

NIPPON SHINYAKU, PHARMION ANNOUNCE LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR VIDAZA FOR MYELODYSPLASTIC SYNDROMES

Pharmion Corporation

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Nippon Shinyaku Co., Ltd. and Pharmion Corporation announced a license agreement under which Nippon Shinyaku will acquire exclusive rights in Japan to develop and commercialize Vidaza for the treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS).

DNA methylation plays a role in the regulation of gene expression, and hypermethylation is involved in gene silencing. When tumor suppressor genes, which control the processes of cell growth and differentiation, become silenced by DNA methylation, this can lead to tumor formation.

Vidaza exerts its efficacy through hypomethylation, resulting in re-expressing these genes and promoting normal development of blood cells. In the U.S. where Vidaza is already launched since July 2004, it is included as one of the first line therapies for MDS. Through this agreement, Nippon Shinyaku continues to expand its product pipeline in the field of hematological malignancy that is a target therapeutic area for R & D activities.