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ROVI announces it will soon be marketing Vytorin and Absorcol in Spain, the first of the five licenses from MSD

Madrid, 18th January, 2010 – Laboratorios Farmacéuticos Rovi, S.A. (ROVI or “the Company”) announces today that it will soon be marketing Vytorin® and Absorcol® in Spain, the first of the five marketing licenses for its products that Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) awarded to ROVI as part of the strategic marketing and manufacturing agreement of 23 July 2009, stated to the Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores on 24 July 2009 as Relevant Fact number 111.707.

Absorcol®, whose active principle is ezetimibe, is indicated, combined with another statin, for the treatment of primary hypercholesterolemia and homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia in patients who are not adequately controlled with one single statin. Absorcol®, as a monotherapy, is indicated for patients with primary hypercholesterolemia for whom one statin is considered to be inadequate or which is not tolerated, and for patients with homozygous familial sitosterolemia. Absorcol® is a drug of choice for diabetic and coronary patients, who following their treatment with a statin have not reached indicated LDL-c levels, thanks to its single and unique action mechanism, which is able to inhibit, simultaneously with the statin, intestinal absorption and hepatic synthesis.

Vytorin® is an innovative drug which combines two active principles, ezetimibe and simvastatin, recently marketed by MSD under the brand of Inegy®. It is indicated for the treatment of patients with primary hypercholesterolemia or mixed hyperlipidemia, in those cases in which the prescription of a statin together with ezetimibe is necessary.

Vytorin® and Absorcol® will be marketed in Spain from January 2011 in a co-marketing regime with Ezetrol® and Inegy® respectively, for a period of 10 years. Although they are two different products, ROVI and MSD have agreed to consider them as one product in terms of the marketing rights granted to ROVI by MSD, as Vytorin® is a combination of ezetimibe, the selected active principle, and simvastatin.

Hypercholesterolemia is the presence of high levels of cholesterol in the blood. It is one of the main risk factors for ischaemic heart disease (angina and myocardial infarction), which is one of the main causes of death in Spain, as well as for cerebrovascular disease and peripheral vascular disease.

The main cardiovascular risk factor associated with ischaemic heart disease is dyslipidemia. In Spain, according to the results of the HISPALIPID study, only 33% of patients have an adequate control of lipids, with the worst controlled patients those who have the highest levels of cardiovascular risk factor¹. In the PRINCEPS study, which evaluated the prevalence of dyslipidemia in patients at high cardiovascular risk, it was found that only 25% of the population of patients with coronary disease or at equivalent risk met LDL-c target levels, and in terms of the most stringent LDL-c target levels that have been set in cardiovascular guidance for this type of patient, only 8.52% of patients are adequately controlled².

References:

1. Banegas JR, Vegazo O, Serrano P, Luengo E, Mantilla T, Fernández R et al. The gap between dyslipidemia control perceived by physicians and objective control patterns in Spain. *Atherosclerosis* 2006; 188:420-424.
2. Francisco Díaz de Rojas et al. Coronary heart disease and dyslipidemia: A cross-sectional evaluation of prevalence, current treatment, and clinical control in a large cohort of Spanish high-risk patients: The PRINCEPS Study. *Prev Cardiol.* 2009; 12:65–71

Juan López-Belmonte Encina, Chief Executive Officer of ROVI, said: “we are very excited by the potential of Vytorin® and Absorcol®. These drugs provide coronary and diabetic patients with the best and simplest therapeutic option for reaching LDL-c targets and lowering cardiovascular risks, and they reflect ROVI’s commitment to improving the quality of life of patients. In addition, these products have a high strategic value and will contribute to our growth over the coming years.”

About ROVI

ROVI is a fully integrated Spanish specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in the research, development, in-licensing, manufacturing and marketing of small molecule and specialty biologic drugs. The Company has a diversified portfolio of products that it markets in Spain through its specialized sales force, calling on specialist physicians, hospitals and pharmacies. ROVI’s portfolio of 27 principal marketed products is currently anchored by the internally-developed, second generation low molecular weight heparin, Bemiparin. ROVI’s research and development pipeline is focused primarily on addressing currently unmet medical needs by developing new LMWH-based products and expanding applications for its existing LMWH-based products. ROVI manufactures the active biological ingredient (Bemiparin) for its principal proprietary products and for injectable pharmaceutical products developed by its in-house research team, and utilizes its state-of-the-art filling and packaging capabilities to provide a broad array of toll manufacturing services to leading international pharmaceutical companies, primarily in the area of pre-filled syringes. Additional information about ROVI is available on the company’s website: www.rovi.es