



NATIONALLY RANKED HOSPITAL ADDS IPRIVASK TO ITS FORMULARY

Iprivask® (desirudin for injection) Is First Alternative to Heparin Introduced in Nearly a Decade

PARSIPPANY, NJ, APRIL 7, 2010 – Canyon Pharmaceuticals™ (www.canyonpharma.com) today announced that Brigham and Women's Hospital of Boston, MA has officially added Iprivask to its formulary. Iprivask (desirudin for injection) is the first direct thrombin inhibitor (DTI) approved in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the prevention of deep vein thrombosis (DVT). It is indicated for the prevention of DVT which may lead to pulmonary embolism in patients undergoing elective hip replacement surgery.

In head-to-head clinical trials, Iprivask was found to be superior to both heparin and low-molecular weight heparin (LMWH) enoxaparin for the prevention of proximal DVT and for major venous thromboembolic events (VTE) after elective hip replacement surgery. VTE, one of the most common complications in surgical patients, is associated with increased hospital costs, length of stay, morbidity, and mortality.^{1,2}

John Fanikos, MS, Associate Director of Pharmacy at Brigham and Women's Hospital said: "Iprivask's pharmacological profile among parenteral DVT prophylaxis agents makes it a valuable addition in caring for our patients and to our armamentarium."

Few alternatives exist to heparin-based anticoagulation for DVT prophylaxis in the hospitalized patient. VTE prophylaxis therapy with heparin-based anticoagulation can be complicated by a variety of untoward events including thrombocytopenia, which has been shown to increase short-term mortality.³ The development of thrombocytopenia often results in suspension of VTE prophylaxis with heparin leaving patients unprotected for a period of time due to the lack of alternatives.⁴

"Iprivask is a promising advance because it is superior to the current standard of care in preventing proximal DVT and major VTE, with no difference in bleeding," said Dawn Bell, PharmD, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Canyon Pharmaceuticals. "We are excited that premier institutions such as Brigham and Women's Hospital recognize the value of Iprivask for their patients."

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About Iprivask

Iprivask is modeled after hirudin, a naturally occurring anticoagulant found in the saliva of medicinal leeches. It acts by directly inhibiting thrombin, an essential protein in blood clotting.

Iprivask is provided as a unique unit-dose package that facilitates easy bedside reconstitution and administration. Iprivask is much less expensive than other DTIs – the cost is \$150/vial compared with other non-heparin options which require monitoring and intravenous administration and cost \$600 to \$1000 per day. Iprivask was the first DTI approved for DVT prophylaxis in Europe, where it has been on the market for more than 10 years under the trade name Revasc[®].

Iprivask is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to natural or recombinant hirudins, and in patients with active bleeding and/or irreversible coagulation disorders. Iprivask must be used with caution in patients with renal impairment, particularly in those with moderate and severe renal impairment. Based on use during the clinical trials in 2159 patients undergoing elective hip replacement surgery, a comparable incidence of hemorrhagic events was seen in patients using Iprivask, heparin, and enoxaparin.

According to the labeling, nonhemorrhagic adverse events occurring at greater than a 2% incidence in patients treated with Iprivask 15 mg during elective hip replacement surgery *and* considered to be remotely, possibly, or probably related to the drug were: injection site mass, wound secretion, anemia, deep thrombophlebitis, and nausea. Adverse events with a frequency of less than 2% and greater than 0.2% were, in decreasing order of frequency: thrombosis, hypotension, leg edema, fever, decreased hemoglobin, hematuria, dizziness, epistaxis, vomiting, impaired healing, cerebrovascular disorder, leg pain, and hematemesis.

According to the labeling, because neuraxial hematoma formation is possible with the use of Iprivask in patients undergoing spinal/epidural anesthesia, frequent monitoring is required. The physician should consider placement of the catheter prior to initiating desirudin and removal of the catheter when the anticoagulant effect of desirudin is low.

About Canyon Pharmaceuticals[™]

Canyon Pharmaceuticals[™] is a privately held specialty biopharmaceuticals company focused on delivering innovative therapeutic solutions that target important cellular pathways in thrombosis and tumor growth. Canyon holds exclusive world-wide rights to desirudin, a subcutaneous (SC) recombinant direct thrombin inhibitor (DTI), and to pegmusirudin, a pegylated recombinant DTI with a longer duration of action than desirudin.

This press release contains forward-looking statements, which involve risks and uncertainties within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. There can be no assurance that actual results will not differ materially from the forward-looking statements discussed in this press release.

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