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GRAZAX[®] approved in Europe for treatment of children

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Authorities in 27 European countries have approved ALK's tablet-based vaccine against grass pollen allergy, GRAZAX[®], for treatment of children and adolescents (5 – 17 years old) suffering from grass pollen induced hay fever.

The approval of GRAZAX[®] for children is a major milestone in the development of tablet-based allergy vaccines as it makes causal allergy treatment available to an important patient segment.

Today, most children suffering from grass pollen allergy are only treated with symptom-relieving medications, such as oral antihistamines or nasal steroids, which treat the symptoms but not the cause of the disease. GRAZAX[®] is the first allergy tablet to treat the underlying cause of grass pollen allergy with documented persistent effect after completion of treatment. GRAZAX[®] is now also the first allergy tablet of its kind to be approved for treatment of children.

In September 2006, GRAZAX[®] was approved in Europe for adult patients.

This announcement does not change ALK's financial outlook for 2008.

ALK-Abelló A/S

Jens Bager
President and CEO

About ALK

ALK is a research-driven global pharmaceutical company focusing on allergy treatment, prevention and diagnosis. Our mission is to improve quality of life for allergic people by developing pharmaceutical products that target the actual cause of allergy. ALK is the world leader in allergy vaccination (immunotherapy) – a unique treatment that induces a protective immune response which reduces and potentially halts the allergic reaction. Allergy vaccination is traditionally administered as subcutaneous injections or sublingual droplets. Our aim is to extend the use of allergy vaccination by introducing convenient, tablet-based vaccines, thereby offering many more patients a causal allergy treatment. Following this strategy, the world's first tablet-based vaccine against grass pollen allergy, GRAZAX[®], was launched in Europe in 2007. ALK has entered into a strategic partnership regarding the tablet programme with Schering-Plough for North America. ALK has approximately 1,500 employees with subsidiaries, production facilities and distributors worldwide. The company is headquartered in Hørsholm, Denmark and listed on NASDAQ OMX Copenhagen A/S. 'ALK' is an abbreviation of 'Allergological Laboratory Copenhagen (København)'. Further information is available at www.alk-abello.com and www.GRAZAX.com.

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*Additional information for the press:***Grass pollen allergy burdensome for children**

Children with poorly controlled hay fever face a number of challenges such as difficulties at school caused by absence and poor performance. A study from the UK shows that pupils with symptoms on an examination day are more likely to drop a grade compared to those without symptoms¹. Allergic symptoms may also lead to sleep disturbances and limitations in social activities and play – affecting not only the child but also the family².

“As a physician treating many children suffering from hay fever, the approval of GRAZAX[®] enables me to offer more patients an option that will further improve the control of their disease,” says Paediatric Allergologist Albrecht Bufe, Professor at the Ruhr-Universität in Bochum, Germany, and principal investigator in the clinical study leading to the approval for children.

In addition to the short-term problems with uncontrolled hay fever, recent data show that children with hay fever in early childhood have a two- to seven-fold increased risk of developing asthma later in life³. This aggravation of the disease is normally referred to as the ‘Allergic March’. Because of its disease modifying capabilities, allergy vaccination is the only treatment option that has been shown to prevent the development of new allergies and asthma.

About GRAZAX[®]

GRAZAX[®] is a fast dissolving, once-daily, easy to use allergy vaccine tablet for home administration setting a new standard in the treatment of grass pollen induced rhinoconjunctivitis (hay fever). In addition to treating the allergic symptoms like itchy eyes, runny or blocked nose and sneezing, GRAZAX[®] also treats the underlying cause of allergy by generating immunological tolerance. This is an effect that can only be obtained with allergy vaccination.

Treatment with GRAZAX[®] is initiated two to four months before the grass pollen season. The tablet is taken daily all year round for the recommended period of three years leading to improved symptom control during the entire treatment period, and sustained effect after completion of the treatment course.

Grass pollen allergy is a health problem representing a significant social burden. At least 75 million people in the USA and Europe suffer from grass pollen allergy in the form of allergic rhinitis (hay fever), allergic asthma or both. The majority of patients are only offered symptom-relieving medications that reduce symptoms temporarily but do not treat the underlying cause of the allergy itself. In addition, more than 60% of patients using symptom-relieving medications perceive them to be in the range of ‘not at all effective’ to ‘moderately effective’ on individual symptoms, according to a survey conducted by the European Federation of Allergy and Airway Diseases Patients Associations (EFA).

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¹ Passalacqua G, et al. *Pediatr Allergy Immunol* 2007; 18 (Suppl18): 40–45. Walker SM, et al. *Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2007; 381–387; 107: 87–93.

² Blaiss MS, *Curr Med Res Opin* 2004; 20: 1937–1952. Lai L, et al. *Immunol Allergy Clin N Am* 2005; 25.

³ Burgess JA et al. *J Allergy clin immunol*, 2007;120: 863-9