



## News Release

January 22, 2018  
Maruho Co., Ltd.

### Maruho Launches In Vitro Diagnostic “DermaQuick® VZV”

Osaka (Japan), January 22, 2018 – Maruho Co., Ltd (“Maruho”, Head Office: Osaka, Japan, President and CEO: Koichi Takagi) announces it launched in vitro diagnostic (varicella-zoster virus antigen kit), (Brand name: "DermaQuick® VZV", hereinafter referred to as “the product”), in Japan today.

The product is the first varicella-zoster virus (hereinafter VZV) antigen kit in the world with immunochromatography as the principle measurement. From a sample of skin rash, or a swab of a sore/ulcer fluid, it is possible to detect VZV antigens conveniently and rapidly in 5 to 10 minutes.

Maruho received manufacturing and marketing approval for the product on June 27, 2017, and examinations using the product received insurance coverage on August 7, 2017.

Maruho markets oral and topical therapeutic treatments for herpes zoster (shingles) as prescription drugs. By expanding our business to cover the entire care cycle (prevention, examination/diagnosis, treatment, and after care), Maruho is working to meet a wide range of patient needs at every stage of care.

#### Product Profile:

Brand Name	DermaQuick® VZV
Nonproprietary Name	Varicella-zoster virus antigen kit
Target Use	Detection of varicella-zoster virus antigen in a sample of skin rash (blister/pustule) or a swab of a sore/ulcer fluid (including epithelial cells). (To be used mainly for diagnosis of varicella-zoster virus infection).
Packaging	10 kits per box
Suggested Retail Price	24,000 yen
Date of Launch	January 22, 2018
Manufacturer	Maruho Co., Ltd.

### Insurance Coverage Profile

In Vitro Diagnostic Name	Varicella-zoster virus antigen kit
Date of Insurance Coverage	August 7, 2017
NHI Service Points	Varicella virus antigen qualitative analysis (epithelial cells) 240 points
NHI Diagnosis Points	Immunological examination diagnosis fee 144 points

### Product Photo



#### About herpes zoster (shingles)

Herpes zoster (shingles) is a disease caused by reactivation of the chickenpox varicella-zoster virus in latently-infected nerve ganglia. Prodromal symptoms include neuralgia-like pain and sensory abnormalities, followed by a rash outbreak in a striped band at the site of the pain. Symptoms in the skin include cutaneous lesions that begin with zonal erythema and papules at the site of pain. These are followed by vesicles, pustules, erosion, and ulcers, which lead to the development of crusts. The skin eventually heals as the crusts fall off in 2-3 weeks after the onset. In addition, the pain caused by postherpetic neuralgia sometimes remains long term even after the rash heals.

#### Maruho's Initiatives towards treatment for herpes zoster (shingles)

Maruho markets anti-herpes virus drugs "Amenalief® Tablets 200mg", "Famvir® Tablets 250mg" and "Casal® Cream 3%" as drugs related to the treatment of herpes zoster.

#### About Maruho

Maruho Co., Ltd. has its headquarters in Osaka and leads Japan in research and development, manufacturing and commercialization of dermatological products. Founded in 1915, Maruho has 1,459 employees (as of the end of September 2017), and net sales were approximately 79.95 billion yen in its 2017 fiscal year. Pursuing its long-term corporate vision of "Excellence in Dermatology," Maruho is striving to improve the health and quality of life of people all over the world.

For more information, please visit [www.maruho.co.jp/english](http://www.maruho.co.jp/english)

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