FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 31, 2001 Kyorin Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

## Launch of [KIPRES Tablet], Leukotriene Receptor Antagonist/ Bronchial Asthma <u>Treatment Medicine in Japan</u>

Tokyo, Japan – Kyorin Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (President: Ikuo Ogihara, Head Office: Tokyo) has launched the leukotriene receptor antagonist/ bronchial asthma treatment medicine Kipres Tablet 10 and Kipres Chewable Tablet 5 in Japan.

Recently, leukotriene (a chemical mediator), which is strongly related to inflammation of the bronchial airway, has been the focus of our attention. Merck & Co., Inc originally developed KIPRES tablets, which are leukotriene receptor antagonists that are selective to CysLT1.

Currently, KIPRES has been approved in more than 80 countries all over the world. KIPRES is not only effective but is also easy to use with once-daily dosage and chewable tablets for children over 6 years old. Kyorin expects KIPRES to become the medicine that patients will most often turn to.

**KIPRES** Profile:

- 1. Generic Name: Montelukast Sodium
- 2. Composition: each tablet contains 10mg or 5mg, depending on the dosage
- 3. Indication: Bronchial asthma
- 4. Characteristics:
  - Relieves asthmatic symptoms and restores respiratory functions with administration once daily before sleep.
  - Clinically recognized combination effect with inhaled steroids.
  - Anti-inflammatory effect and decreased eosinophiles in septum.
  - Chewable tablets for children are easy to take.
  - Rate of adverse effects was 8.8%(46/523) in adults and 2.1%(1/48) in children.
- 5. Price: Kipres Tablet 10 ¥ 331.10
  - Kipres Chewable Tablet 5 ¥307.20

## 6. Packaging:

- A) KIPRES Tablet 10: 100 tablets, 140 tablets, and 420 tablets
- B) KIPRES Chewable Tablet 5: 100 tablets

Kyorin will seek to penetrate the respiratory market by focusing its KIPRES marketing on the respiratory specialists with whom it has developed strong relationships. This marketing push will ultimately strengthen Kyorin's "base of business" in the respiratory area.

KIPRES is a joint-development/joint-sales product with Banyu Pharmaceutical Co. and is licensed from Merck & Co., Inc. Kyorin was given the rights to KIPRES as a result of a cross-licensing agreement with Merck, in which Merck received the diabetes treatment medicine, KRP-297.

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