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APAC ovarian cancer drug market to grow modestly'

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Singapore: Asia Pacific (APAC) therapeutics market for ovarian cancer will undergo a modest rise in value, from $294.3 million in 2013 to $417.6 million by 2020, at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 5.1 percent, says business intelligence provider GBI Research.

According to the company's latest report, Japan held the largest share of the regional OC therapeutics space in 2013, with 62 percent, followed by China with 16.5 percent. The other markets making up the APAC region are Australia and India.

The modest growth in APAC's overall market will be driven primarily by an increase in the region's prevalent population, especially in India and China, which will rise from 160,099 in 2013 to 187,103 by 2020, at a CAGR of 2.3 percent.

Ms Sravanthi Addapally, associate analyst, GBI Research, says, "Two key unmet needs in OC therapeutics will also encourage APAC market growth over the forecast period. One is an effective drug for patients with platinum-resistant disease and the other is a maintenance therapy to extend disease-free survival after initial and second-line treatment, predominately in platinum-sensitive disease. The potential revenues that clinically successful products could achieve will encourage further OC drug development by 2020."

Ms Addapally adds that the current OC treatment pipeline has a steady number of candidates in both the late and early developmental stages, with indications that new approvals will be sustained up to the end of the forecast period and beyond.

However, the analyst continues, "Although the late-stage pipeline is crowded in terms of molecule numbers, no candidates have shown significant improvement in overall survival. Most of the late-stage products provide minimal clinical benefit to patients, with the best responses being mild-to-moderate improvements in progression-free survival in comparison with the current standard of care. While these more promising products are anticipated to gain approval by 2020, their expected high cost and limited clinical benefits, combined with the dominance of generic drugs, will limit their prescription volumes in the four APAC countries. As a result, the overall region will not witness a paradigm shift in its OC treatment markets before 2020," Addapally concludes.