Steps before prequalification

I BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROCEDURE

1. Submission of the dossier

The company Roche Products Limited submitted in 2019 an application for MabThera[1] 500mg/50mL concentrate for solution for infusion, to be assessed with the aim of including MabThera in the list of prequalified medicinal products for the treatment of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and follicular lymphoma.

MabThera was assessed according to the WHO Pilot Procedure for Prequalification of Biotherapeutic Products: rituximab and trastuzumab[2] and relevant applicable guidelines by the team of WHO assessors. The assessors are senior experts, mainly from national authorities, invited by WHO to participate in the prequalification assessment process.

The prequalification of this product by the WHO Prequalification of Medicines Programme is based on the approval by a stringent regulatory authority (SRA), namely the "European Medicines Agency" (EMA; http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/) in line with the applicable guidelines[2]

Hence, no assessment of the data underlying this approval has been undertaken within the WHO Prequalification Team: Medicines (PQTm). However, according to the above-mentioned guideline WHO verified that the product, and in particular composition/formulation, strength, manufacturing, specifications, packaging, product information, will, at the time of submission and after prequalification, in all respects be the same as the product registered with the reference SRA ("verification"). Furthermore, WHO requested additional data for the safe use of the product in regions relevant for prequalified products and this information is included in the WHOPAR (part 6b). In order to safeguard product quality throughout its entire intended shelf-life, WHO assessed the evidences to verify the adherence to the principles outlined in the most recent version of the WHO guidelines on the international packaging and shipping of vaccines, also partially applicable to other biotherapeutic products[3], to demonstrate suitability of the packaging to regions outside of climatic zone II. The WHO assessment included the packaging procedures for international shipments and the validation protocols and reports of the shipping boxes used for supply of the prequalified product.

Based on the data submitted the team of assessors advised that MabThera is included in the list of prequalified medicinal products. MabThera was listed on 31 July 2020[2].

Licensing status:
MabThera has been licensed / registered in the European Union.

2. Steps taken in the evaluation of the product

Jun 2019	The applicant submitted the dossier.
Nov 2019	The assessment team reviewed the submitted data and accepted the dossier for assessment.
Dec 2019	The assessment team reviewed the submitted document for the verification, quality and pharmacovigilance data and further information was requested.

[1] Trade names are not prequalified by WHO. This is the national medicines regulatory authority's responsibility. Throughout this WHOPAR the proprietary name is given as an example only.
[2] https://www.who.int/medicines/regulation/biotherapeutic_products/en/
[3] https://www.who.int/immunization_standards/vaccine_quality/vaccines_packaging_guidelines2019/en/

Feb 2020	The applicant's response letter was received.
Apr 2020	The assessment team reviewed the submitted data and further data was requested on verification, quality and pharmacovigilance.
Jun 2020	The applicant's response letter was received.
Jul 2020	The applicant's response letter was received and verification, quality and pharmacovigilance data were found to be in compliance with WHO requirements.
31 Jul 2020	MabThera 500mg/50mL concentrate for solution for infusion was included in the list of prequalified medicinal products.

II GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE PREQUALIFICATION

1. Manufacturer, Commitments and Inspection status

Filling of vials, primary packaging:

Roche Diagnostics GmbH
Sandhofer Straße 116
D-68305 Mannheim
Germany

Genentech Inc.
1 DNA Way
South San Francisco; CA 94080-4990
USA

Genentech, Inc.
4625 NE Brookwood Parkway
Hillsboro, OR 97124-9332
USA

Name and address of the manufacturer responsible for batch release:

Roche Pharma AG
Emil-Barell-Str. 1
D-79639 Grenzach-Wyhlen
Germany

Commitments for Prequalification

The Applicant committed to submit to WHO following each marketing authorization, a brief discussion on how the Applicant has addressed, after product prequalification, any potential differences in healthcare settings, compared to SRAs, that have required a revision of the adequacy of the safety concerns, pharmacovigilance activities, risk minimisation measures and/or traceability of the product.

Inspection status

The sites are inspected by a stringent regulatory authority