PlantForm biosimilar performs as well as brand drug in vivo

Mouse study results show PlantForm drug equivalent to Herceptin® in reducing breast cancer tumour size

GUELPH, Ont.— An efficacy study in mice has shown that PlantForm’s biosimilar trastuzumab antibody drug is as effective as the commercial antibody drug Herceptin® in reducing the size of breast cancer tumours.

The study was conducted with a human breast cancer cell line, which grows tumours in immunocompromised mice. The tumours were grown for 38 days and then dosed with PlantForm’s biosimilar trastuzumab or Herceptin® or a no treatment control. Tumour size was evaluated over 21 days, demonstrating that PlantForm’s biosimilar trastuzumab and Herceptin® are equally effective in reducing tumour size (see graph below).

“We are very excited about the results of this study, which further confirms the clinical application of our low-cost, plant-produced version of Herceptin®,” said Dr. Don Stewart, PlantForm President and CEO. “These results demonstrate the value of our technology platform, which is capable of producing a wide range of monoclonal antibody drugs, proteins and vaccines.”

Previous maximum tolerated dose studies showed PlantForm’s trastuzumab was tolerated as well as the commercial antibody — with no ill effects in mice — at doses that were the equivalent of 25 to 50 times higher than the weekly dosage amount for humans. Pharmacokinetic studies showed that PlantForm’s biosimilar trastuzumab had blood circulatory residence times similar to those reported for the commercial antibody.

Herceptin® has global sales of $6 billion annually, and its clinical use patents begin to expire in 2015. PlantForm aims to launch its biosimilar trastuzumab, in partnership with a pharmaceutical company, in world markets, beginning in Europe in the 2015 to 2016 timeframe. PlantForm management estimates the market potential for biosimilar trastuzumab is $2 billion a year by 2016 and $4 billion to $5 billion a year by 2019.

PlantForm Corporation’s mission is to provide low-cost antibody drugs to help people fight cancer and other critical illnesses. The Company is currently raising Series A capital to advance into the regulatory approval process for biosimilar trastuzumab. Biosimilar versions of two other antibody drugs for cancer are in development, as is an innovator drug to fight HIV/AIDS infection. Projected revenue is more than $50 million by 2016.

www.plantformcorp.com
PlantForm (PF) trastuzumab tumour activity assay results (June 15, 2012)

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