

Cadila-CSIR's sepsis drug shows promise in fight against Covid-19

The drug is all set to go to phase 3 of clinical trials after the earlier phase showed positive results

SOHINI DAS
Mumbai, 22 June

As the race to find treatment or vaccine for Covid-19 heats up, Ahmedabad-based Cadila Pharmaceuticals and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR's) Sepsivac is all set to enter Phase 3 clinical trials after the earlier phase showed positive results.

The public-private partnership trial-generated data will be soon presented before the country's drug regulator to see if it can get emergency-use authorisation.

"By July 15, we will have the necessary data from the Phase 2 trials and again approach the regulator to see if this drug can be given emergency-use authorisation in the wake of the pandemic. Meanwhile, we also have the approval in place to start two Phase 3 trials — one on 600 patients, another on 500 patients — for this drug," said Ram A Vishwakarma, director, CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine.

The Phase 2 trials were conducted across Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi, and AIIMS, Bhopal. For the third phase, two more sites will be added — AIIMS

WHAT IS SEPSIVAC

- Sepsivac is used to treat sepsis, a life-threatening infection
- It has a two-pronged approach — boosts innate immunity & inhibits inflammatory response of body
- Humans have innate and acquired immunity. Sepsivac kickstarts the innate immunity in a person
- Acquired immunity or conventional vaccines work via antibodies
- Sepsivac is different from a conventional vaccine
- It inhibits IL6 or inflammatory cytokines that attack the organs
- If organ damage is controlled, body's innate immunity then helps fight the virus



Raipur and a Banaras Hindu University institute.

Sepsivac is an immunomodulator drug. Researchers feel the drug works in a two-pronged approach. One, it kick-starts the innate immunity system to act against the pathogen. Two, it also works to reduce the release of inflammatory Cytokine IL-6 that

attacks internal organs.

Vishwakarma explained that Sepsivac is not an antibody-generating vaccine. "It can be called a therapeutic vaccine that will kick-start the innate immunity. There are two kinds of immunity in our body — innate immunity that we are born with and get from our ancestors and there is the

acquired immunity. Acquired immunity is mostly governed by antibodies," said Vishwakarma.

Whenever a virus or bacteria attacks our body, the innate immunity or trained immunity first reacts. "We are boosting this trained immunity or what we call scientifically, Th1 (T helper type 1). It reacts in most patients, which is why they get cured. In some with comorbidities, their immune system is already compromised," said Vishwakarma.

Given in the early phase of infection, it protects the patient from infection. The second way in which this drug works is by inhibiting the IL-6 or inflammatory cytokine.

"Most of the damage happens due to this in IL-6 in patients. A Roche drug Tocilizumab works in this manner. Sepsivac or Mycobacterium w also stops the release of IL-6 which would control the multi-organ damage. A patient's innate immunity then has an opportunity to protect him," he explained. Mycobacterium w is not a SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus-2) virus-specific immunity.

Further, in the Phase 3 trial, the plan is to give the drug to a group of 500 patients after they have recovered from the virus, so that they do not redevelop the disease in future.

Apple dials up privacy features, refreshes iOS

Tim Cook kicked off Apple's first virtual World Wide Developer's Conference with a strong message on equality amid the Black Lives Matter movement.

He also spoke on the global disruptions caused by Covid-19. "Our mission has always been to make the world a better place. And we're committed to being a force for change," he said.

In one of the many new updates to iOS, MacOS, Watch-

OS, the firm said all apps would now be required to obtain user permission before tracking.

"Later this year, App Store product pages will feature summaries of developers' self-reported privacy practices. Users can choose to share their approximate location with app developers rather than their precise location, and get even more transparency into an app's use of the microphone and camera."

