



## **Almirall and Nycomed announce a licensing agreement for ebastine in China and other key Southeast Asia markets**

- Nycomed to take responsibility for sales, marketing and distribution of Kestine<sup>®</sup> (ebastine) in China, where it is already approved and reimbursed
- Kestine<sup>®</sup> will also be launched in Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia, strengthening Nycomed's and Almirall's position in Asia Pacific through licensing of innovative brands
- With this agreement, Almirall extends the global reach of the product, present now in more than 30 countries worldwide.

**Barcelona and Zurich, 29 September 2011,-** Almirall and Nycomed today announced that they have signed a licensing and supply agreement for Almirall's R&D antihistamine ebastine, under the trademark Kestine<sup>®</sup>, indicated for allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria, in China and other key emerging markets.

Under the terms of the agreement, Nycomed will have exclusive commercialisation rights for the existing Kestine<sup>®</sup> product in China. Additionally, Kestine<sup>®</sup> will be launched in Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia, with Nycomed becoming marketing authorisation holder in these territories. Financial details of the agreement were not disclosed.

Kestine<sup>®</sup> (ebastine) is a product developed by Almirall's R&D and which to date has been marketed in more than 30 countries worldwide through the company's own affiliates and licensees. Its efficacy and safety are backed by thorough, extensive research: over 100 clinical studies have been conducted on over 15,700 patients.

Luciano Conde, Almirall's Chief Operating Officer, commented: "We are very pleased to extend our collaboration with Nycomed to the Asia Pacific region. This agreement represents a step further in extending the global reach of ebastine to new patients and maximizing its value potential".

Guido Oelkers, Nycomed's Executive Vice President, Commercial Operations, said: "We are very pleased to have signed this license agreement to further expand our Asia Pacific product portfolio. Almirall's Kestine<sup>®</sup> is a high quality antihistamine which brings existing sales and potential for growth in China and further expansion in other key regional markets. Emerging markets continue to be our focus area for future growth."

Nycomed has one of the highest proportions of sales from emerging markets among major pharmaceutical companies. The company recently opened offices in China, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, rapidly increasing its capabilities in the region through the repatriation of its own core brands and the licensing of innovative products from other companies.

## **About Kestine® (ebastine)**

Kestine® (ebastine) is a product developed by Almirall's R&D and which to date has been marketed in more than 30 countries worldwide through the company's own affiliates and licensees.

Ebastine is a second-generation non-sedating H1 receptor antagonist antihistamine that is administered once a day. It is prescribed for the treatment of allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria. In some countries, it is prescribed for improving the symptoms associated with mosquito bites and atopic dermatitis.

Its efficacy and safety are backed by thorough, extensive research: over 100 clinical studies have been conducted on over 15,700 patients.

## **About Almirall**

Almirall is an international pharmaceutical company based on innovation and committed to health. Headquartered in Barcelona, Spain, it researches, develops, manufactures and commercialises its own R&D and licensed drugs with the aim of improving people's health and wellbeing.

Almirall focuses its research resources on therapeutic areas related to the treatment of asthma, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), gastrointestinal disorders, psoriasis and other dermatological conditions.

Almirall's products are currently present in over 70 countries while it has direct presence in Europe and Latin America through 12 affiliates.

For further information please visit the website at: [www.almirall.com](http://www.almirall.com)

## **About Nycomed**

Nycomed is a privately owned global pharmaceutical company with a diversified portfolio focused on branded medicines in gastroenterology, respiratory and inflammatory diseases, pain, osteoporosis and tissue management. A range of OTC products completes the portfolio.

Its R&D is structured around collaborations. In-licensing and expanding in emerging markets are cornerstones of the company's growth strategy.

Nycomed employs 12,500 associates worldwide, and its products are sold in more than 100 countries. It has strong platforms in Europe and in fast-growing markets such as Russia/CIS, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. In the US and Japan its products are available through best in class partners.

Headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, the company generated total sales of €3.2 billion in 2010 and an adjusted EBITDA of €851 million.

For further information please visit [www.nycomed.com](http://www.nycomed.com)

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