BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE PROCEDURE

1. Submission of the dossier

The applicant Glaxo Group Limited, submitted on 30 October 1998 an application for Marketing Authorisation to the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA) for Agenerase (amprenavir) through the centralised procedure. After agreement by the CPMP on 24 July 1998, this medicinal product has been referred to Part B of the Annex of the Council Regulation (EEC) 2309/93, of the 22 July 1993, as amended.

The Rapporteur and Co-rapporteur appointed by the CPMP were:

Rapporteur: Prof. F. De Andres-Trelles Co-Rapporteur: Pharm. J. Genoux-Hames

Licensing status:

Agenerase was not licensed in any country outside or inside the European Union at the time of the submission of the application.

Agenerase is licensed several countries, including the United States (15 April 1999).

2. Steps taken for the assessment of the product

- The procedure started on 20 November 1998.
- The Rapporteur's initial assessment report was circulated to all CPMP members on 3 February 1999.
- The Co-rapporteur's initial assessment report was circulated to all CPMP members on 4 February 1999.
- The draft consolidated list of questions was circulated to all CPMP members on 18 March 1999 for discussion at the March plenary meeting. The CPMP adopted the consolidated list of questions on 25 March 1999. The consolidated list of questions was sent to the applicant on 26 March 1999.
- The applicant submitted the responses to the CPMP consolidated list of questions to all CPMP members on 6 August 1999 and the evaluation restarted by written procedure at the August CPMP meeting.
- The joint Rapporteur/Co-rapporteur assessment report on the responses to the consolidated list of questions was circulated to all CPMP members on 6 October 1999.
- During the meeting in October 1999, the CPMP agreed on a list of outstanding issues to be addressed by the applicant during an oral explanation. The CPMP agreed also to convene the ad-hoc group of experts on antiretroviral medicinal product to discuss the resistance issues.

  The ad-hoc group of experts was held on 15 November 1999. The conclusions of the group were considered by the CPMP during its November meeting. In addition, an hearing with the applicant was held before the CPMP on 16 November 1999. In view of the difficulty to resolve the outstanding issues related to the indication, the CPMP agreed, exceptionally, to suspend the evaluation procedure to allow the applicant to provide additional data, particularly in relation to the potential benefit of amprenavir as salvage therapy. A list of outstanding issues was therefore adopted.
- On the request of the CPMP, the issue of the amount of propylene glycol, contained in the oral solution, was further addressed by the Safety Working Party. The recommendations of the Safety Working Party were endorsed by the CPMP during its January 2000 plenary meeting.
- The applicant submitted the responses to the CPMP list of outstanding issues to all CPMP members on 23 March 2000 and the evaluation restarted at the April CPMP meeting.

- The joint Rapporteur/Co-rapporteur assessment report on the responses to the consolidated list of questions was circulated to all CPMP members on 2 May 2000.
- During the meeting on 25 May 2000 the CPMP, in the light of the overall data submitted and the scientific discussion within the Committee, agreed that a clinical study to compare the efficacy, safety and tolerance of Amprenavir/ritonavir in PI-experienced HIV-infected adults experiencing virological failure should be conducted.

  The CPMP however requested that before the adoption of an Opinion, the protocol for the clinical study, needed to be submitted by the applicant and agreed by the CPMP.
- The joint Rapporteur/Co-rapporteur assessment report on the draft protocol provided by the applicant was circulated to all CPMP members on 16 June 2000.
- During the CPMP meeting on 27-29 June 2000, outstanding issues were addressed by the applicant during a hearing before the CPMP. The CPMP, in the light of the overall data submitted and the scientific discussion within the Committee, issued a positive opinion for granting a Marketing Authorisation under exceptional circumstances to Agenerase on 29 June 2000.
- The CPMP opinion was forwarded, in all official languages of the European Union, to the European Commission, which adopted the corresponding Decision on 20 October 2000.