Below are some of the major changes announced.

iOS 14

The latest version of the iPhone operating system has a big change to the iOS home screen, which includes the ability to set default email and browser apps for the first time. It also has a new feature called "App Library" that automatically organises apps

Digital car keys

The feature lets iPhone owners unlock and start cars with their devices at its annual conference

for software developers

iPad stylus (Pencil)

Apple announced new improvements to its iPad stylus, called Pencil that can now be used to input text all over the iPad user interface, a feature Apple calls Scribble

Translate app

Apple has also introduced a new translation app that enables real-time translation between two different lan-

guages

AirPods

Apple said that its wireless earbuds, AirPods, will now automatically switch from iPhone to computer when needed

Apple Watch

The latest version of the Apple Watch software can track user sleep patterns using a machine learning model that senses motion at night
(With inputs from CNBC)

54 employees test +ve, ONGC halts ops at 2 rigs

SHINE JACOB
New Delhi, 22 June

State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has halted operations at two drilling rigs in Western Coast, following the death of an employee and another 54 testing positive for coronavirus (Covid-19). The two rigs are in two of the most lucrative assets of the company — Mumbai High and Bassein.

A company official said work stopped temporarily only at two rigs and the remaining 34 in the offshore were operational. He added there was no impact on the firm's production.

Mumbai High, also known as Bombay High, is an offshore oilfield located in the Arabian Sea, approximately 160 km west of the Mumbai coast. The field, discovered in 1974 and started production in 1976, is known primarily for its oil production. It also consists of two blocks — Mumbai High North and Mumbai High South. Mumbai High produces around 170,000 barrels of oil per day and 12 million metric standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) of natural gas.

On the other hand, Bassein field, also called the Vasai field, is located 80 km off the Mumbai coast and is considered one of the largest gas fields in India. The field was discovered in 1976 and put in production in 1988. Spread across 7,300 square kilometres in the Arabian Sea, it consists of South Bassein field, NBP (D-1) field, B-193 super sour field, Vasai East field and C-Series and Daman gas field.

ONGC claimed that works are going on following the standard operating procedure and its staff is properly informed about social distancing. Interestingly, ONGC employee bodies had reportedly alleged that the infection was spreading due to lack of proper guidelines. During the lockdown, its staff in Mumbai offshore fields were working continuously for five weeks. It was only after the lockdown restrictions were lifted did ONGC arrange for charter flights for their workers to reach Mumbai.

The company's overall production was hit badly by the lockdown due to the Covid 19 outbreak. In April, the company's natural gas production dropped by 15 per cent while its crude oil production dipped marginally by 0.5 per cent compared to the same month in 2019.

Overall, gas output of India for April also dropped 18.6 per cent to 2.16 billion cubic metres (bcm) against 2.65 bcm a year ago. Crude oil production also fell 6.35 per cent to 2.5 million tonnes (mt) in April.

The state-run major cut its capital expenditure (capex) by over 15 per cent or ₹5,000 crore for 2020-21. India's largest oil and gas producer had budgeted a capex of ₹32,502 crore for the financial year.

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR ACQUISITION OF ASSETS OF ABHIJEET MADC NAGPUR ENERGY PVT. LTD. – In LIQUIDATION

Abhijeet MADC Nagpur Energy Private Limited
4 x 61.5 MW Power Plant Nagpur, Maharashtra
[Reserve Price: 150 Crores]

Interested applicants may submit EOI with a non-refundable fee of Rs 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only), in terms of the invitation. For detailed terms and conditions of the EOI, visit: http://vinodkothari.com/bankruptcy_code/annepil/ or drop a mail at annepilliquidation@gmail.com

SEBI registered Merchant Bankers/ reputed financial consultants with proven track record of sale of assets under liquidation/CIRP/SARFAESI may also solicit interest of potential Applicants for the proposed sale by the Liquidator.

Last date of receipt of EOI, along with necessary Non Refundable Fee is 30.06.2020 till 19:00 hours

Vinod Kumar Kothari, Liquidator
Abhijeet MADC Nagpur Energy Pvt. Ltd. - In Liquidation
Address: 1006-1009, Krishna Building
224 A/JC Bose Road, Kolkata-700017
E-mail: resolution@vinodkothari.com
Registration No.: IBB/I/PA-002/IP-N00019/2016-17/10033
Date: 22.06.2020



AGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

(1) Trade Representative/Marketing Services Agency
(2) Public Relations and Advertising Agency

The California Walnut Commission, headquartered in Folsom, California, has conducted marketing activities on behalf of the California Walnut Industry in India since 2014. In order to increase awareness and utilization of walnuts by commercial users as well as consumers, an assortment of promotional and educational programs must be designed, implemented and evaluated. Companies and/or individuals submitting proposals must have prior experience working with foreign agriculture commodity groups to be considered.

