



Bayer and Almirall to co-promote anticoagulant Rivaroxaban in Spain

- **Rivaroxaban an innovative oral anticoagulant developed by Bayer, is a new option for stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation recently approved in Europe and the United States**
- **Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common sustained cardiac rhythm disorder and affects more than 6 million people in Europe. People with AF are at a five-fold increased risk for stroke compared to the general population**
- **Co-promotion of Rivaroxaban begins in the coming months**

Barcelona, February, 9th 2012.- Bayer and Almirall announced today an agreement to co-promote Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®) in Spain beginning in the coming months. Rivaroxaban, an oral anticoagulant developed by Bayer, is the only new oral anticoagulant approved in three indications across Europe.

Atrial fibrillation is the most common sustained cardiac rhythm disorder and affects more than 6 million people in Europe. People with AF are at a five-fold increased risk for stroke compared to the general population, and about one-third of them will suffer a stroke. The prevalence of AF increases in aging populations and affects 4% of the Spanish population aged over 40.

Rainer Krause, Chief Executive Officer Bayer, Spain, stated: "We count on Almirall's expertise in cardiovascular as the perfect partner to bring the benefits of rivaroxaban to patients and physicians in Spain who are in need of a highly effective and convenient therapy against blood clots to prevent strokes and treat deep vein thrombosis (DVT). Almirall and Bayer will work together to make this happen".

Enrique Domínguez, Almirall's General Manager in Spain added: "Bayer's rivaroxaban fits perfectly into Almirall's cardiovascular portfolio, where the company already has other therapeutic solutions successfully established in the market. This agreement represents a further step in extending Xarelto® to new patients and prescribers".

About rivaroxaban

Rivaroxaban is an oral anticoagulant that was discovered in Bayer HealthCare's Wuppertal laboratories in Germany. It has a rapid onset of action with a predictable dose response and high bioavailability, no requirement for routine coagulation monitoring or regular renal monitoring, as well as a limited potential for food and drug interactions.

Rivaroxaban is marketed under the brand name Xarelto® for venous thromboembolism (VTE) prevention in adult patients following elective hip or knee replacement surgery. Rivaroxaban is approved in more than 110 countries worldwide. Rivaroxaban is a new oral anticoagulant approved in three indications across Europe: Prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in adult patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (AF) with one or more risk factors, treatment of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and prevention of recurrent DVT and pulmonary embolism (PE) following an acute DVT in adults, and prevention of VTE in adult patients undergoing elective hip or knee replacement surgery. The extensive clinical trial program supporting rivaroxaban makes it the most studied and widely published oral, direct Factor Xa inhibitor. The studies, reported and ongoing, involve over 75,000 patients for the prevention and treatment of venous and arterial thromboembolic (VAT) disorders across a broad range of acute and chronic conditions, including stroke prevention in patients with Atrial Fibrillation, DVT treatment and the prevention of recurrent DVT or PE, and the secondary prevention of Acute Coronary Syndrome. VTE is caused by the obstruction of a blood vessel by a blood clot. In the EU there are approximately 550,000 VTE related deaths each year and it is estimated to be the third most common cardiovascular disease.

About atrial fibrillation

Atrial fibrillation is the most common sustained cardiac rhythm disorder and affects more than 6 million people in Europe. People with AF are at a five-fold increased risk for stroke compared with the general population, and about one-third of them will suffer a stroke. An irregular heartbeat makes AF patients vulnerable to the formation of a blood clot in the atria of the heart, and this can travel to the brain, potentially resulting in a stroke. Strokes damage the brain, and can lead to both physical and behavioural impairment, or even death.

About Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)

DVT is the formation of a blood clot in a deep vein that partially or totally blocks the flow of blood. However, DVT can progress to become a potentially fatal PE if the blood clot breaks apart and travels to the lungs, ultimately blocking a blood vessel there.

About Bayer HealthCare

The Bayer Group is a global enterprise with core competencies in the fields of health care, nutrition and high-tech materials. Bayer HealthCare, a subgroup of Bayer AG with annual sales of EUR 16.9 billion (2010), is one of the world's leading, innovative companies in the healthcare and medical products industry and is based in Leverkusen, Germany. The company combines the global activities of the Animal Health, Consumer Care, Medical Care and Pharmaceuticals divisions. Bayer HealthCare's aim is to discover and manufacture products that will improve human and animal health worldwide. Bayer HealthCare has a global workforce of 55,700 employees (Dec 31, 2010) and is represented in more than 100 countries. Find more information at www.bayerhealthcare.com.

About Almirall

Almirall is an international pharmaceutical company based on innovation and committed to health. Headquartered in Barcelona, Spain, it researches, develops, manufactures and commercialises its own R&D and licensed drugs with the aim of improving people's health and wellbeing.

Almirall focuses its research resources on therapeutic areas related to the treatment of asthma, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), gastrointestinal disorders, psoriasis and other dermatological conditions.

Almirall's products are currently present in over 70 countries while it has direct presence in Europe and Latin America through 12 affiliates.

For further information please visit the website at: www.almirall.com.

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