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The 2008 Pipeline Report

Dec 1, 2008
By: **Ron Feenster**
PHARMACEUTICAL EXECUTIVE

Meningitis vaccines

A new Prevnar, plus new vaccines from Novartis and GSK

DRUG NAME	P10CRM12
DRUGMAKER	Wyeth
PHASE	Phase III
LAUNCH DATE	2010
DRUG NAME	Synfortis
DRUGMAKER	GSK
PHASE	Pre-registration
LAUNCH DATE	2009
DRUG NAME	Menveo
DRUGMAKER	Novartis
PHASE	Phase III
LAUNCH DATE	2009

Established meningitis vaccines may lose market share to their successors beginning next year, when a fresh crop of multivalent vaccines is expected to hit the market.

Candidates by Wyeth and Novartis are expected to become at least \$2 billion opportunities, according to Datamonitor's Holger Rovini.

Wyeth's **Prevnar** family of vaccines protect against pneumococcal serotypes that cause a variety of infections including blood infections and

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meningitis. The original Prevnar worked against seven serotypes. The new version, **PNCRM13**, also known as Prevnar 13v, targets those seven plus six more, including 19A, which is especially important in Asia. An additional indication is being sought for vaccinating the elderly. Rovini cited data that indicate vaccinating the very young can reduce the incidence of pneumococcal infections in the elderly, because vaccinated children do not infect their caregivers.

Synflorix, a 10-valent vaccine, excludes serotype 19A but adds non-typeable Haemophilus influenzae. The GSK drug could reach peak sales of \$600–700 million.

Menveo could reap upwards of \$2 billion for Novartis, according to Datamonitor. It competes with Sanofi-Pasteur's Menactra. Rovini notes that clinical data released by Novartis make Menveo appear superior, but the endpoints chosen may not prove any advantage over Menactra in terms of real-world benefits.

Pain

Breakthrough NSAIDS

Pills can be slow and relatively ineffective (to say nothing of addictive), and self-injection is a problem for many patients. As a result, too many post-operative patients spend extra days in the hospital. **Rox 888**, Roxro's new nasally delivered formulation of the NSAID ketorolac solves both of those problems. Rox 888 is fast acting and has proven as effective as intramuscular injections of ketorolac in the control of abdominal and orthopedic post-surgical pain.

DRUG NAME	Rox 888
DRUGMAKER	Roxro Pharma
PHASE	Phase III
DRUG NAME	Naproxcinod
DRUGMAKER	NiCox
PHASE	Phase III



Holger Rovini
players.

"This is a drug that can be easily administered in a home environment," says Neil Singla, MD, of Lotus Clinical Research in Pasadena, CA. "That's a huge advantage."

Meanwhile NiCox, a French company with an attractive nitric oxide-contributing technology has received positive Phase III results on its **naproxcinod**—which hit all its end points without detrimental effects to patient blood pressure. At a time when chronic pain meds are increasingly under fire for cardiac side effects, naproxcinod and the class of drugs coming up behind it could become major players.

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