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ASIA EDITION

Eisai, Merck develop a strategic oncology collaboration

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Eisai and Merck will develop and commercialize LENVIMA jointly, both as monotherapy and in combination with Merck's anti-PD-1 therapy, KEYTRUDA (pembrolizumab).

Tokyo based Eisai Co., Ltd. and Merck, known as MSD outside the United States and Canada, have agreed upon a strategic collaboration for the worldwide co-development and co-commercialization of LENVIMA (lenvatinib mesylate), an orally available tyrosine kinase inhibitor discovered by Eisai.

Under the agreement, Eisai and Merck will develop and commercialize LENVIMA jointly, both as monotherapy and in combination with Merck's anti-PD-1 therapy, KEYTRUDA (pembrolizumab).

Applications for regulatory approval of LENVIMA monotherapy for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma have been submitted in Japan, the United States, Europe, China and other countries.

Both the companies will also jointly initiate new clinical studies evaluating the LENVIMA/ KEYTRUDA combination to support 11 potential indications in six types of cancer (endometrial cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma, head and neck cancer, bladder cancer and melanoma), as well as a basket trial targeting multiple cancer types.

Eisai will book LENVIMA product sales globally, as monotherapy and in combination, and Merck and Eisai will share gross profits equally.