

Eisai launches Pariet® S, first proton pump inhibitor RX-to-OTC in Japan

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Aiming to alleviate sever heartburn and discomfort caused by gastric acid related conditions



Eisai Co. has announced the launch of Pariet® STM (pharmaceutical requiring guidance), which is highly effective in alleviating severe heartburn and stomach pain caused by gastric acid reflux, at pharmacies and drugstores throughout Japan.

Pariet S is the first proton pump inhibitor (PPI 2) to receive manufacturing and marketing approval as an over the counter (OTC) medicine in Japan. Rabeprazole sodium, in an amount equivalent to that used in the prescription product, works directly on the proton pumps that produce stomach acid, effectively alleviating severe heartburn caused by gastric acid reflux and stomach pain due to excessive acid secretion. The medicine comes in small, easy-to-swallow tablets, with a once-daily dosage providing 24-hour relief.

Rabeprazole sodium, the active ingredient in Pariet S, is a PPI developed at Eisai's Tsukuba Research Laboratories. The medicine was first launched in Japan in 1997 as a prescription pharmaceutical under the brand name Pariet and has since been approved more than 100 countries worldwide. It is widely prescribed to people struggling with acid-related disorders.

In recent years, there is a tendency for increased stomach acid secretion due to disrupted eating habits, stress, and a decline in the infection rate of *Helicobacter pylori*. Moreover, the number of individuals experiencing gastric acid reflux has grown, driven by age-related weakening of the lower esophageal sphincter. Eisai will introduce Pariet S as a new treatment option in the OTC gastric medication market, aiming to alleviate severe heartburn and discomfort caused by gastric acid related conditions.