

TEPOXX 200 mg Capsules (tecovirimat) Approved in Japan for the Treatment of Ortho poxviruses

Regulatory decision marks first approval in Japan of an antiviral for the treatment of Ortho poxviruses including smallpox, mpox and cowpox

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Japan Biotechno Pharma Co., Ltd.

Japan Bio-Tech Pharma Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Chuo-Ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Naoki Shinohara) received approval from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare on 27 December 2024 for the manufacture and sale of ‘Tecovirimat’ (Tepoxx Capsules 200 mg), a treatment for complications caused by the growth of vaccinia virus after vaccination with smallpox, mpox, cowpox or variola vaccines.

The mpox virus has been spreading mainly in Europe and the United States since 2022, and as of 29 October 2023, more than 90,000 cases of infection have been reported. In Japan, since the first case was reported in July 2022, 249 cases (including at least one death) have been reported as of 22 September 2024. In addition to the recent spread of Clade Ia, mainly in Africa, the WHO declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in August 2024 due to the emergence of a new Clade Ib.

In addition, although the World Health Organization has already declared smallpox eradicated, in Japan, as routine vaccination was discontinued in 1976, many people under the age of 50 today have no immunity to smallpox, so in the event of an outbreak due to the re-emergence of the smallpox virus through biological terrorism or other means, medical countermeasures, including antiviral therapy, will be extremely important.

The smallpox virus cannot multiply on its own and uses human cells to multiply. VP37 envelope wrapping protein has the function of creating new viruses (IEV) from mature viruses (IMV) that have been synthesized inside the cell. Tepoxx Capsules 200mg inhibits this action and prevents the virus in the envelope from replicating.

We are pleased to be able to help with the treatment system using Tepoxx Capsules 200mg in response to concerns about the future spread of mpox and biological terrorism using smallpox. We will continue to work hard every day so that we can contribute to Japanese healthcare in the future.

CEO

Naoki Shinohara

Japan Biotechno Pharma Co., Ltd.