

How Roche tests and medicines continue to play a key role as pandemic evolves

Basel, 22 December 2021

As SARS-CoV-2 variants, including the Omicron variant, continue to change the face of the pandemic, how is Roche responding?

As a leading healthcare company, we are doing all we can to support countries in reducing the impact of COVID-19 – an impact that goes beyond those who contract it. That is why we are working with healthcare providers, laboratories, authorities, and organisations to help make sure as many people as possible continue to receive the tests, treatment and care they need during these challenging times.

In addition to investigating medicines which can play a role in treating and preventing the disease, including Actemra/RoActemra and Ronapreve, we have developed a growing number of diagnostic solutions that help to detect and diagnose the infection in patients, support safety while meeting other people as well as provide digital support to healthcare systems.

Testing

High-quality testing remains an essential part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Roche's **PCR tests** and **antigen tests** including **rapid antigen tests**, correctly identify SARS-CoV-2 including the new Omicron variant. For more details, please refer to the following [document](#).

In addition to our broad SARS-CoV-2 testing solution offering, Roche has rapidly added new **research test kits to differentiate mutations** in the Omicron SARS-CoV-2 variant. They can be used for SARS-CoV-2 virus research as well as to detect mutations of SARS-CoV-2, including **the differentiation between the Delta and Omicron variants in a research setting**.

These new test kits are among the first to specify the mutations of the recently discovered Omicron variant, and can help manage the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Please also refer to our [press release](#).

Medicines

On December 16, [Roche](#) and [Regeneron](#) simultaneously issued statements announcing that **Ronapreve** does not retain activity against the Omicron variant.

Ronapreve continues to retain its activity against all other main variants of concern, including Delta

(B.1.617.2), which currently remains the predominant variant in many countries. **In regions with co-circulation of variants (Delta and Omicron) diagnostic tests may help identify patients infected with the Delta variant who can benefit from Ronapreve.** Together with Regeneron, we will continue to monitor the activity of the treatment against future emerging variants of concern and ensure that as many people as possible who can benefit from Ronapreve receive the therapy.

The World Health Organization has reported that IL6 Receptor Blockers, including Roche's **Actemra/RoActemra**, are still effective for managing patients with severe COVID-19, including those infected with the Omicron variant. Global demand for Actemra/RoActemra continues to be unprecedented. As the pandemic has evolved, we have worked tirelessly to be able to meet the growing need around the world and have put several mechanisms in place to make more of the medicine available in 2022.

About Roche

Roche is a global pioneer in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics focused on advancing science to improve people's lives. The combined strengths of pharmaceuticals and diagnostics, as well as growing capabilities in the area of data-driven medical insights help Roche deliver truly personalised healthcare. Roche is working with partners across the healthcare sector to provide the best care for each person.

Roche is the world's largest biotech company, with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, immunology, infectious diseases, ophthalmology and diseases of the central nervous system. Roche is also the world leader in in vitro diagnostics and tissue-based cancer diagnostics, and a frontrunner in diabetes management. In recent years, the company has invested in genomic profiling and real-world data partnerships and has become an industry-leading partner for medical insights.

Founded in 1896, Roche continues to search for better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases and make a sustainable contribution to society. The company also aims to improve patient access to medical innovations by working with all relevant stakeholders. More than thirty medicines developed by Roche are included in the World Health Organization Model Lists of Essential Medicines, among them life-saving antibiotics, antimalarials and cancer medicines. Moreover, for the thirteenth consecutive year, Roche has been recognised as one of the most sustainable companies in the pharmaceutical industry by the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI).

The Roche Group, headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, is active in over 100 countries and in 2020 employed more than 100,000 people worldwide. In 2020, Roche invested CHF 12.2 billion in R&D and posted sales of CHF 58.3 billion. Genentech, in the United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche is the majority shareholder in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information, please visit www.roche.com.

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