**Pyramax: increasing treatment options in malaria-endemic countries**

Since 2002, Shin Poong Pharmaceutical and Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) have worked in partnership to develop Pyramax®, a high-quality, novel fixed-dose artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) with a 2-year shelf life. In a rigorous clinical trial programme, Pyramax has been shown to be highly efficacious and active against both *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* — the two most prevalent malaria parasites.

In 2012, Pyramax became the first ACT to receive a positive scientific opinion for efficacy, tolerability and quality from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) under Article 58 for the treatment of a single malaria episode in areas of low endemicity and low transmission, with evidence of artemisinin resistance, for use by adults and children over 20 kg.

New indication and a child-friendly presentation

Following EMA approval, Pyramax was the subject of an extensive phase IIIb/IV study testing the safety and efficacy of its repeat use in patients. In parallel, a new child-friendly granule presentation was developed. The data generated from this programme were instrumental in achieving a first-time positive opinion from the EMA in November 2015 for Pyramax®. Granules for infants and children between 5 and 20 kg, as well as approval of a strengthened product label for the tablet. The new label allows for the repeat use of Pyramax, removing the previous restrictions that had limited its use. The new indication, together with the child-friendly formulation, means that Pyramax presents one of the most comprehensive options for treating acute uncomplicated malaria.

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**References**

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Dr David Reddy, CEO, MMV

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