The Commission is seeking an in-country agency or agencies to accomplish these tasks. The Commission has utilized a Trade Representative/Marketing Services Agency for the purpose of maintaining a close working relationship with all levels of the trade and developing and executing measurable programs that accomplish stated goals. A Public Relations and Advertising Agency has also been utilized with the purpose of employing a multi-channel approach to raise consumer awareness of the uses and benefits of walnuts from California.


Agencies may submit proposals on one or both of these RFPs with the understanding that if they are selected, they will work collaboratively with another agency if separate agencies are selected for the trade and consumer related needs. If interested in both components, separate proposals for each must be submitted.

Under the U.S. Department of Agriculture Market Access Program (MAP) regulations, the Commission is required to re-bid the account and is soliciting proposals from interested firms. The Request for Proposal (RFP) guidelines, selection criteria and background information can be obtained from:

Pamela Graviet, Senior Marketing Director, International California Walnut Commission
101 Parkshore Drive, Suite # 250 Folsom, California 95630 USA
Telephone: (916) 932-7070; Fax: (916) 932-7071
Email: rfp@walnuts.org

All inquiries and requests must be made in writing, in English and indicate which RFP you are interested in receiving materials. Interested firms may bid on one or both proposals. All final proposals must be received in Folsom on or before Friday, August 21, 2020

"The CWB / CWC prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). CWB / CWC is an equal opportunity employer and provider."



AIA ENGINEERING LIMITED

Regd. Office.: Regd. Office.: 115, GVMM Estate, Odhav Road, Ahmedabad 382 410
CIN: L29259GJ1991PLC015182;
Ph. 079-22901078
Fax: 079-22901077;
Website: www.aiaengineering.com,
Email: ric@aiaengineering.com

Statement of Consolidated Audited Results for the Quarter and Year Ended 31st March, 2020

(₹ in Lakhs)					
Sr. No.	Particulars	Consolidated			
		Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		31/03/2020	31/03/2019	31/03/2020	31/03/2019
		Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations (Net)	85,693.42	88,799.22	298,087.75	306,949.99
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	18,574.66	19,025.02	71,872.43	69,440.01
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	18,574.66	19,025.02	71,872.43	69,440.01
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	14,242.22	15,589.32	59,032.01	51,143.77
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	16,325.26	16,925.76	58,638.31	50,490.47
6	Equity Share Capital			1,886.41	1,886.41
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as per the Balance Sheet			368,242.23	349,484.40
8	Earnings Per Share(EPS) (of ₹ 2 each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
	a. Basic	15.02	16.52	62.59	54.16
	b. Diluted	15.02	16.52	62.59	54.16

Notes:

1. The details of the following items on the Standalone basis:

(₹ in Lakhs)					
Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		31/03/2020	31/03/2019	31/03/2020	31/03/2019
		Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
	Total Income from Operations (Net)	71,192.40	74,006.23	258,762.44	283,758.50
	Profit Before Tax	43,184.40	13,511.42	95,741.03	60,191.41
	Profit After Tax	38,982.60	9,806.18	83,252.97	41,482.17
	Total Comprehensive income for the period (after tax)	39,323.95	9,705.81	83,515.58	41,577.33
2	The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results for the Quarter / Year ended 31st March, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Result for the Quarter / Year ended 31st March, 2020 are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com & www.nseindia.com) and Company's website (www.aiaengineering.com).				

By Order of Board of Directors
For AIA Engineering Limited

Sd/-
(Bhadresh K. Shah)
Managing Director
DIN:00058177

Place: Ahmedabad
Date: 22 June 2020