Commission Européenne

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COVID-19 treatment strategy: Commission identifies five promising treatment candidates

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The EU's COVID-19 treatment strategy is yielding first results today, with the announcement of the first portfolio of five treatments that may soon be available to treat patients across the EU . Four of these treatments are monoclonal antibodies under continuous evaluation by the European Medicines Agency. The fifth is an immunosuppressant with marketing authorization that could be extended to the treatment of patients with COVID-19.

Stella **Kyriakides** Health and Food Safety Commissioner said: *"Today we are taking the first step towards establishing a broad portfolio of COVID-19 treatments. Although vaccination is progressing at an increasing rate, the virus is not going to go away and patients will need safe and effective treatments to*

reduce the pressure of COVID-19. Our goal is clear: to identify other pioneering candidates under development and to authorize at least three new treatments by the end of the year. This is the European Health Union . ”

The five products are at an advanced stage of development and have a good chance of being among the three new treatments for COVID-19 that will be authorized by October 2021 - the target set as part of the strategy - however that the final data demonstrate their safety, quality and efficacy. These are the following products:

a new indication for COVID-19 for existing drugs:

- Eli Lilly's immunosuppressant baricitinib (a drug that reduces the activity of the immune system): an application for the extension of the marketing authorization to include the indication for COVID-19 is pending 'exam;

newly developed monoclonal antibodies undergoing continuous evaluation - a regulatory tool to accelerate the evaluation of a promising drug in the event of a public health emergency:

- the combination of bamlanivimab and etesevimab by Eli Lilly: continuous assessment;
- the combination of casirivimab and imdevimab from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and F. Hoffman-La Roche, Ltd: ongoing evaluation;
- Celltrion's regdanvimab: ongoing evaluation;
- sotrovimab from GlaxoSmithKline and Vir Biotechnology, Inc .: ongoing evaluation.

Next steps

The Commission will develop a portfolio of at least 10 potential COVID-19 treatments by October, building on the work of the recently established COVID-19 variant expert group. The selection process will be objective and science-based, with the selection criteria agreed with the Member States. As different types of products are needed for different patient populations and different stages and degrees of disease severity, the expert group will establish product categories and select the most promising treatment candidates for each category, based on the basis of scientific criteria.

The portfolio will contribute to the goal of having at least three new treatments authorized by October and possibly two more by the end of the year. The European Medicines Agency will launch further ongoing evaluations of promising treatments by the end of 2021, based on research and development results.

The Commission recently concluded a joint procurement agreement for the acquisition of monoclonal antibodies (casirivimab and imdevimab) and could launch further proceedings by the end of the year.

The first industry matchmaking event for treatments will be held on July 12-13 to ensure that once approved treatments are produced in sufficient quantity as quickly as possible.

context

The EU's COVID-19 treatment strategy aims to build a

broad portfolio of COVID-19 treatments with the aim of having three new treatments by October 2021 and possibly two more by the end of the year. It encompasses the entire life cycle of drugs, from research, development, selection of promising candidates, their rapid regulatory approval, manufacture and deployment to end use.

The strategy is part of the strengthening of a European Health Union , which is based on a coordinated EU approach to better protect the health of our citizens, the aim being to empower the EU and to its Member States the means to better prevent future pandemics, to cope with them and to improve the resilience of European health systems.

This strategy, which focuses on the treatment of patients with COVID-19, is a continuation of the EU's vaccine strategy proven , in which the use of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines has been authorized in the EU to prevent and reduce the transmission of cases, as well as hospitalization and death rates from the disease.

To know more

Questions and answers: COVID-19 treatment strategy - list of 5 treatment candidates

Reaction of the European Commission to the coronavirus: treatments

EU treatment strategy

European Medicines Agency - COVID-19 treatments

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