Press release
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Tripep's ChronVac-C® treatment shows antiviral effect on patients with chronic hepatitis C also in the high dose

Tripep now can report about the effect on virus levels in the blood from the nine first patients who have completed full treatment against hepatitis C virus infections in the ongoing open label clinical study with the therapeutic vaccine ChronVac-C®. Tripep has earlier reported that the virus levels in the blood during treatment were reduced by up to 87 % and 98 %, respectively, in two out of three patients in the intermediate dose group. The results from the three patients in the high dose group showed equally pronounced reductions of their virus levels. In two out of three patients in the high dose group the corresponding figures were 93 % and 99.7 %, respectively. No serious or unexpected side effects were observed and therefore the study now can be extended with another three patients. These patients will receive the dose considered to be the best from a safety, immunogenic and efficacy point of view in an interim analysis. The latter will be performed during the month of November.

"There is no doubt that treatment with ChronVac-C® has an antiviral effect in patients with chronic hepatitis C. We now can see that the viral loads during treatment can be reduced by more than 70 % (>0,5log10) from 2 to 10 weeks. The reduction of the viral loads is different from what can be seen with traditional treatment in that it does not always start immediately after the first dose has been administered and that the effect may remain a long time after a given dose. In the case of ChronVac-C® the treatment is based on the activation by the vaccine of the patient's immune response and it is the latter that has the antiviral effect. Therefore, it may well differ between patients after which vaccine dosing the best antiviral effect can be seen. This type of treatment represents a completely new way of treating hepatitis C and makes ChronVac-C® of interest in a plethora of treatment indications. We will now chose the dose for the last patient's group after all available data have been analyzed", says Jan Nilsson, Tripep's CEO.

The total market for medications against hepatitis C infections is estimated by Rodman & Renshaw to be over 4 billion US dollars in 2008 and is expected to grow to over 8 billion US dollars in 2013.

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About Tripep

Tripep AB is a Swedish biotechnology research company that develops and commercialises candidate drugs based on patented technologies. Tripep is focusing on the following research projects; wound healing therapy ChronSeal® and a therapeutic vaccine against Hepatitis C, named ChronVac-C®, plus the RAS® technology platform. The Tripep share is admitted to trade on First North. Remium AB is Certified Adviser for Tripep AB. For more information, please refer to the company's website: www.tripep.se.

About ChronVac-C®

ChronVac-C® is a therapeutic vaccine, i.e. it is given to individuals already infected with the hepatitis C virus with the aim to clear the infection by boosting the immune response against the virus. Tripep's ChronVac-C® vaccine is administered with Inovio's Medpulser® DDS.

About the ChronVac-C® clinical trial

The study is conducted at the Infectious Disease Clinic at the Karolinska University Hospital in Huddinge and entails totally 12 patients divided into three dose groups with increasing doses of ChronVac-C®. Each patient receives four ChronVac-C-vaccinations one month apart. After the last vaccination the patients are followed for another six months. The primary aim of the study is to determine the safety of the treatment and no severe adverse events have so far been recorded. Secondary and tertiary aims are to determine immunogenicity and effects on the viral replication, respectively.

In the event of any discrepancy between the Swedish and English versions of this press release, the Swedish version will take precedence.