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ASIA EDITION

Novartis' Enbrel positive in psoriasis study

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Singapore: Novartis' phase III psoriasis study of secukinumab (AIN457) has showed positive outcome in clearing skin to Enbrel (etanercept), an anti-tumor necrosis factor (anti-TNF) therapy.

Fixture trial (the Full year Investigative eXamination of secukinumab vs. eTanercept Using 2 dosing Regimens to determine Efficacy in psoriasis) was a randomized, double-blind, double-dummy, placebo-controlled, multicenter global study of subcutaneous secukinumab (AIN457) in moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis involving 1,307 patients. It was designed to demonstrate efficacy after 12 weeks of treatment, compared to placebo and etanercept, and to assess the safety, tolerability and long-term efficacy up to 52 weeks.

Established treatment measures were used to assess the efficacy of secukinumab (AIN457) including PASI 75 (Psoriasis Area and Severity Index 75) and the Investigator's Global Assessment (IGA mod 2011), a standard tool to assess the clearing of skin after treatment.

"These results showing that secukinumab (AIN457) is superior to Enbrel, a current standard-of-care therapy, are great news for people living with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis," said Mr Tim Wright, global head of Development, Novartis Pharmaceuticals. "With 40-50 percent of people living with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis dissatisfied with their current therapies, there is clearly an unmet medical need for new therapies that act faster and longer to relieve pain, itching and other symptoms," he added.

Secukinumab (AIN457) is the first medicine selectively targeting IL-17A to present Phase III results. IL-17A is a central cytokine (messenger protein) in the development of psoriasis, and is found in high concentration in skin affected by the disease. Research shows that IL-17A plays a role in driving the body's autoimmune response in disorders such as moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis and is a preferred target for investigational therapies.