ARICEPT® APPROVED IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR NEW INDICATION AS TREATMENT FOR DEMENTIA WITH LEWY BODIES

SECOND COUNTRY IN THE WORLD AFTER JAPAN TO APPROVE ARICEPT FOR DEMENTIA WITH LEWY BODIES

Eisai Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Tokyo, CEO: Haruo Naito, "Eisai") announced today that its subsidiary in the Philippines, HI-Eisai Pharmaceutical Inc., has received approval for a new indication for the symptomatic treatment of dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) for anti-Alzheimer's agent Aricept[®] (donepezil hydrochloride) in the Philippines, and has commenced information provision activities. Following the approval of Aricept for DLB in Japan in September 2014, this marks the second country in which Aricept has been approved for DLB.

Since it was first laun

[Notes to editors]

1. About Dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB)

DLB is a degenerative form of dementia discovered in Japan that is pathologically characterized by decreased neurons in the brain and brainstem and the appearance of vast numbers of Lewy bodies. In neurochemistry, DLB is characterized by a loss of acetylcholine-producing neurons in the brain similar to that seen in patients with Alzheimer's disease. In addition to obligatory symptoms associated with progressive cognitive impairment, the disease also presents with behavioral and neuropsychiatric symptoms, motor disturbances, and dysautonomia. In particular, cognitive fluctuations, visual hallucinations and idiopathic parkinsonism have a high rate of incidence and are considered to be core symptoms of the disease. In Japan, DLB constitutes one of the three major types of dementia diagnosed, alongside Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia, affecting between 4.3% (based on epidemiology) to 41.4% (based on autopsy) of elderly patients with dementia, according to various studies ^{1,2}. While there are no reliable statistics available on the incidence of DLB in the Philippines, the number of patients with dementia is reported to be approximately 400,000.

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