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SK Biopharma takes anti-seizure medication to Japan

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SK Biopharmaceuticals and Ono Pharmaceutical collaborate to develop and commercialize cenobamate



SK Biopharmaceuticals in South Korea and Japanese firm Ono Pharmaceutical announced that they have entered into an exclusive licensing agreement for Ono to develop and commercialize cenobamate in Japan. Cenobamate is a treatment for partial-onset seizures (POS) that received FDA approval in 2019.

As per terms of the deal, SK Biopharmaceuticals will receive an upfront payment of JPY 5 billion (US$ 47 million) from Ono. SK Biopharmaceuticals will also be eligible to receive up to JPY 48.1 billion based on the achievement of certain regulatory and commercial milestones, as well as double digit royalties on net sales generated in Japan.

SK Biopharmaceuticals will conduct a Phase 3 clinical study for partial-onset seizures in adults in Northeast Asia (Japan, China, and Korea). In addition, SK Biopharmaceuticals has an option for co-promotion with Ono in the Japanese market.

Cenobamate is approved in the United States as an anti-seizure medication (ASM) for the treatment of partial-onset seizures in adults, and is available under the brand name XCOPRI® (cenobamate tablets) CV. In early 2019, SK Biopharmaceuticals entered into an exclusive licensing agreement with Arvelle Therapeutics GmbH to develop and commercialize cenobamate in Europe.