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Clinical study ready to start – a new treatment option for patients with bladder pain

SelectImmune Pharma has successfully completed the preparations to start a controlled clinical trial in patients with bladder pain syndrome (severe pain in the bladder). The patients will be treated with the drug Kineret, which is an Interleukin1 (IL-1) receptor antagonist (IL-1RA). The company can now announce that all permits are in place and that the recruitment of patients can start.

Patients with bladder pain syndrome have severe pain of unknown cause. Many different treatments have been tried, without lasting positive effects. New, more precise drugs are difficult to develop when the cause of disease remains unknown. Studies at Lund University have shown the molecule IL-1 affects the pain and that the pain is greatly reduced after Kineret treatment in an animal model for acute cystitis. Kineret is an IL-1 receptor antagonist that neutralizes the biological activity of both IL-1 α and IL-1 β .

Treatment with IL1RA off label has previously shown very positive results also in the clinic. The pain was reduced after treatment and the quality of life increased in this severely disabled patient group. Several patients were able to return to a more normal life. SelectImmune will now conduct a placebo-controlled study to evaluate the treatment effect with greater precision. To properly analyze the treatment effect, the study will include a larger number of patients and more clinical centers,.

The possibility of finding a treatment for this patient group is of great medical interest. The study will include two centers in Sweden. We also plan to expand the study with a center in Germany. These centers specialize, among other things, in bladder pain and participating investigators are key opinion leaders internationally. The study has been granted permission from the Swedish Medical Products Agency and Ethical Review Authority, and SelectImmune Pharma has established the study organization in Sweden and secured access to placebo through an agreement with Sobi (Swedish Orphan Biovitrum).

"It is important to really understand the potential of IL-1RA treatment in this patient group," says Gabriela Godaly, CEO, SelectImmune Pharma.

"It will be very interesting to investigate effects on pain and quality of life in a larger patient population" says Björn Wullt, associate professor and senior physician.

For more information, please contact

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SelectImmune Pharma is a pharmaceutical company whose shares are traded on the Spotlight Stock Market. The company goal is to develop new immunotherapies, which act as immune enhancers and offer alternatives to antibiotics.

Bacterial infections affect large parts of the population and are becoming difficult to treat due to increasing antibiotic resistance. SelectImmune Pharma develops immunomodulation therapies that can supplement or replace antibiotics. Urinary tract infections are among the most common infectious diseases world-wide, affecting about 150 million people each year. The need for alternative treatments for bacterial infections is currently very large as are potential markets