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Insulin Detemir, Certolizumab PEGOL & Others

Technology from the group of <u>Natasa Skoko</u> at International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Trieste, Italy



TechEx.in Case Manager:

Match Maker/ Biosimilars / 31 Aug 2021/DrSkoko ICGEB

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About Insulin Detemir

Insulin detemir is a long-acting (up to 24-hour duration of action) recombinant human insulin analog.

- Originator / reference product: Long lasting insulin analogues Detemir (Novo Nordisk's Levemir[®], the patent expired in 2019 in US. (Source: <u>Novo Nordisk Annual Report</u>)
- Indications: Treatment of Type 1 and 2 Diabetes Mellitus



Detemir [LysB29-tetradecanoyl, des(B30)]human insulin



Market and Industry Overview

Market:

The global basal insulin market (Detemir, Glargine and Degludec) is expected to register a CAGR of 8.2% during the forecast period of 2019–2024, the market is estimated to reach \$11.4 billion by 2019. (Source: <u>Research and Markets</u>)

Industry players:

- Global: Novo Nordisk, MNKD, Bristol-Meyer Squibbs, Emisphere

- India : Biocon



Europe insulin antidiabetics market size, 2015 & 2023, (USD Million)

The Opportunity: Why you should be interested?





Estimated number of adults with diabetes.

- **Market interesting: A rising global burden:** According to World Health Organization (WHO), the number of people with diabetes will more than double over the next 25 years, to reach a **total of 366 million by 2030**. Most of this increase will occur as a result of a **150% rise in developing countries.** (Source: <u>WHO</u>)
- Cost still high: Levemir (Insulin Detemir) treatment (taken once a day) costs around \$500/month and annual cost of treatment is around \$6,000 (very high, if it is to be taken for a lifetime). Insulin Detemir is to be taken for a lifetime.
- Industry not yet crowded: Few players manufacturing long acting insulins

The Technology Offering

Insulin precursor



- Insulin precursor is produced in the yeast
 Pichia pastoris.
- From the insulin precursor we developed three technologies: short lasting insulin and two long-lasting insulins (detemir and degludec).
- Yield of Insulin precursor: 3-4 g/L



Selected Data: Biosimilarity- Physicochemical characterization

RP-HPLC analysis: The purity of purified Detemir pool is > 98%



Selected Data: Biosimilarity - Intact mass analysis

Biosimilarity - Intact mass analysis and co-injection with originator

LC-MS with full protein MS: Electrospray Mass Spectrometry confirms the correct molecular mass of Detemir.

LC-MS co-injection of Levemir and Insulin Detemir_BDU confirms that Detemir BDU has the same Retention Time as commercial





Selected Data: Biosimilarity- Peptide mapping

Biosimilarity - Peptide mapping

Determination of site of fatty acid attachment: experimental peptide mapping (trypsin digestion) corresponds to the theoretical one and demonstrates the site of fatty acid attachment in B29 Lys.



Production: 10L fermentation (5 day methanol induction) yields around 30-40 g of Insulin precursor.

Purification:

- **Preparation of desb30:** DesB30 by protease digestion of **recombinant Human Insulin Precursor** is performed at 2.3 grams scale with the yield of at least 50%
- **Preparation of linker:** Preparation of Tetradecanoic acid 2,5-dioxo-pyrrolidin-1-yl active ester linker (Myr-OSu) is performed at 10 grams scale with the yield of at least 60%
- Synthesis and detemir purification: Attachment of Myr-OSu linker to DesB30 Human Insulin (1.5 gram scale) is performed to obtain Insulin Detemir. Preparative RPHPLC separation/purification of Detemir yields at least 20% in respect to recombinant Human Insulin Precursor.

Current Status of Technology and Path Ahead

Stage of Development

- Protein expressed in 10L bioreactor.
- Achieved yield of 30-40 g (Insulin precursor) in 10L bioreactor.

Development of Hypotheses and Experimental Designs

Non-clinical *in-vitro* studies: Physicochemical characterization for Biosimilarity

Non-clinical in-vitro studies: Functional characterization for Biosimilarity

Non-clinical animal studies: toxicity, PK/PD, immunognecity

Generation of three consistent batches. Formulation development. Approvals for preclinical candidate compound from the relevant body.

Clinical studies: PK, PD, Immunigenecity

Regulated Production, Regulatory Submission

Scale-up, Completion of GMP Process Validation and Consistency Lot Manufacturing and Regulatory Approvals.

Clinical Trials Phase 3 and Approval or Licensure

What are we seeking?

Technology ready to transfer on non-exclusive basis. Transferred to different entities from China, South Africa, Bangladesh and Iran so far.

We offer TT package and training in-house or video-based training.

PHASE1

•Scientists from the Company spend **4-6 weeks** in the ICGEB Laboratories gaining hands-on experience in the production of selected technologies OR **video-based train**ing and online technical assistance.

•Supply of **Protocols** describing process for the development of cell lines and complete down and upstream procedures and QC

PHASE 2

•Post training **assistance** to the industrial partner in establishing the process at its own facility

Dr Natasa Skoko's Group: Biotechnology Development Unit



Lead Scientist: Dr Natasa Skoko

Group Leader, Biotechnology Development Unit, ICGEB, Italy Member and reviewer, Women in Science in the Developing World Expertise: Production of biologics in bacteria, yeast and mammalian cells, bioprocessing operations such as upstream, downstream and quality control analysis following European Pharmacopoeia monographs

- Key assets and strengths of Dr Skoko's Lab:
 - Authored more than 20 publications in her areas of expertise
 - Team strength: 8
 - Well equipped labs and analytical facilities
 - Microbial and mammalian cell line facility
 - Downstream processing, chemical lab and QC lab
 - Clean rooms in Class C and D
 - Industry Project /Tech transfer
 - More that 25 years of experience in the field of biologics/biosimilars, more than 70 technology transfer agreements with companies
 - Companies from 22 countries, more than 100 scientists

trained in our lab







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