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Press Release

Angiox™ now available in Europe

Nycomed has launched Angiox™ (bivalirudin), first in a new generation of anticoagulants approved for Europe. From today, Angiox™ is available in Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden, and will be launched throughout Europe in the coming months.

Angiox™ is approved for use as an anticoagulant in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). Through its unique mechanism of action, Angiox™ represents an alternative to existing anticoagulant therapies and is an important advance in the clinical efforts toward improved patient outcomes and simplified PCI treatment.

Coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death in Europe and the western world as a whole, accounting for more than 20% of the deaths. PCI has become the primary revascularisation technique in the treatment of coronary heart disease. In Europe, more than 600.000 procedures were performed in 2003, and growth is continuing at a rate of more than 10% per year.

"Angiox™ is an innovative new approach to anticoagulation management during and after PCI, as it reduces the risk of both ischemic events and bleeding complications," said Håkan Björklund, Nycomed CEO. "We are proud to be able to launch Angiox™ in this initial indication, and we are confident that Angiox™ will make a real difference in Europe by simplifying PCI treatment and improving patient outcomes."

The REPLACE-2 clinical trial demonstrated that Angiox™ with provisional use of GP IIb/IIIa was non-inferior to heparin plus GP IIb/IIIa inhibitors in terms of ischemic events, while significantly reducing the risk of major bleeding events by 41%. In addition, it was concluded that Angiox™ was superior to heparin alone, reducing the risk of both ischemic and bleeding events. REPLACE-2 is the most extensive study of its kind. 6,010 patients undergoing urgent or elective PCI were enrolled from nine different countries.

Angiox™ is now the second hospital-specialist product marketed by Nycomed which has achieved EU marketing authorisation during 2004, following the approval of TachoSil®, a surgical patch for fast and reliable bleeding control.

"With the launch of first TachoSil® and now Angiox™ we are improving our offer to the hospital-specialist sector and adding to our steadily growing portfolio of hospital-specialist products," said Håkan Björklund. "We are now looking forward to demonstrating our ability to successfully market these products across Europe."

Developed by US-based The Medicines Company (Nasdaq: MDCO), Angiox™ was in-licensed by Nycomed to 33 European countries and Russia/CIS. The launch of Angiox™ confirms the value of Nycomed's strategy to source new products from research companies and develop them for Europe.

About Angiox™ (bivalirudin)

Angiox™ is a thrombin-specific anticoagulant indicated for use in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). In clinical trials, Angiox™ has demonstrated reductions in both ischemic and bleeding complications. These reductions remain evident even in high-risk patients.

Angiox™ was developed by The Medicines Company and launched successfully in the US in 2001 (US tradename Angiomax®). Nycomed entered into a collaboration with The Medicines Company in March 2002 to be the exclusive distributor of Angiox™ in 33 countries in Europe and in Russia/CIS.

In September 2004, Angiox™ was approved by the European Commission.

About Nycomed

Nycomed is a pharmaceutical company differentiating itself by its European focus. The company's capabilities include product sourcing, late-stage clinical trials, registration, pricing and reimbursement negotiation and product life-cycle management. Dedicated sales teams target general practitioners, hospital specialists and pharmacists.

With 2,800 people, mostly in marketing & sales, Nycomed covers 19 European markets including the Russia/CIS. Products are also exported to other countries including Japan and the USA. Nycomed is a privately-owned company with 2003 revenue of € 635.5 million.

Further information is available on: www.nycomed.com

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