FDA also noted that biosimilars marketed in the U.S. typically have launched with initial list prices 15% to 35% lower than comparative list prices of reference products.[4] Coherus plans to launch Yusimry in the U.S. on or after July 1, 2023, per the terms of an agreement with Humira® manufacturer, AbbVie, with pricing to follow.

- **Adbry™ (tralokinumab-ldrm):** LEO Pharma's Adbry has been approved by the FDA for the treatment of moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis in adults 18 years or older whose disease is not adequately controlled with topical prescription therapies or when those therapies are not advisable. Adbry is the first FDA-approved biologic that specifically binds to and inhibits the IL-13 cytokine, a key driver of atopic dermatitis signs and symptoms. Adbry can be used with or without topical corticosteroids. Adbry was approved based on results from three Phase 3 trials, ECZTRA 1, 2, 3 which demonstrated Adbry 300mg every other week alone or with topical corticosteroids (TCS) as needed met the primary endpoints at Week 16 as measured by an Investigator Global Assessment score of clear or almost clear skin (IGA 0/1) and/or at least a 75% improvement in the Eczema Area and Severity Index score (EASI-75).[5] Adbry will be available in a 150mg/mL prefilled syringe for subcutaneous injection with an initial dose of 600mg followed by 300mg every other week. Adbry has launched with an average wholesale price (AWP) of $1,004.64 per syringe.
- **Recorlev™ (levoketoconazole):** The FDA approved Xeris Biopharma's Recorlev for the treatment of endogenous hypercortisolemia in adults with Cushing syndrome for whom surgery is not an option or has not been curative. Cushing's is a rare disease and there are fewer than 20,000 individuals with a Cushing's diagnosis in the U.S. and fewer with the endogenous hypercortisolemia diagnosis. Recorlev's approval was based on two Phase 3 clinical trials, SONICS and LOGICS. Findings from the SONICS trial showed that 30.9% of patients achieved normalization of mean urinary free cortisol (UFC) after six months of maintenance treatment with Recorlev, without a dose increase. The LOGICS trial compared the effect of withdrawing Recorlev treatment for placebo vs continuing treatment with Recorlev on cortisol therapeutic response in patients for up to eight weeks. This trial demonstrated 52.4% of Recorlev patients had normal mean UFC at the end of withdrawal phase compared to 5.6% of placebo patients.[6] Recorlev is supplied as 150mg tablets and has launched with an AWP of $324 per tablet.
- **Cibinqo® (abrocitinib):** The FDA approved Pfizer's Cibinqo for the treatment of adults living with refractory, moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis (AD) whose disease is not adequately controlled with other systemic drug products, including biologics, or when use of those therapies is inadvisable. Atopic dermatitis affects about 5% to 10% of adults in the U.S., making it the most common inflammatory skin condition. Cibinqo is an oral, once daily Janus kinase 1 (JAK) inhibitor. Cibinqo's approval was based on three Phase 3 clinical trials that demonstrated a statistically significant improvement in the Investigator Global Assessment (IGA) (JADE MONO-1: 24%, JADE MONO-2: 28% and JADE COMPARE: 36%). This month the FDA also expanded the indication of AbbVie's Rinvoq (upadacitinib) to include the treatment of moderate to severe atopic dermatitis in adults and juveniles 12 years of age and older who have not responded to previous treatment options or when other options are not advised, similar to Cibinqo. Cibinqo launch and price are pending.

NEW INDICATIONS

- **Cosentyx® (secukinumab):** Novartis' Cosentyx (secukinumab) was approved by the FDA to expand its indication to include active enthesitis-related arthritis in patients four years and older, and active juvenile psoriatic arthritis (JPsA) in patients two years and older.
- **Otezla® (apremilast):** The FDA expanded the indication of Amgen's Otezla (apremilast) to include treatment of adults with mild to moderate plaque psoriasis who are candidates for phototherapy or systemic therapy.
- **Oxbryta® (voxelotor):** Global Blood Therapeutics' Oxbryta (voxelotor) has been granted FDA approval to include a pediatric indication as well as a new dispersible tablet for oral suspension dosage form for treatment of sickle cell disease (SCD) in patients aged 4 to 11 years.
- **Orencia® (abatacept)**: The FDA expanded the indication of BMS' Orencia (abatacept) to include prophylaxis of acute graft versus host disease (aGVHD), in combination with a calcineurin inhibitor and methotrexate, in adults and pediatric patients two years of age and older undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) from a matched or one allele-mismatched unrelated donor.
- **Xeljanz® (tofacitinib):** Pfizer's Xeljanz (tofacitinib) was granted a new indication by the FDA for the treatment of adults with active ankylosing spondylitis (AS) who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more tumor necrosis factor (TNF) blockers.
- **Rinvoq® (upadacitinib):** The FDA has granted two additional indications for Abbvie's Rinvoq (upadacitinib) to include treatment of adults with active psoriatic arthritis who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more tumor necrosis factor (TNF) blockers. Also, the treatment of adults and adolescents with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis (eczema).
- **Rituxan® (rituximab):** The FDA expanded the indication of Genentech's Rituxan (rituximab) to be used in combination with chemotherapy for pediatric patients six months to 18 years with previously untreated, advanced stage, CD20-positive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, Burkitt lymphoma, Burkitt-like lymphoma, or mature B-cell acute leukemia.

JANUARY NEWS

- "The FDA quietly announced the agency again paused all of its non-mission-critical inspections in the U.S., likely leading to an even larger backlog of inspections worldwide. The pause, which will last at least two weeks, is meant to ensure the safety of FDA employees and the companies it regulates as the agency further adapts to the spread of Omicron. 'Through Jan.19, the agency intends to continue mission-critical work but has temporarily postponed certain inspectional activities with the hopes of restarting these activities as soon as possible,' the FDA said in a statement."[7]

- "The FDA extended the review period for bluebird bio's Biologics License Applications (BLA) for two of its lentiviral vector gene therapies. The first is for betibeglogene autotemcel (beti-cel) for beta-thalassemia. The second is for elivaldogene autotemcel (eli-cel) for cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy (CALD). The BLA for beti-cel has been extended to August 19, 2022, and for eli-cel to September 16, 2022. The extensions are due to the agency requiring more time to review additional clinical data it had requested from bluebird. The information was classified as major amendments, hence the extensions. On December 21, 2021, the FDA placed a partial clinical hold on the company's lovotibeglogene autotemcel (lovo-cel) for participants under 18 years of age for sickle cell disease (SCD). The hold was placed after an adolescent patient was diagnosed with persistent, non-transfusion-dependent anemia after receiving the therapy. The patient had been receiving the gene therapy for 18 months."[8]
- "Levo Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company dedicated to using genetic insights to advance treatments for Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS) and related disorders, announced that it has received a Complete Response Letter (CRL) from the FDA regarding its New Drug Application (NDA) for LV-101 (intranasal carbetocin) as a treatment for hyperphagia, anxiousness, and distress associated with PWS. FDA's Division of Psychiatry concluded that, while LV-101 appears to be generally safe and well-tolerated, the efficacy data available for the proposed 3.2mg dose of LV-101 were insufficient for approval. To address this issue, FDA recommended that an additional clinical study be conducted to confirm the results of the 3.2mg dose. Levo is currently in discussions with the FDA regarding the design of this new study and continues to provide carbetocin to existing study patients."[9]

REFERENCES

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