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Active Biotech publishes results from the LION study on ocular absorption and distribution of laquinimod in the eye

Lund, April 20, 2026 – Active Biotech (NASDAQ STOCKHOLM: ACTI) today announced that the results from the clinical phase I LION Study (*Safety, Tolerability, and Distribution of Topical Laquinimod Eye Drops, an Innovative ImmunomodulatOr Targeting Aryl HydrocarboN Receptor*) have been published in the American Academy of Ophthalmology journal *Ophthalmology Science*.

"I am tremendously satisfied and gratified to learn that topical laquinimod, even at a low dose, can penetrate into the anterior chamber and, more importantly, the vitreous of human eyes. The potential applications of a topical formulation and delivery that reaches the posterior segment are quite significant and can lead to very important and novel therapeutic implications. Our talented team at Byers and Stanford is very excited with the outcomes of the study," said Quan Dong Nguyen, MD, MSc, FAAO, FARVO, FASRS, Professor of Ophthalmology, Medicine and Pediatrics at the Byers Eye Institute and the Stanford University School of Medicine (Palo Alto, USA) and Principal Investigator of the LION Study.

The article, titled *Safety and Biodistribution of Topical Laquinimod, an Immunomodulator Targeting Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor: The LION Study,* was published in Ophthalmology Science with Dr. Dalia El Feky, a Visiting Scholar at the Byers Eye Institute, Stanford University as well as an ophthalmologist and uveitis specialist in the Faculty of Medicine, Tanta University in Egypt, as the lead author.

There is an unmet need for a topical, non-steroidal therapy with a favourable safety profile for patients with non-anterior non-infectious uveitis. Previously, several steroidal and non-steroidal topical agents have failed to reliably demonstrate absorption to the posterior segment of the eye. LION was designed to study the ocular biodistribution of the topical hydrogel formulation of laquinimod and to evaluate its therapeutic potential for ocular inflammatory diseases involving the posterior segment of the eye.

The article is the result of a collaboration between Active Biotech, clinician-researchers at the Byers Eye Institute at Stanford University and the Global Ophthalmic Research Center (GORC). The results showed that daily doses of either 0.6, 1.2 or 1.8 mg of laquinimod in the topical formulation resulted in dose related intraocular concentrations of laquinimod in the posterior as well as the anterior parts of the eye. Topical laquinimod was well tolerated, and no dose-limiting toxicities were reported. Such findings support investigating laquinimod's therapeutic potential for inflammatory eye diseases affecting the posterior segment.

Active Biotech's focus for the laquinimod program is now directed towards identifying the best development partner for the continued clinical development of laquinimod in eye disorders.

Link to article: **https://www.ophthalmologyscience.org/article/S2666-9145(26)00124-7/fulltext**

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About Active Biotech

Active Biotech AB (publ) (NASDAQ Stockholm: ACTI) is a biotechnology company that develops first-in-class immunomodulatory treatments for oncology and immunology indications with a high unmet medical need and significant commercial potential. The company's core focus is on the development of tasquinimod in myelofibrosis, a rare blood cancer, where clinical proof-of-concept studies have been initiated. Laquinimod is in development for the treatment of non-infectious uveitis. A clinical phase I program with a topical ophthalmic formulation has been performed to support phase II development together with a partner. Naptumomab, a targeted anti-cancer immunotherapy, partnered to NeoTX Therapeutics, is in a phase Ib/II clinical program in patients with advanced solid tumors. Please visit **www.activebiotech.com** for more information.

About laquinimod

Laquinimod is a first-in-class immunomodulator that promotes immune tolerance and reduces the pro-inflammatory and angiogenic response by targeting of the myeloid cell compartment. Laquinimod is developed as a new treatment for inflammatory eye disorders in the first step non-infectious uveitis. Laquinimod was previously studied in patients with neurodegenerative and inflammatory diseases, including a phase III randomized study program in multiple sclerosis (MS) patients. The clinical safety and tolerability of laquinimod is well known and preclinical data in disease models support the use of laquinimod for the treatment of severe eye disorders including uveitis and eye disorders with abnormal vascularization.
For more information about the study please see **clinicaltrials.gov** NCT06161415.

About the LION study

A hydrogel formulation of laquinimod for topical application was developed, taking the specific physico-chemical characteristics of this agent into account, to facilitate that a clinically relevant intraocular therapeutic concentration of laquinimod can be obtained.
The LION-study (*Safety, Tolerability, and Distribution of Topical **L**aquinimod Eye Drops, an **I**nnovative Immunomodulat**O**r Targeting Aryl Hydrocarbo**N** Receptor* NCT06161415) which was conducted by principal investigator Professor Dr Nguyen at the Byers Eye Institute, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, US, aimed to evaluate safety and tolerability and ocular biodistribution of laquinimod when administered as escalating doses of the topical formulation in subjects undergoing elective vitrectomy.

Attachments

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