



## Press Release

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### **Pritor®/Kinzal® offers more protection for CV patients**

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**Berlin/Rome, September 22, 2007** – The cardiometabolic AT<sub>1</sub>-receptor blocker (ARB) **Pritor®/Kinzal®** (telmisartan) meets and, in some instances, even exceeds existing gold standards (ACE inhibitors and other ARBs) in renal protection. This was the conclusion of scientific experts after discussing the results of the comprehensive international **PROTECTION®** study programme at the symposium and round table entitled “Telmisartan. Aim for more protection” held by Bayer Schering Pharma in Rome on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007.

The **PROTECTION®** Programme (**P**rogramme of **R**esearch **tO** show **T**elmisartan **E**nd-organ prote**CT**ION) was initiated to underline the preventive effect of the long-acting telmisartan in patients with hypertension, type 2 diabetes and early target organ damage. The **PROTECTION®** Programme consists of ten trials, including the **AMADEO** and **TRENDY** studies, with 6,875 patients from 32 countries. The trials demonstrate that **Pritor®/ Kinzal®**'s renoprotective properties are comparable to the existing gold standards (ACE inhibitors and other ARBs), and in some instances even better. “In addition to the powerful blood pressure reduction and the favorable safety profile, telmisartan has shown in the **AMADEO** study that it may provide very effective end-organ protection,” said Prof. Giuseppe Mancia, Chairman of the department of Clinical Medicine, Prevention and Applied Biotechnologies of the University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy. “The findings of the **TRENDY** study show that telmisartan can also improve renal endothelial function at an early stage of renal impairment and may therefore prevent the progression to overt renal disease in hypertensive patients with type 2 diabetes”.

Besides The **PROTECTION®** Programme, another extensive trial programme is currently ongoing. The **ONTARGET®** Trial Programme (The **ON**going **T**elmisartan **A**lone and in **C**ombination with **R**amipril **G**lobal **E**ndpoint **T**rial) is the largest outcome study programme ever undertaken with an angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) in cardiovascular disease prevention and end-organ protection. It involves over 31,000 cardiovascular high-risk patients in more than 40 countries worldwide. The objective of **ONTARGET®** is to clarify whether **Pritor®/ Kinzal®** (telmisartan) can be used to treat cardiovascular complications alone or in combination with the ACE inhibitor ramipril. “I am confident the upcoming results of the **ONTARGET®** trial at the ACC in 2008 will support the findings of The **PROTECTION®** Programme results and likely change the management of cardiovascular disease overall”, stated Prof. Roland Asmar, Medical Director of The Cardiovascular Institute, Paris, France, at the symposium.

Telmisartan is one of the modern AT<sub>1</sub>-receptor blockers (ARB) discovered by Boehringer Ingelheim. Pritor®/ Kinzalmono®, the monoproduct with telmisartan alone, and PritorPlus®/ Kinzalkomb®, the combination product with hydrochlorothiazide, are marketed in most European countries by Bayer Schering Pharma.

Both, the PROTECTION® and ONTARGET® Trial Programmes, are sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim and co-sponsored by Bayer Schering Pharma as part of a co-marketing agreement signed in 2002.

Pritor®/ Kinzalmono® (telmisartan) is a cardiometabolic ARB as it exerts a potent and long-lasting antihypertensive effect through powerful 24-hour blood pressure control, and provides additional metabolic benefits through the Selective Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor gamma (PPAR-γ) modulation (SPPARM). These metabolic properties are important for cardiovascular protection and include the improvement of insulin sensitivity and lipid parameters, as well as the reduction of cell inflammation and cell proliferation.

### **About the disease**

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is one of the leading causes of death and disability. Worldwide, CVD results in approximately 7 million deaths each year, particularly from myocardial infarction and stroke. There are many risk factors associated with cardiovascular disease, including life-style factors (smoking, physical inactivity), modifiable factors (hypertension, dyslipidemia, diabetes mellitus) and non-modifiable factors (age, sex). One of the main factors responsible for CVD is arterial hypertension. The World Health Organization (WHO) expects that 600 million people with high blood pressure bear an increased risk of myocardial infarction or stroke.

The development of CVD from the onset to end-stage heart disease shows a stepwise progression: mechanical or biochemical changes lead to arteriosclerotic changes and thrombotic occlusion. The ischemic organ damage finally results in progressive functional impairment. Angiotensin II (All) - acting through the AT<sub>1</sub>-receptor - is involved in every step of this multifactorial process. Therefore, blocking the AT<sub>1</sub>-receptor can be expected to significantly reduce cardiovascular morbidity and mortality by retarding the progression of CVD.

### **Bayer HealthCare**

Bayer HealthCare, a subsidiary of Bayer AG, is one of the world's leading, innovative companies in the healthcare and medical products industry and is based in Leverkusen, Germany. The company combines the global activities of the Animal Health, Consumer Care, Diabetes Care and Pharmaceuticals divisions. The pharmaceuticals business operates under the name of Bayer Schering Pharma and Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals in the US and Canada. Bayer HealthCare's aim is to discover and manufacture products that will improve human and animal health worldwide. [www.bayerhealthcare.com](http://www.bayerhealthcare.com)

### **Bayer Schering Pharma**

Bayer Schering Pharma is a worldwide leading specialty pharmaceutical company. Its research and business activities are focused on the following areas: Diagnostic Imaging, Hematology/Cardiology, Oncology, Primary Care, Specialized Therapeutics

and Women's Healthcare. With innovative products, Bayer Schering Pharma aims for leading positions in specialized markets worldwide. Using new ideas, Bayer Schering Pharma aims to make a contribution to medical progress and strives to improve quality of life. [www.bayerscheringpharma.de](http://www.bayerscheringpharma.de)

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**Forward-Looking Statements**

This news release contains forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by Bayer Group management. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and the estimates given here. These factors include those discussed in our annual and interim reports to the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and in our reports filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (including our Form 20-F). The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking