Desensitization Therapy Actair® House Dust Mite Sublingual Tablets Launched in Japan

Today Shionogi & Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Osaka, Japan; President & CEO: Isao Teshirogi Ph.D.; hereinafter called “Shionogi”) announced launch of the drug Actair® house dust mite sublingual tablets 100 units (IR) and 300 units (IR), an allergy immunotherapy treatment (desensitization).

This drug is a sublingual immunotherapy tablet for the treatment of house dust mite induced allergic rhinitis. Based on the license agreement with Stallergenes SAS, Shionogi has been conducting the development of this drug. It is the first regulatory approval received and the first launch worldwide for a sublingual house dust mite allergy immunotherapy tablet.

Immunotherapy is the medical treatment in which patients are repeatedly administered a low but appropriate dose of the allergen-based antigen, allowing the immune reaction toward the allergen to alleviate. Immunotherapy is expected to have longer remission effect (sustained after treatment interruption), while the conventional symptomatic drugs (eg. antihistamines, corticosteroids…) have only short term effect on symptoms. House dust mites are a major cause of respiratory allergies and can trigger allergic rhinitis, which worsens over time. Until now, in Japan, only subcutaneous injection type of immunotherapy to treat HDM allergic patients was available. The launch of this tablet will provide patients suffering from house dust mite-induced allergic rhinitis with an efficient, safe and convenient drug. Also, this drug, an easy to use tablet that can be stored at room temperature, is expected to improve patients’ convenience and medication compliance.

Shionogi will work towards aiming to contribute to treat and improved Quality of Life (QOL) for patients with house dust mite-induced allergic rhinitis.
Product outline of Actair®

Product name: Actair® house dust mite sublingual tablets 100 units (IR)
Actair® house dust mite sublingual tablets 300 units (IR)

Effect/efficacy: Desensitization therapy for allergic rhinitis due to house dust mite antigens

Administration/dosage: The usual dosage for adults and children aged 12 years or older is to initiate treatment at a dose of 100 units (IR), once daily by sublingual administration, and a dose should be increased by 100 units (IR) up to 300 units (IR). The dose-escalation period is, in principle, 3 days but should be prolonged as necessary according to the patient’s condition. After sublingual administration, the tablet should be placed under the tongue until complete dissolution and then swallowed. Gargle or eat/drink should be avoided for 5 minutes after swallowing.

Price: ACTAIR® house dust mite sublingual tablets 100 units (IR): 67.1 yen per tablet
ACTAIR® house dust mite sublingual tablets 300 units (IR): 201.2 yen per tablet

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