

I N F O R M A T I O N

To all media outlets

November 27, 2001
Kyorin Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
Maruho Co., Ltd.

Basic Memorandum of Understanding to Co-Develop the Anti-Fungal Agent PEKIRON Nail Lacquer

Kyorin Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Head office: Tokyo, President: Ikuo Ogihara) and Maruho Co., Ltd (Head office: Osaka, President: Koichi Takagi) have signed a Basic Memorandum of Understanding to co-develop in Japan the anti-fungal agent PEKIRON® nail lacquer currently under development by Kyorin Pharmaceutical.

The Basic Memorandum of Understanding represents a joint meeting of interests, with Kyorin Pharmaceutical seeking faster development of PEKIRON® nail lacquer in Japan and Maruho's desire to build a development pipeline to strengthen its dermatology field.

Kyorin Pharmaceutical is currently conducting Phase II clinical trials for PEKIRON® nail lacquer in Japan. Under the memorandum and in return for its contribution to development, Maruho will become the sole sales agent in Japan after licensing, while Kyorin Pharmaceutical will receive a one-time contract fee in addition to milestone payments during development.

The majority of treatments for tinea unguium (Onychomycosis) are based on oral, anti-fungal agents. Patients for whom oral treatment is unsuitable need a safe format with few side-effects. Currently, direct treatments to the nail fail to provide satisfactory results due to difficulty in medicinal efficacy and problems with absorption into the nail. Accordingly, we are developing a nail lacquer with superior nail absorption qualities. We envision development will lead to a new anti-fungal agent unlike any other in Japan, to widely serve as treatment for tinea unguium (Onychomycosis) .

End of release

For inquiries

Kyorin Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. Management Planning TEL : 03 - 3293 - 3414 Maruho Co., Ltd Mgmt Planning Dept TEL : 06 - 6371 - 8437
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