Chugai Pharmaceutical has signed an agreement with Taisho Pharmaceutical to co-develop and co-market ED-71, an activated vitamin D derivative, which Chugai is currently developing in Japan for the treatment of osteoporosis.

Chugai will co-develop the compound with Taisho and co-market it with Taisho Toyama Pharmaceutical Co Ltd. In return, Chugai will receive an upfront fee and milestone payments from Taisho.

ED-71 is an activated vitamin D derivative created by Chugai. It is based on an activated vitamin D preparation that is being used widely in Japan as an osteoporosis treatment drug, albeit with a stronger effect on the bones. A domestic phase II clinical trial has confirmed that the drug acts to increase bone mass and a phase III clinical trial is currently underway, using bone fracture prevention effects as an indicator.

At present, there are an estimated 12 million osteoporosis patients in Japan. As bone fractures relating to osteoporosis lead to a decline in the quality of life of patients and an increased risk of death, there is a need for a treatment that both increases bone mass and reduces the incidence of bone fractures.

ED-71 is an activated vitamin D derivative, a type of drug positioned as a baseline drug to treat osteoporosis. It is expected to become the next-generation activated vitamin D derivative, maintaining the same degree of safety as a conventional drug while having enhanced effects in inhibiting bone resorption and promoting bone formation.

Through the joint effort to develop and market ED-71, Chugai and Taisho hope to provide such an option of osteoporosis treatment to as many patients as possible.

This agreement is expected to have a minor impact on the non-consolidated and consolidated business performances of Chugai and Taisho for the current fiscal year. No changes will be made to the two companies’ business forecasts.

About Chugai Pharmaceutical
Chugai Pharmaceutical Co Ltd is one of Japan’s leading research-based pharmaceutical companies with strengths in biotechnology products and in the therapeutic fields of oncology, renal diseases, cardiovascular diseases, bone/joint diseases and transplantation/infection/immunity. As an important member of the Roche group, it aims to become a top Japanese pharmaceutical company by providing a continuous flow of innovative new medicines domestically and internationally.

About Taisho Pharmaceutical Co Ltd.
The Group’s principal activity is in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products. The operations are carried out through the following divisions: self-medication and pharmaceutical prescription drugs. Self-medication drugs include non-prescription drugs, health and nutrient drinks, eye care medicines, foods, gardening goods, sanitary goods and medical goods. Pharmaceutical prescription drugs include prescription drugs, herbal medicines and biotechnology research.

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