

For Immediate Release

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Ultrasound Contrast Agent Sonazoid[®] for Injection Released for Sale

Tokyo, January 10, 2007 – DAIICHI SANKYO COMPANY, LIMITED announced today that Daiichi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (head office: Tokyo; President: Kiyoshi Morita; hereafter Daiichi Pharmaceutical), the wholly owned subsidiary of DAIICHI SANKYO COMPANY, LIMITED has released for sale the ultrasound contrast agent Sonazoid[®] for Injection.

Sonazoid[®] for injection was developed jointly by Daiichi Pharmaceutical and GE Healthcare (Headquarters: Chalfont St. Giles, U.K.; President & CEO: Joseph M. Hogan), the healthcare unit of General Electric Company (NYSE:GE). A minimally invasive contrast agent, Sonazoid[®] for Injection is characterized by a prolonged ability to maintain its contrasting attributes. The agent promises to improve efficiency in differentiation and presence diagnosis when diagnosing lesions associated with hepatic tumors, as well as aid assessment of local-treatment effectiveness and evaluation of post-treatment progress in liver cancer patients.

Japan is the first country where Sonazoid[®] for Injection will become available. In addition, it is the first time for such a new-generation ultrasound contrast agent to be launched in Japan.

The characteristics of Sonazoid[®] are as follows:

1. The microbubbles contained in the agent remain stable when subject to ultrasonic sound waves, enabling continuous vascular and Kupffer imaging.

2. The agent is effective when performing differentiation diagnosis on hepatic tumors as well as detection of small lesions of the liver, thereby providing a diagnosis capability comparable to that of a CT scan.
3. The agent functions as an effective guide for locating the region of treatment (e.g., determining the exact location of a lesion) when performing radio frequency ablation, as well as when assessing the effectiveness of treatment.
4. The dosage of the agent is only 0.015mL/kg when administered as a suspension liquid. After administration, the agent is removed during exhalation.
5. Given the ease of examinations performed using the agent, ultrasound scans can be carried out at the patient's bedside.

Appendix

Product details

Drug category	Ultrasound contrast agent
Product category in Japan	88729
Product name	Sonazoid [®] for Injection
Generic name	Perflubutane
Effects	Aids ultrasound imaging of lesions associated with hepatic tumors
Directions & Dosage	Suspend 16 μ L (1 vial) of perflubutane microbubbles in the included 2mL injection solvent and administer the suspension intravenously. Usual dosage for an adult is 0.015mL/kg body weight in a single administration.
Storage	To be stored at room temperature
Restrictions	Designated drug; prescription drug
Packaging	Single 16 μ L vial of Sonazoid [®] for Injection Single 2mL bottle of injection-use water for dissolution, pursuant to Japanese Pharmacopoeia One Chemoprotect [®] spike for use as suspension liquid adjustment apparatus
Date of approval	October 20, 2006
NHI price	¥13,338 per package of Sonazoid [®] for Injection
Launch date	January 10, 2007
Sales & manufacture	Daiichi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
Co-developer	GE Healthcare

Sonazoid is a registered trademark of GE Healthcare