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Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products

# Recommendation for maintenance of orphan designation at the time of marketing authorisation

## Granupas (para-aminosalicylic acid) for the treatment of tuberculosis

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During its meeting of 4 to 6 February 2014, the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP) reviewed the designation EU/3/10/826 for Granupas, previously Para-aminosalicylic acid Lucane (para-aminosalicylic acid) as an orphan medicinal product for the treatment of tuberculosis. The COMP assessed whether, at the time of marketing authorisation, the medicinal product still met the criteria for orphan designation. The Committee looked at the seriousness and prevalence of the condition, and the existence of other satisfactory methods of treatment. As other methods of treatment for patients with this condition are authorised in the European Union (EU), the COMP also looked at the significant benefit of the product over existing treatments. The COMP recommended that the orphan designation of the medicine be maintained[1].

### Life-threatening or long-term debilitating nature of the condition

The Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) recommended the authorisation of Granupas for:

'use as part of an appropriate combination regimen for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in adults and paediatric patients from 28 days of age and older when an effective treatment regimen cannot otherwise be composed for reasons of resistance or tolerability'.

[1] The maintenance of the orphan designation at time of marketing authorisation would, except in specific situations, give an orphan medicinal product 10 years of market exclusivity in the EU. This means that in the 10 years after its authorisation similar products with a comparable therapeutic indication cannot be placed on the market.

30 Churchill Place ● Canary Wharf ● London E14 5EU ● United Kingdom
**Telephone** +44 (0)20 3660 6000 **Facsimile** +44 (0)20 3660 5555
**Send a question via our website** www.ema.europa.eu/contact

This falls within the scope of the product's designated orphan indication, which is: 'treatment of tuberculosis'.

The COMP concluded that there had been no change in the seriousness of the condition since the orphan designation in 2010. Tuberculosis remains a condition that is debilitating in the long term and life threatening, particularly due to the irreversible lung damage that can occur and the fact that some tuberculosis bacteria are resistant to existing treatments.

## Prevalence of the condition

The sponsor provided data from population-based studies in Europe obtained by the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organisation. On the basis of these data and the knowledge of the COMP, the COMP concluded that the prevalence of tuberculosis remains below the ceiling for orphan designation, which is 5 people in 10,000. At the time of the review of the orphan designation, the prevalence was estimated to be approximately 1.4 people in 10,000. This is equivalent to a total of around 72,000 people in the EU.

## Existence of other satisfactory methods of treatment

At the time of the review of the orphan designation, several medicines were authorised in the EU for the treatment of tuberculosis either as combinations (e.g. ethambutol/isoniazid, isoniazid/rifampicin and isoniazid/rifampicin/pyrazinamide) or as products containing only one active substance (e.g. ethambutol, isoniazid, rifampicin, pyrazinamide and streptomycin).

## Significant benefit over existing treatments

The COMP concluded that the claim of a significant benefit of Granupas in tuberculosis is justified on the basis of data from the literature showing the benefits of the active substance, para-aminosalicylic acid, when used in combination with other medicines to treat multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. This was supported by additional data showing that Granupas was effective in clearing the tuberculosis bacteria in patients' sputum, including in patients with tuberculosis that was resistant to other treatments.

Medicines containing para-aminosalicylic acid had been widely used in the past but were largely discontinued due to adverse effects on the stomach. Granupas contains gastro-resistant granules, designed to allow para-aminosalicylic acid to reach the intestine without being released in the stomach, and thus reduce the potential for side effects.

Therefore, although other methods for the treatment of this condition have been authorised in the EU, the COMP concluded that Granupas is of significant benefit for patients affected by tuberculosis.

## Conclusions

Based on the data submitted and the scientific discussion within the COMP, the COMP considered that Granupas still meets the criteria for designation as an orphan medicinal product and that it should remain in the Community Register of Orphan Medicinal Products.

Further information on the current regulatory status of Granupas can be found in the European public assessment report (EPAR) on the Agency's website: ema.europa.eu/Find medicine/Human medicines/European Public Assessment Reports.