Optum Rx®

Pipeline insights report

Drugs to watch.

Injectible

Teclistamab: Brand name to be determined. Expected FDA decision: August 29, 2022.

Teclistamab is a novel drug to treat relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma.

Teclistamab is a new type of drug called bispecific antibodies. It targets a specific multiple myeloma antigen, and also redirects T-cells to kill myeloma cells.

Teclistamab would compete with an existing intravenous drug (Blenrep®), and two CAR-T cell therapies (Carvykti® and Abecma®). Its' efficacy is somewhat higher than Blenrep and slightly lower than the CAR-Ts, although CAR-T therapy may carry more risk.

No prices have been set. For reference, the wholesale acquisition cost for Blenrep is approximately $17,000 per 21 days.

Oral

Deucravacitinib: Brand name to be determined. Expected FDA decision: September 10, 2022.

Deucravacitinib is a novel oral drug being evaluated to treat adults with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis.

Deucravacitinib is a tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2) inhibitor. Inhibiting TYK2 helps control overproduction of the inflammatory compounds in immune-mediated diseases like psoriasis.

Injectable biologics currently lead a crowded marketplace for moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis. Otezla®, another oral product, is less commonly used because injectable biologics are more effective.

Deucravacitinib, like Otezla, will likely be used in patients requiring systemic therapy, but who should not take or are unwilling to be treated with injectable biologics.

For reference, Otezla's wholesale acquisition cost is approximately $48,000 per year.

Infused

Betibeglogene autotemcel: Brand name Zynteglo™. Expected FDA decision: August 19, 2022.

Zynteglo is one of two drugs we are profiling from bluebird bio. It is a gene therapy for transfusion-dependent beta-thalassemia.

Beta-thalassemia is caused by genetic mutations. Current treatment is limited to regular, life-long red blood cell transfusions.

Zynteglo is manufactured to add functional copies of the gene that these patients lack using the patient bone marrow stem cells. Reinfusing these engineered cells could therefore be a one-time cure.

Analysts forecast a $2.1 million cost for a one-time dose of Zynteglo.

Infused

Elivaldogene autotemcel: Brand Name Skysona™. Expected FDA decision: September 16, 2022.

Skysona is the second drug we are profiling from bluebird bio. It is a gene therapy to treat cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy (CALD) in young boys.

Patients with CALD lack a protein. This causes toxic acids to build up in the brain, and often leads to early death. Bone marrow transplantation is the typical treatment, although it cannot undo existing damage.

Skysona modifies bone marrow cells to add a functional copy of the missing gene. Trials showed that 90% of patients were alive and free of major functional disabilities at 24 months, with no recurrence through almost seven years.

No prices are available.

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