December, 2014

Anticancer drug "*Elplat®*" Submission of Supplemental New Drug Application for Postoperative Adjuvant Chemotherapy in Gastric Cancer

Tokyo, Japan, December 19, 2014 - Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd. (hereafter, Yakult) (President & COO: Takashige Negishi) announced today that it submitted a supplemental new drug application relating to an additional indication for postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy in gastric cancer, with respect to its products, *Elplat® (50mg, 100mg and 200mg)* to the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

This supplemental new drug application was submitted based on a Phase III study which was conducted in overseas (CLASSIC study) to validate the effectiveness of the combination therapy with *Elplat®* and an anticancer drug, capecitabine, and a Phase II study which was jointly conducted by Yakult and Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (hereafter, Chugai) (Chairman & CEO: Osamu Nagayama) in Japan,.

Gastric cancer is the most common cancer in Japan and the number of newly diagnosed gastric cancer patients during 2010 is estimated at 125,730*[1].

Yakult will sincerely work for the early approval for this supplemental new drug application to provide the new treatment option for patients with gastric cancer and medical staffs engaged in the treatment thereof in Japan.

*1 Center for Cancer Control and Information Services, National Cancer Center, Japan

1. *Elplat®*

Elplat® is an anticancer platinum drug, for which Yakult acquired development and commercialization rights in Japan from Debiopharm International (Switherland) in 1997. *Elplat®* was approved for the indication for the treatment of "curatively unresectable advanced/recurrent colorectal cancer" in March 2005, and launched on the market in April of the same year. In August 2009, *Elplat®* became indicated for "postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy for colon cancer".
An additional dosage and administration for "curatively unresectable advanced/recurrent colorectal cancer" was approved in September 2009, and an additional dosage and administration for "postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy for colon cancer" was approved in November 2011. In December 2013, *Elplat®* was approved for the indication for the treatment of "curatively unresectable pancreatic carcinoma".

2. Capecitabine

Capecitabine was generated by Nippon Roche Corporate (currently, Chugai) and approved firstly in U.S., Switzerland and Canada in 1998, and in Europe in 2001. Capecitabine has been approved in more than 100 countries to date.
In Japan, capecitabine was approved for the indication for the treatment of "inoperable or recurrent breast cancer" in 2003, "postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy for colon cancer" in 2007, "curatively unresectable advanced/recurrent colorectal cancer" in 2009 and "curatively unresectable advanced/recurrent gastric cancer" in 2011.

3. CLASSIC study*2

CLASSIC study is a randomized, controlled, open label Phase III study which was conducted in South Korea, China and Taiwan to validate the effectiveness of the combination therapy with *Elplat®* and capecitabine in postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy for gastric cancer.

The primary endpoint, 3 year disease-free survival was 74% in the combination therapy group versus 59% in the surgery only group. Estimated 5 year overall survival was 78% in the combination therapy group versus 69% in the surgery only group.

These results showed a significant improvement in 3 year disease-free survival and estimated 5 year overall survival for the combination therapy vs surgery only.

*2 Lancet 2012; 379: 315-21, Lancet Oncology 2014; 15: 1389 -96