

Translation

Launch of the Osteoporosis Agent “Edirol[®] Capsule”

April 8, 2011 (Tokyo) - Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. [Head Office: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; President: Osamu Nagayama (hereafter, “Chugai”)] and Taisho Toyama Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. [Head Office: Toshima-ku, Tokyo; President: Akira Ohira (hereafter, “Taisho Toyama”)] announced today that eldecalsitol, an active vitamin D₃ agent [brand name: Edirol[®] Capsule 0.5μg and 0.75μg (hereafter, “Edirol[®])], which obtained approval on January 21, 2011 for the treatment of osteoporosis, has been listed on National Health Insurance drug reimbursement price list on March 11 and will be launched on April 11.

It is estimated that 12 million people have osteoporosis in Japan. It is important to increase bone density and thus reduce the incidence of fractures since osteoporosis-related fractures reduce quality of life, rendering patients bedridden and increase the risk of death. Edirol[®] is an activated vitamin D₃ agent which was discovered by Chugai and co-developed with Taisho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. [Head Office: Toshima-ku, Tokyo; Chairman and CEO: Akira Uehara]. As an active vitamin D₃ agent with an indication of osteoporosis, Edirol[®] comes to the market as a new treatment after many years since the launch of alfacalcidol (Chugai brand name: Alfarol[®], launch: 1981, additional indication of osteoporosis: 1983) and calcitriol (Chugai brand name: Rocaltrol[®], launch: 1986, additional indication of osteoporosis: 1989). “Edirol[®],” as a new active vitamin D₃ derivative that enhances effect to bone, will contribute to significant improvement of the quality of life of the patients.

Through the provision of the new treatment options, Chugai and Taisho Toyama will continue its effort to contribute to osteoporosis treatment and to make efforts for promoting the proper use.

Note) “Alfarol[®] Capsule 3μg” and “Rocaltrol[®] Injection” is not indicated for osteoporosis.

[Reference]

Product name: Ediol® Capsule 0.5µg
Ediol® Capsule 0.75µg

Generic name Eldecalcitol

Indication: Osteoporosis

Dosage and administration: Usually, for adults, 0.75µg of eldecalcitol should be orally administered once daily. However, the dosage may be reduced to 0.5µg once daily according to the symptoms.

Date of approval: January 21, 2011

Date of drug price listing: March 11, 2011

Date of launch: April 11, 2011

Shelf life: 2 years 6 months

Drug price: Ediol® Capsule 0.5µg JPY 68.50 / capsule
Ediol® Capsule 0.75µg JPY 98.80 / capsule

Ediol® is a registered trademark of Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

