

Merrion Pharmaceuticals Plc

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Announces positive Final results on key Phase II Orazol™ study

Merrion Pharmaceuticals plc (IEX: MERR), an international specialty pharmaceutical development company today announced positive final results on its key multi centre (US, EU) Phase II study on Merrion's Orazol™ drug (MER 101). Preliminary results were announced on 15th May 2009.

The final results are in line with the preliminary results and show that weekly therapy with 20mg Orazol™ (tablet) is as therapeutically effective as monthly treatment with the intravenous drug Zometa® (4mg) based on movements in observed levels of critical bone biomarkers. Changes in important bone biomarkers, like NTX, have been correlated with improvement in the key clinical outcomes such as skeletal related events e.g. fractures) and death. The study, conducted in hormone refractory prostate cancer patients with proven bone metastases (second cancer spread to the bone), enrolled patients at 13 oncology centres in the US and Europe.

Two oral (Orazol™) dosing regimens were evaluated in this study and compared to the current standard Zometa® infusion treatment. The purpose of the study was to show therapeutic equivalence between the Orazol™ weekly tablet and the Zometa® (4mg) infusion monthly. The conclusions were as follows:

- Based on the biomarkers of bone resorption (breakdown) both the Orazol™ treatment regimens were therapeutically equivalent to the Zometa® regimen.
- The Orazol™ tablet was well tolerated by the patients in the trial.
- Based on the results obtained to date, Orazol™ is an effective and potentially safer alternative to Zometa® IV infusion that substantially improves patient quality of life.

Orazol™ is a once weekly tablet form of zoledronic acid, which is currently only available as an intravenous infusion (Zometa® and other trademarks, Novartis). Zoledronic acid is a very potent and thoroughly investigated bisphosphonate compound, which has been used to treat over 3 million patients worldwide. Orazol™, as a weekly tablet formulation offers many new potential advantages to patients, physicians and healthcare providers.

The Company is presenting the final data on 31st May 2009 at the annual general meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) in Florida. The poster presentation will be on the company's website on Tuesday 2 June 2009.

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