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Biosimilars market for cancer mAbs worth $4.9 bn

05 November 2012 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau

Biosimilars of cancer monoclonal Abs to garner $4.9 bn in sales

Bangalore: Research by BioTrends Research Group, one of the leading research and advisory firms for specialized biopharmaceutical issues, has revealed that oncologists can be expected to take a more cautious approach while prescribing biosimilar monoclonal antibodies.

According to a study titled 'Physician Perspectives on Biosimilar G-CSFs and Monoclonal Antibodies in Oncology', between 20-to-33 percent of French, 30-to-33 percent of German, and 42-to-45 percent of US medical oncologists have revealed that they will initially adopt a wait-and-watch attitude while prescribing biosimilars of monoclonal antibodies. Despite the hesitancy by the doctors to prescribe biosimilar monoclonal antibodies, the market opportunity for the biosimilar versions of rituximab, trastuzumab, cetuximab, and bevacizumab are forecast to exceed $4.9 billion in 2021.

"Seventy four-to-80 percent of surveyed US oncologists expect to prescribe biosimilar G-CSFs and ESAs within one-year of launch," said Dr Andrew Merron, director, Biosimilars Advisory Services. "However, only 54-to-61 percent of surveyed US oncologists expect to prescribe a biosimilar monoclonal antibody within the same time frame."

Survey results also indicate that if subcutaneous rituximab (MabThera) is priced at the same level as IV MabThera, and biosimilar IV rituximab is priced 10 percent less, the majority of French and German hematologist-oncologists would select subcutaneous rituximab instead of the biosimilar in the maintenance setting for follicular lymphoma. However, surveyed hematologist-oncologists' preferred rituximab agent varies by treatment setting, and shifts dramatically under different price points for subcutaneous and biosimilar rituximab agents.

Under the survey 185 oncologists in the US, France, and Germany, were questioned on many other topics which are pivotal to understanding the current and future uptake of biosimilars, including their concerns about biosimilars, drivers and constrainers of adoption, views on indication extrapolation, opinions on automatic substitution, attitudes towards reimbursement, and the clinical trial requirements for biosimilars.