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Singapore approves Dupixent as first-ever biologic medicine for COPD

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The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) in Singapore has approved Dupixent (dupilumab) for adults as an add-on maintenance treatment for uncontrolled chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) characterised by raised blood eosinophils who are on a stable combination of an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS), a long-acting beta2-agonist (LABA), and a long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA), or on a combination of a LABA and a LAMA if ICS is not appropriate.

Dupilumab is being jointly developed by Sanofi and Regeneron under a global collaboration agreement.

In Singapore, Dupixent is the first biologic medicine approved to treat these COPD patients. The prevalence of COPD is estimated to be around 6% of the general population, and it ranks as a leading cause of death.

Dupixent has received regulatory approvals in more than 60 countries in one or more indications including certain patients with atopic dermatitis, asthma, chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps, eosinophilic esophagitis, prurigo nodularis, chronic spontaneous urticaria, and COPD in different age populations. More than 1,000,000 patients are being treated with Dupixent globally.

The FDA approval is based on data from two phase 3 studies (BOREAS and NOTUS) that evaluated the efficacy and safety of Dupixent compared to placebo in adults currently on maximal standard-of-care inhaled therapy (nearly all on triple therapy) with inadequately controlled COPD and blood eosinophils ?300 cells per ?L. Dupixent is a fully human monoclonal antibody that inhibits the signaling of the IL4 and IL13 pathways and is not an immunosuppressant.