



THE MDS FOUNDATION SAYS REGULATORY DECISION APPROVING VIDAZA® IN THE UK PROVIDES AN ESSENTIAL TREATMENT OPTION TO PATIENTS

VIDAZA is the only licensed drug shown in clinical trials to improve survival

Yardville, NJ. USA (29 March, 2011) — The Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) Foundation—an international organization devoted to the prevention, treatment, and study of the myelodysplastic syndromes—today issued a statement applauding a decision from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in the UK (NICE) to recommend VIDAZA (azacitidine) in its approved indications for certain MDS patients.

MDS is a malignant bone marrow disease with a median survival of less than one year that can also progress to an aggressive form of leukemia called AML. VIDAZA from Celgene is the only drug approved by the EMA for MDS and is crucial to the treatment of this disease, especially for the majority of MDS patients, those over the age of 65 who are not eligible for bone marrow transplants. The NICE decision reverses a previous negative decision issued last year.

In 2009, data published in the peer-reviewed medical journal *The Lancet Oncology* confirmed that VIDAZA extends survival for patients with higher-risk MDS. In 2010 a study in a subset of these patients in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* concluded VIDAZA "prolongs survival and is well tolerated" in higher risk MDS patients and those with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) with 20-30% marrow blasts (previously called RAEB-T in the FAB classification). The study found that half of the older patients (median age 70) treated with VIDAZA survived at least two years, compared to only 16% of patients who received conventional care.

VIDAZA is specifically approved for use in the treatment of intermediate-2 and high-risk myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMML) and the subset of AML patients indicated above who are not eligible for stem cell transplantation.

About the MDS Foundation

The Myelodysplastic Syndromes Foundation, Inc. is a multi-disciplinary, international organization devoted to the prevention, treatment, and study of the myelodysplastic syndromes. The organization is based upon the premise that international cooperation will accelerate the process leading to the control and cure of these diseases. For further information, please visit <http://www.mds-foundation.org>.