

Basel, 15 May 2002

Roche wins patent dispute with Chiron on Herceptin

The German District Court of Dusseldorf announced that Herceptin (Trastuzumab), one of Roche's leading oncology products, does not infringe a patent held by Chiron and therefore Roche is not required to pay royalties to Chiron.

Chiron filed its lawsuit against Roche in February 2001 and asserted that Roche infringed their patent directed to mouse monoclonal antibodies. According to the court's decision Chiron's patent does not embrace Herceptin.

Herceptin is a humanized monoclonal antibody directed to the HER2 protein and is a new, targeted approach developed for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer. Herceptin is the first oncogene targeted treatment with proven survival benefit in metastatic breast cancer, resulting in improved outcomes when used alone or in combination with chemotherapy. Herceptin is now approved in more than 40 countries throughout the world for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer.

Roche in Oncology

Roche is a world leader in oncology. Its franchise includes three drugs with survival benefit: MabThera (non-Hodgkin's lymphoma), Xeloda (colorectal cancer, breast cancer), and Herceptin (breast cancer), it also includes NeoRecormon (anaemia in various cancer settings), Roferon-A (leukaemia, Kaposi's sarcoma, malignant melanoma, renal cell carcinoma), Neupogen (neutropenia) and Kytril (chemotherapy and radiotherapy-induced nausea). Roche Oncology has four research sites (two in the US, Germany and Japan) and four HQ Development sites (two in the US, UK and Switzerland).

About Roche

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is one of the world's leading research-oriented healthcare groups in the fields of pharmaceuticals, diagnostics and vitamins. Roche's innovative products and services address needs for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, thus enhancing well-being and quality of life.

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