

June 15, 2007

Translation

Psoriasis Vulgaris Treatment Ethical Drug Topical Lotion Containing Active Vitamin D₃ Launch of "Oxarol® Lotion"

Maruho Co., Ltd.
Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. [Head Office, Chuo-ku, Tokyo; President, Osamu Nagayama] (hereafter, "Chugai") and Maruho Co., Ltd. [Head Office, Kita-ku, Osaka; President, Koichi Takagi] (hereafter, "Maruho") are pleased to announce the market launch of "Oxarol® Lotion" (nonproprietary name, maxacalcitol; hereafter, "Lotion"), a treatment for keratosis including psoriasis vulgaris, scheduled on June 18. The marketing approval for the product, which will be distributed by Maruho, was granted to Chugai on March 15. The drug price will be 143.80 yen per 1 g.

As with the keratosis treatment "Oxarol® Ointment" (nonproprietary name, maxacalcitol; hereafter, "Ointment") for which marketing approval was also granted to Chugai, "Lotion" contains the active vitamin D₃ derivative maxacalcitol as an active ingredient. With the modified new formulation for enhanced patient convenience, "Lotion" is easy to apply to common sites of psoriasis vulgaris including hairy areas such as head. "Lotion" containing active vitamin D₃ will be a useful new topical treatment option.

1. About Maxacalcitol

Maxacalcitol, an active vitamin D₃ derivative developed by Chugai, inhibits proliferation and induces differentiation of epidermal keratinocytes. Since market launch of "Ointment" containing the active ingredient maxacalcitol in October 2001, it has been widely used in patients with keratosis including psoriasis vulgaris, remarkably improving the symptoms.

2. Features of "Oxarol® Lotion"

"Lotion" is an emulsion lotion that can be easily applied to hairy areas such as head and has excellent usability. "Lotion" has shown to be highly effective and safe as with "Ointment" in the controlled clinical study in patients with psoriasis vulgaris.

Dermal transfer of "Lotion" in human skin has shown to be equivalence to that of "Ointment". "Lotion" with excellent usability and efficacy/safety comparable to "Ointment" will be a useful new topical treatment option for psoriasis vulgaris.

The most frequently observed adverse drug reactions in the clinical study were 4 events of skin irritation (4.7%), 3 events of skin exfoliation (3.5%), and 2 events each of eczema and erythema (2.3%).

[Contact Information]

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[Reference]

Product Summary

[Product Name] Oxarol® Lotion

[Nonproprietary Name] Maxacalcitol

[Composition] One gram of Oxarol® Lotion contains maxacalcitol 25 µg.

[Indications] Psoriasis vulgaris, ichthyosis, palmoplantar keratosis

[Dosage and Administration] Appropriate amount of Oxarol® Lotion should be applied to the affected area twice daily. Depending on the symptom, application frequency should be decreased as necessary.

[Precaution concerning Dosage and Administration] The maximum recommended daily dose of maxacalcitol is 250 µg, or 10 g of topical maxacalcitol.

[Package] Bottle; 10 g x 1, 10 g x 10

[Manufacturer] Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

[Release Date] June 18, 2007

[Drug Price] 143.80 yen per 1 g

[Date of Approval] March 15, 2007

[Date of NHI Drug Price Listing] June 15, 2007

