

June 19, 2024

Zeria Pharmaceutical and Agastra-Lab announces reaching Agreement for the Development and Market Access of Acotiamide as a Functional Dyspepsia Treatment in Europe, the United States, and Canada

Zeria Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; President and COO: Mitsuhiro Ibe; hereinafter referred to as "Zeria") and Agastra-Lab s.r.l. (Headquarters: Tubize, Belgium; Chief Executive Officer: Dr. Alain Vandenberghe; hereinafter referred to as "Agastra") today announces that the companies signed an exclusive agreement on development and market access of acotiamide hydrochloride hydrate, which has been discovered by Zeria Pharmaceutical, as a treatment for Functional Dyspepsia*¹ (hereinafter referred to as "FD") in Europe, the United States, and Canada.

Acotiamide hydrochloride hydrate, which is the active ingredient of "ACOFIDE[®] 100 mg Tablets", is globally the first FD treatment approved, in Japan in 2013. It is indicated for the treatment of postprandial fullness, upper abdominal bloating, and early satiation in FD. The product improves the decreased gastric motility and gastric emptying, which are causes of FD, by increasing the level of acetylcholine through specifically inhibiting acetylcholinesterase, the enzyme responsible for the breakdown of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, at the parasympathetic nerve endings.

Agastra is led by experts possessing deep experience and high expertise in FD, such as Professor Jan Tack (University of Leuven, Belgium), who is the global key opinion leader in the field of functional gastrointestinal disorders, the president & chairman of the board of the ROME Foundation, and has been involved in numerous clinical development of FD treatments, and Dr. Alain Vandenberghe, who has been actively promoting the clinical development of FD treatments alongside Professor Jan Tack.

We hope that this agreement will lead to the improvement of the QoL*² for patients suffering from FD in Europe, the United States, and Canada, and will continue to drive the global expansion of acotiamide further.

***1: Functional Dyspepsia**

A functional disorder characterized by persistent upper abdominal symptoms such as bloating, fullness, and epigastric pain, despite the absence of structural abnormalities. While not life-threatening, it significantly impacts the quality of life (QoL) of patients.

***2: QoL (Quality of Life)**

Refers to the overall quality of life, including physical, mental, social, and economic well-being, of individuals undergoing treatment or living with a medical condition. It encompasses all aspects of life and aims to maintain a satisfactory quality of life that aligns with the individual's values and preferences.

For inquiries regarding this matter, please contact Zeria Pharmaceutical Public Relations Department at Tel: +81-3-3661-1039.
Website URL: <https://www.zeria.co.jp/>

About Agastra-Lab s.r.l.

Established: February 2011

Headquarters: Tubize, Belgium

Legal form: Private Limited Company

Chief Executive Officer: Dr. Alain Vandenberghe

Chief Financial Officer: Pierre Hariga

Directors: Professor Jan Tack, Alain Mahaux

Main business: Support development of medications