

English Version

Regeneus, an Australian regenerative medicine biotech, has commenced preparation (e.g. donor selection, manufacturing process development) for a Japan-based phase II clinical trial of Progenza, their cellular therapy under development for osteoarthritis (OA). Progenza is an allogeneic adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cell (MSC) cellular therapy, who's Japan manufacturing rights have already been licensed out to Asahi Glass Corp. (AGC). With the assistance of AGC, Regeneus is currently looking to license-out Progenza to a pharmaceutical company.

Progenza is an allogeneic MSC product, that is created using healthy donor adipose-derived MSCs that are put through a proprietary culturing process and injected into an OA patient's joint. The product's proposed mechanism of action is an anti-inflammatory effect that involves biologically active MSC secretions, and Regeneus believes that this anti-inflammatory platform can expand beyond the initial OA focus. Progenza's phase I trial for OA in Australia is currently complete.

Regeneus entered into a licensing agreement with AGC in JAN 2017, and a 50:50 joint-venture (JV) between Regeneus and AGC, Regeneus Japan, is also in the works. This JV will manage exclusive development and commercialisation rights in Japan for all Progenza indications. Furthermore, AGC has obtained exclusive manufacturing rights for Progenza in Japan. AGC has already paid Regeneus 5.5m USD as an upfront payment, and a further 11.0m USD is lined up as milestone payments moving forward.

Regeneus has already commenced and continues preparation for further PMDA consultations for their Japan phase II clinical trial. They have also further progressed manufacturing preparation for this trial through commencing donor selection and manufacturing process development. AGC will be responsible for the GMP production of Progenza for the Japan clinical trial.

In an effort to bring Progenza to market in Japan in a expedient manner, both Regeneus and AGC are working to locate a licensee for the clinical development and commercialisation of the product. Pharmaceutical companies with experience in autoimmune and/or orthopaedic indications would be ideal licensees.

Regeneus' CEO, Mr. John Martin explained that "due to comparatively fewer total knee arthroplasty surgeries in Japan, hyaluronic acid (HA) injections are used much more commonly. As such, if Progenza can be used in place of HA injections, the potential market for Progenza in Japan is large."

Last year AGC acquired biologic CDMOs Biomeva (Germany) and CMC Biologics (Denmark) in quick succession. Through their partnership with Regeneus, AGC is looking to obtain cellular therapy manufacturing knowhow, and subsequently expand their biologic CDMO capabilities.

変形性関節症向け細胞医薬

製造プロセス開発着手

日本P2向け旭硝子と協力

豪レジニアス



マーク・オモイオ

オーストラリア再生医療ベンチャーのレジニアスは、変形性関節症(OA)を対象とした細胞医薬品「プロジエンザ」の日本での第2相臨床試験(P2)実施に向け、

ドナー登録と製造プロセスの開発に着手した。プロジエンザは他家脂肪由来間葉系幹細胞(MSC)を用いた細胞医薬品で、日本では旭硝子が独占製造権などを獲得している。レジニアスは日本での提携先である旭硝子の協力を得ながら、製薬企業とプロジエンザの導出交渉を進めていく方針。

レジニアスと旭硝子はプロジエンザの日本での早期上市に向けて、臨床開発・販売を担う提携先を探る方針。自己免疫疾患領域や整形外科領域を得意とする製薬企業などへの導出を目指している。

旭硝子は昨年、バイオ医薬品の開発製造受託(CDMO)事業を手がける独バイオミューバ、デノンマークのCMCバイオロジックスを相次ぎ買収している。レジニアスとの提携を通じて次世代バイオ医薬品である細胞医薬品の製造ノウハウを獲得、自社のバイオCDMO事業の拡大につなげていく狙い。

プロジエンザは他家MSCを用いた細胞医薬品。健康人ドナーから採取した脂肪細胞に含まれるMSCを独自の培養プロセスで製剤化、患者の関節内に注入する。MSCが分泌する生理活性物質を介した抗炎症作用を期待しており、OAを含めたさまざまな炎症性疾患への応用を目指している。オーストラリアでOAを対象にしたP1が終了している。

日本では今年1月に旭硝子とライセンス契約を締結、折半出資合弁会社「レジニアス・ジャパン」を設立した。同社はプロジエンザのOAを含んだすべての適応症に関する日本での独占開発・販売権を有している。同時に旭硝子は日本での

プロジエンザの日本でのP2開始に向け、医薬品医療機器総合機構(PMDA)と協議を進めている。このほか、日本でのP2実施に向けたドナー登録と製造プロセスの開発を開始した。旭硝子は日本での

P2に使用する細胞医薬品のGMP製造を担当する。

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