BioCentury
Chi-Med's fruquintinib meets in mCRC Phase II
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Hutchison China MediTech Ltd. (LSE:HCM) said fruquintinib (HMPL-013) met the primary endpoint of progression-free survival (PFS) in a Chinese Phase II study to treat metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC).

Chi-Med said its majority-owned Hutchison MediPharma Ltd. R&D subsidiary is still assessing secondary efficacy endpoints, including objective response rate (ORR), disease control rate and overall survival (OS).

The trial compared fruquintinib vs. placebo plus best supportive care in patients with mCRC as a third-line therapy.

In December, HMP began a Phase III study of the small molecule that selectively inhibits the tyrosine kinase activity associated with VEGF receptors to treat mCRC patients who have failed at least two prior therapies. HMP also started a Phase Ib study of the compound in October 2014 to treat gastric cancer, and a Phase II study in June 2014 to treat non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

Chi-Med granted Eli Lilly and Co. (NYSE:LLY) rights to commercialize fruquintinib in China under a 2013 deal (see BioCentury Extra, Oct. 9, 2013).

Chi-Med gained 25p to 1,315p on Monday.