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MEDIA & INVESTOR RELEASE

Novartis Tafinlar + Mekinist receives FDA approval for first tumor-agnostic indication for BRAF V600E solid tumors

- *Tafinlar + Mekinist, the worldwide targeted therapy leader in BRAF/MEK-inhibition, is the first and only therapy to be approved with a tumor-agnostic indication for adult and pediatric patients with solid tumors that have a BRAF V600E mutation*[1,2]

- *Approval supported by results from Phase II ROAR and NCI-MATCH studies demonstrating overall response rates up to 80% in patients with BRAF V600E solid tumors*[1,2]

- *BRAF mutations drive tumor growth across more than 20 tumor types, including thyroid, brain and gynecologic cancers*[3,4]

Basel, June 23, 2022 — Novartis today announced the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted accelerated approval for Tafinlar® (dabrafenib) + Mekinist® (trametinib) for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients 6 years of age and older with unresectable or metastatic solid tumors with *BRAF* V600E mutation who have progressed following prior treatment and have no satisfactory alternative treatment options[1,2]. In accordance with the Accelerated Approval Program, continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon verification and description of clinical benefit in a confirmatory trial(s). Tafinlar + Mekinist is the first and only BRAF/MEK inhibitor to be approved with a tumor-agnostic indication for solid tumors carrying the *BRAF* V600E mutation, which drives tumor growth in more than 20 different tumor types, and it is the only BRAF/MEK inhibitor approved for use in pediatric patients[1,2].

“The combination of dabrafenib and trametinib demonstrated meaningful efficacy in multiple BRAF-positive tumor types, including in some patients with rare cancers who have no other treatment options available,” said principal investigator Dr. Vivek Subbiah, M.D., associate professor of Investigational Cancer Therapeutics and center medical director of the Clinical Center for Targeted Therapy, Division of Cancer Medicine, at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. “Physicians should consider a BRAF test as a routine diagnostic step that could enable a new option for treating patients with many solid tumors.”

The FDA approval was based on clinical efficacy and safety demonstrated in three clinical trials. In the Phase II ROAR (Rare Oncology Agnostic Research) basket study and the NCI-MATCH Subprotocol H study, Tafinlar + Mekinist resulted in overall response rates of up to 80% in patients with BRAF V600E solid tumors, including high- and low-grade glioma, biliary tract cancer and certain gynecological and gastrointestinal cancers. An additional study

(Study X2101) demonstrated the clinical benefit and acceptable safety profile of Tafinlar + Mekinist in pediatric patients[1,2].

“Tackling cancer is complex, which is why it is so important that we continue to follow the science as we pursue meaningful advances and new approaches to treating cancer,” said Reshema Kemps-Polanco, Head, Novartis Oncology US. “We are grateful to the patients, and to the multitude of individuals and teams working together to make this latest approval possible as we strive to do more for more people living with cancer.”

The safety profile of Tafinlar + Mekinist observed in these studies was consistent with the known safety profile in other approved indications.

BRAF mutations have been identified as drivers of cancer growth across a wide range of solid tumors, including in rare cancer types that can be challenging to study in Phase III trials and often have limited treatment options[3,4]. *BRAF* V600E is the most common type of BRAF mutation, accounting for up to 90% of BRAF-mutant cancers[3].

Full prescribing information for Tafinlar + Mekinist can be found at https://www.novartis.us/sites/www.novartis.us/files/tafinlar.pdf and https://www.novartis.us/sites/www.novartis.us/files/mekinist.pdf.

About Tafinlar + Mekinist
The combination of Tafinlar + Mekinist, the worldwide targeted therapy leader in BRAF/MEK-inhibition research and patients reached, may help to slow tumor growth by blocking signals associated with the BRAF and MEK kinases that are implicated in the growth of various types of cancer[1-5]. Tafinlar + Mekinist has been studied in more than 6,000 BRAF-positive patients in more than 20 ongoing and completed trials, including in pediatric patients 1 year of age and older, and has been prescribed to more than 200,000 patients worldwide[5].

Tafinlar + Mekinist is also approved for use in BRAF V600 mutation-positive unresectable or metastatic melanoma, as an adjuvant treatment for BRAF V600 mutation-positive melanoma after surgery, in BRAF V600 mutation-positive metastatic non-small cell lung cancer, and in BRAF V600 mutation-positive anaplastic thyroid cancer[1,2]. Tafinlar + Mekinist is not indicated for treatment of patients with colorectal cancer or for treatment of patients with wild-type BRAF solid tumors.

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