

# AstraZeneca enters co-promotion agreement with Janssen in Japan for innovative prostate cancer treatment

**DATE : 2013-10-12**

AstraZeneca today announced that it has entered into an agreement with Janssen Pharmaceuticals K. K. in Japan to co-promote abiraterone acetate, an innovative oral therapy for the treatment of patients with prostate cancer.

Currently the main treatment option available to patients in Japan is medical castration, however prostate cancer can still progress in many patients because androgens are produced in other tissues. Abiraterone acetate, a CYP17-inhibitor, inhibits the key enzyme which modulates the production of androgens, hormones which stimulate prostate cancer cells to grow, from all sources in the body. This helps lower the level of androgens available to the prostate cancer cells, which is the goal of treatment in prostate cancer.

Janssen Pharmaceuticals K.K. submitted a marketing approval application for abiraterone acetate to the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, in July 2013 for the treatment of prostate cancer. The product was approved in the US by the Food and Drug Administration in April 2011, and in the EU by the European Commission in September 2011 for the treatment of patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.

Marc Dunoyer, executive Vice President, Global Products and Portfolio Strategy at AstraZeneca said: Japan is one of the fastest growing pharmaceutical markets, where AstraZeneca has a proven track record of successfully developing and marketing innovative medicines. Abiraterone acetate is a great addition to our existing portfolio of leading cancer treatments, with real potential to address an important and growing patient need. This deal is a strong strategic fit for AstraZeneca, reinforcing both our focus on oncology as a core therapy area and Japan as one of our key growth drivers.

Abiraterone acetate is indicated in the US and the EU for the treatment of patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer in combination with prednisone (steroid) before and after treatment with docetaxel (chemotherapy). Abiraterone acetate has been approved in 83 countries.

*SOURCE Mena Report*