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PRESS RELEASE

NEW THERAPY CURES MALARIA IN A SINGLE DAY

MAJOR SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH

The Belgian company Dafra Pharma has developed a new combination therapy that uses three pills to cure patients of malaria once and for all after just a single day of therapy. Dafra Pharma's groundbreaking approach effectively combats even the most complicated forms of the disease.

Dafra Pharma's breakthrough is the fruit of two years' intensive research by the company's team of scientists and represents a massive leap forward in the fight against malaria. It should guarantee better therapy fidelity and will prove far more convenient to patients than conventional therapy. Never before has anti-malarial treatment been so simple or efficient, and most patients do not need to be admitted to hospital. One day after being diagnosed with malaria, patients can return to their normal everyday lives or children can go back to school. The new therapy could save millions of lives!

According to figures published by the World Health Organisation (WHO), every year between 1.5 and 2.7 million people die of malaria and between 350 and 500 million contract the disease. A great many anti-malarial treatments have been developed, but mounting resistance to existing drugs has rendered them increasingly ineffective in recent decades.

Over the past few years the WHO has recommended combining an existing anti-malarial molecule with an artemisinin derivative, a new molecule originating from an old herb used in Chinese medicine, *Artemisia annua*, in a bid to reduce treatment time and avoid the possible build-up of resistance.

In the past, patients had to take 24 pills in three days, which meant that if treated as outpatients they often had to remain in the vicinity of the dispensary or hospital issuing their medication. Moreover, they had to be very closely monitored, and if they failed to take all their medication there was no guarantee they would be cured; in fact they could even become more vulnerable. Furthermore, the cure was not always definitive, with some patients suffering a relapse within 28 days or already starting to suffer from a fresh bout of malaria following reinfection. This situation was intolerable and had to be improved.

Consequently, alternative FDCs (fixed-dose combinations) were developed, combining two active ingredients in a single tablet. It sounds simple, but was no easy achievement in scientific terms.

Dafra Pharma's R&D department, headed up by Dr F. H. Jansen, has now succeeded in developing a new FDC of artesunate + sulfamethoxypyrazine/pyrimethamine which reduces the treatment to taking just 3 pills in one day (24-hour period). It will be unveiled on 14 November 2005 at a special Artemisinin Combination Therapy Symposium taking place at the MIM (Multilateral Initiative for Malaria) Congress in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Some 2,000 scientists from around the world will be attending the congress.

The efficacy of the treatment has been tested in studies by Professor Penali from the Pasteur Institute in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) in accordance with the WHO's current 28-day protocol. After the initial cure, which takes place after just one day, there were no subsequent clinical relapses, not even 28 days after the start of treatment, nor were any parasites left in the patients' blood. This amazing finding was reconfirmed in studies conducted in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Official reports suggest that one African child under 5 years of age dies of malaria every 30 seconds.

Accordingly, Dafra Pharma has developed 3 different FDCs of artesunate + sulfamethoxypyrazine/pyrimethamine for patients of different weights, including one especially for children and babies. The FDC can also be administered to pregnant women without any risks.

In short, this exciting scientific breakthrough not only represents a specific and highly efficient attempt to attain the 6th Millennium Goal of the United Nations (UN) (combating malaria) but also brings the 4th and 5th Millennium Goals of the UN (reducing child and maternal mortality) within reach.

The groundbreaking new treatment will be launched on the African market in 2006. **The recommended price for government procurement will be just 1 euro per adult patient and 50 cent per child, which makes Dafra Pharma's one-day therapy the cheapest anti-malarial therapy of all Artemisinin based Combination Therapies (ACT's).**

Dafra Pharma is a medium-sized family-owned pharmaceutical company seriously dedicated to combating malaria. To achieve the breakthrough the company invested nearly 20% of its turnover in R&D over the last two years.

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