

## Astellas Obtained Approval for Vesicare OD in Japan

**Tokyo**, October 27, 2010 - Astellas Pharma Inc. (“Astellas”; headquarters: Tokyo; President and CEO: Masafumi Nogimori) announced that it obtained the approval of market authorization for Vesicare OD\* 2.5mg • 5mg (generic name: solifenacin succinate) by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency on October 25, 2010 in Japan. It was approved for an additional formulation of the overactive bladder treatment Vesicare<sup>®</sup> with the indication of urinary frequency, urgency, and urge incontinence associated with overactive bladder (OAB\*\*).

Vesicare OD is the OAB treatment developed using WOWTAB\*\*\* which is one of the Astellas' proprietary drug delivery technologies. It can be ingested without water since it quickly disintegrates upon contact with saliva in the mouth. It can easily be taken even by elderly patients and patients with impaired swallowing function. It is also useful for patients who are required to avoid water consumption and meets various needs of patients. Astellas offers Gaster<sup>®</sup>D for the treatment for peptic ulcers and gastritis and Harnal<sup>®</sup>D for the treatment of functional symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia, were also used WOWTAB technology.

Vesicare<sup>®</sup> is a muscarine receptor antagonist discovered and developed by Astellas and is the first drug approved for OAB in Japan. Vesicare relaxes bladder smooth muscles and improves symptoms associated with OAB such as urinary frequency, urgency and urge incontinence by blocking muscarine receptors on bladder's smooth muscles. Vesicare was launched in 2006 in Japan and has been already marketed in more than 60 countries and areas.

Astellas expects to further contribute to the treatment of OAB by introducing Vesicare OD into the Japanese market, which can further improve the compliance with its more convenient dosing option.

\*OD=Orally Disintegrating

\*\*OAB is caused by excessive contraction of smooth muscles of the urinary bladder and is associated with symptoms such as mainly urinary frequency, urgency, nocturia and urge incontinence. According to the Neurogenic Bladder Society, the number of OAB patients is estimated to be about 8.1 million, nearly 12 percent of men and women aged 40 years or older in Japan. These symptoms cause significant inconvenience and mental distress in patient's activities of daily living.

\*\*\*WOWTAB=Without Water Tablet

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