

PRESS RELEASE



Gebro Pharma and BIT Pharma sign an agreement for the future marketing of NicaPlant® in Spain

- Laboratorios Gebro Pharma, S.A. and the Austrian biotech company BIT Pharma have signed an agreement for the future marketing in Spain of NicaPlant®, a product aimed at preventing vasospasm, a complication in patients who have undergone surgery for subarachnoid hemorrhages.
- The drug is currently in phase 2 of clinical development, for which results are expected at a European level this year.

Barcelona, May 20, 2022. Laboratorios Gebro Pharma, S.A. and BIT Pharma have recently signed an agreement for the future marketing of NicaPlant® in Spain.

BIT Pharma is a biotech company based in Austria, a country that is also home to the pharmaceutical group Gebro Pharma GmbH, and is specialized in the development of new products for diseases affecting the central nervous system. NicaPlant® is a nicardipine-based intracerebral implant that is used to prevent vasospasm after subarachnoid hemorrhage surgery. Implants are placed in the patient at the time surgery is performed in order to close the hemorrhage.

A vasospasm is a severe complication that occurs in a high percentage of patients who have had a subarachnoid hemorrhage. This type of bleeding can be caused, among other factors, by the rupture of an aneurysm. NicaPlant® would be indicated for the prevention of vasospasms caused by this type of hemorrhage.

Both companies are joining forces to help patients suffering from pathologies associated with the central nervous system. Moreover, in the case of Gebro Pharma, the agreement serves to strengthen its support in the area of neurosurgery, where it already counts Gliolan®, a product that helps to visualize malignant tissues during malignant glioma surgery (WHO grades III and IV).

This is the second agreement that Gebro Pharma has signed with a biotech company to collaborate in the development of drugs in phases 2 and 3. The first was signed at the end of 2020 with the Israeli Can-Fite, with whom it is developing a drug based on the new molecule piclidenoson, intended for the treatment of moderate-severe psoriasis. This drug is currently in phase 3 of clinical study.

In the words of **Ivet Vall, Director of Business Development & Innovation at Gebro Pharma**, *"This agreement strengthens our constant commitment to innovation and makes us especially excited because it has been declared an orphan medicine by the EMA (European Medicines Agency), since the pathology indicated for NicaPlant® affects a small number of people. In fact, current treatments do not always offer the desired efficacy for the prevention of vasospasm after a subarachnoid hemorrhage. That is why we hope to contribute to improving the health and quality of life of these patients by offering a new alternative."*

For **Jörg Breitenbach, Chief Executive Officer at BIT Pharma**, *"the collaboration between Gebro Pharma and BIT Pharma is an example of how local delivery to the central nervous system can play a key role in developing treatments for patients. By using our AIMEX technology to tailor local treatment medications, we are better able to generate targeted therapy options, ultimately improving patient care. We are very pleased to have a strong commercial partner to help us reach patients in need."*

Vasospasm and subarachnoid hemorrhage

Subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) is a rare type of stroke, albeit with significant morbidity, mortality and socio-economic burden, as it can occur in young, seemingly healthy patients. The incidence in Spain is similar to that of the rest of Europe, and is estimated to be at about 9 cases per 100,000 inhabitants each year. Aneurysmal SAHs have a mortality rate of 26% according to studies, and 85% of cases receive treatment within the first 72 hours. While vasospasm is one of the main complications that physicians wish to avoid in patients who have undergone surgery due to an SAH, current treatments do not demonstrate the desired efficacy. Therefore, the development of new, effective treatments to prevent vasospasm is a need still unmet.

About Laboratorios Gebro Pharma

Laboratorios Gebro Pharma is a pharmaceutical company dedicated to the development and marketing of prescription and hospital medicines. Operating in Spain since 2002, with its headquarters in Barcelona, the company currently has 150 employees in the country. It is part of the Austrian pharmaceutical group Gebro Pharma GmbH, which has worked in the research, manufacturing and marketing of proprietary drugs for over 75 years.

In Spain, Gebro is a benchmark company that develops and markets a portfolio of reference drugs in the areas of autoimmune diseases, pain, urology, respiratory medicine, and dermatology.

In 2020, it obtained the 'Great Place to Work' certificate and, in 2021, it established itself as one of the 25 best places to work in Spain, with the 'Best Workplaces 2021' certificate.

In 2022, the company is celebrating its 20th anniversary since it was founded on March 7, 2002.

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