

NEWS RELEASE

November 30, 2015

JIMRO Announces Sales Alliance with Kaneka Medix for Adacolumn®

On November 24th, JIMRO Co., Ltd., a manufacturer of medical devices and subsidiary of Otsuka Holdings Co., Ltd., concluded a distributorship agreement to market the medical device Adacolumn® with Kaneka Medix Corporation, a manufacturer of medical products wholly owned by Kaneka Corporation. Kaneka Medix will begin the sale of Adacolumn® from January 2016.

Adacolumn® is a leukocyte apheresis column which is used for extracorporeal therapy. When blood is taken out of the patient's body, it adsorbs granulocytes as well as monocytes selectively from leukocytes before returning the peripheral blood into the body. The product is covered by health insurance for ulcerative colitis*¹ and Crohn's disease*², as well as pustular psoriasis*³. In addition, the product is in clinical use in Europe and China.

In general, treatment with Adacolumn® has been carried out by specialized departments for extracorporeal therapy (such as blood purification departments), as required by attending physicians (for ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease: departments of gastroenterology and gastroenterological surgery; for pustular psoriasis: department of dermatology). Kaneka Medix has capabilities in the extracorporeal therapy field through its own manufacturing and sales activities of Liposorber®*⁴ and Lixelle®*⁵, and this alliance aims to realize a smooth connection between diagnosis and treatment departments, leveraging JIMRO's strength of attending physicians, as well as growing the domestic market for Adacolumn®.

JIMRO, as a core business company of Otsuka Medical Devices Co., Ltd., overseeing medical devices business under the umbrella of Otsuka Holdings Co., Ltd., will continue the research, development, and marketing of unique products under the corporate philosophy of "people creating innovative products and delivering professional services for better health worldwide", making continuous efforts to contribute to refractory disease treatment in the future.

Product Information in Japan

Brand name	Adacolumn®
Indications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leukocyte apheresis column for granulocyte adsorption to induce remission of active ulcerative colitis (only for patients classified as severe by severity criteria) - This product is used to induce remission in patients with moderate to severe active Crohn's disease who have obvious remaining clinical symptoms resulting from large bowel lesions, and that fail to respond to, or are ineligible for, nutrition therapies or conventional pharmacotherapies. - This product is used to improve clinical symptoms in patients with moderate to severe pustular psoriasis that fail to respond to, or are ineligible for, conventional oral systemic therapies.
Manufactured and distributed by	JIMRO Co., Ltd.
Product illustration	

*1 Ulcerative colitis is a bowel disease with unknown causes, in which chronic inflammation occurs and ulcers develop. Symptoms include bloody stool, stool with mucus, diarrhea, abdominal pain and others; it is designated as an intractable disease by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. At the end of 2014, the number of patients (number of persons with specific (intractable) disease healthcare certificate) was about 171,000^{*6}.

*2 Crohn's disease is an inflammatory disease with unknown causes, longitudinal and irregular shaped ulcers in the gastrointestinal tract, swelling mucous membranes, or narrowing of the lumen. Main symptoms include abdominal pain, diarrhea, fever, and anal lesions; it is designated as an intractable disease by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. At the end of 2014, the number of patients (number of persons with specific (intractable) disease healthcare certificate) was about 41,000^{*6}.

*3 Pustular psoriasis is one disease type of 'psoriasis' of the dermatosis, in which multiple pustules (raised on the skin containing pus) appear as well as fever and redness of the skin. Generalized pustular psoriasis, that is, where pustules appear on the entire body, is designated as an intractable disease by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. At the end of 2014, the number of patients (number of persons with specific (intractable) disease healthcare certificate) was about 2,000^{*6}.

*4 Liposorber® is a blood purifying column used for extracorporeal therapy to adsorb and remove LDL cholesterol from blood plasma selectively. It is available in Japan, the United States, and Europe.

*5 Lixelle® is a blood purifying column, which is incorporated in hemodialysis systems to improve symptoms of dialysis-related amyloidosis (one of the complications accompanying long-term dialysis). It is available in Japan, the United States, and Europe.

*6 "Report on Public Health Administration and Services FY 2013", List of Statistical Surveys conducted by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, from the website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Available at: www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-hh/xls/2-22.xls

Corporate Profile

Kaneka Medix Corporation

Established:	September 17, 1993
Capital:	450 million yen
Representative:	Akihiko Iguchi, President
Head Office :	2-3-18, Nakanoshima, Kita-Ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 530-8288
Employees:	268 (as of March 31, 2015)
Business Description:	Research and development, manufacturing, sales, import and export of medical devices
Shareholder:	Kaneka Corporation
Website (URL)	http://www.kaneka-med.jp

JIMRO Co., Ltd.

Established:	November 8, 1977
Capital:	100 million yen
Representative:	Shiro Chino, President and Representative Director
Head Office :	351-1 Nishiyokote-machi, Takasaki-shi, Gunma 370-0021
Employees:	166 (as of July 1, 2015)
Business Description:	Manufacturing, sales, rental, export and import as well as research and development of medical devices
Shareholder:	Otsuka Medical Devices Co., Ltd.
Website (URL)	http://www.jimro.co.jp