



Press Release

Zedira: BMBF supports development of FXIIIa blocker for thromboprophylaxis

Darmstadt, 1 June 2011. Zedira has received a further EUR 1.1 million in funding from the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (German abbreviation: BMBF).

Zedira is pursuing a new kind of mechanism for prophylaxis of thrombotic events. The lead compounds developed at Zedira open the way to small molecules targeting selectively coagulation factor XIIIa.

Inhibition of coagulation factor XIIIa, a transglutaminase, prevent the cross-linking of the fibrin fibres and the incorporation of anti-fibrinolytic factors. As opposed to the currently available therapies, the approach allows initial fibrin clotting. This prevents bleeding lowering the risk of life-threatening complications.

Preliminary studies on model systems document that factor XIIIa blockers do not obstruct the formation and aggregation of fibrin fibres but increase the fibrinolytic effects on the clot. The efficacy is even more pronounced in combination with approved fibrinolytic drugs.

The BMBF's ongoing support will enable Zedira to further bolster its technological position. Following the successful development of a drug candidate for celiac disease, this thromboprophylaxis project also paves the way for addressing other diseases in which transglutaminases are involved.

Brief profile of Zedira

The Darmstadt-based biopharmaceutical company focuses on celiac disease and consequently also on the transglutaminases family of enzymes. The Company develops, produces and markets products for research and development as well as for diagnostics. Based on its patented family of low-molecular transglutaminase blockers, Zedira is establishing an active ingredient pipeline covering the primary indication of celiac disease. As an area of secondary indication the Company is working on new approaches to thrombosis prophylaxis.

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