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AnGes MG, Inc.

New Medical-Use Patent for HGF Gene Therapy Granted in Japan  
- For Treatment or Prophylaxis of Brain Infarction -

AnGes MG, Inc. announces that a medical use patent of HGF gene for brain infarction was granted in Japan, and Patent Gazette (Patent No. 4,642,303) was issued today.

Brain infarction (stroke) occurs when the brain falls into an ischemic state and the circulation of oxygen and nutrients into the brain is disturbed due to cerebral arterial occlusion or constriction caused by thrombosis, arteriosclerosis, etc., leading to necrosis or a near-necrotic state of brain tissues.

Among causes of death in Japanese, brain infarction is the next most common disease after cancer and heart disease. It is said that the number of patients with cerebrovascular disease in Japan is said to be about 1.35 million, and it is estimated that about 200,000 people newly develop brain infarction every year. And even if it does not lead to death, this disease is characteristically followed by a serious sequela such as hemiplegia (paralysis on one side of the body, movement disorder), language disorder, or consciousness disorder. Currently, only therapies based on rehabilitation training are available, and there is a demand for the establishment of effective therapies or prophylactic methods in the future.

The present invention focuses on the neuroprotective action (suppressive action against neuronal cell death) in addition to the potent angiogenic activity of HGF, to enable safe and effective treatment or prophylaxis of brain infarction by injection of HGF genes into the subarachnoid space.

Targets for the treatment/prophylaxis include disorders caused by brain infarction, disorders associated with decreased blood flow in the brain, as well as disorders that are expected to be improved by the neuronal cell protective action after brain infarction. As a concrete example, dementia symptoms as sequelae of brain infarction may be treated or improved.

Outside Japan, AnGes MG holds similar rights and is establishing a patent network for its international development of HGF gene therapy.

US Patent: No. 6,936,594 (registered in August 2005)

European Patent: No. 1,132,098 (registered in May 2010)

Chinese Patent: No. 1,194,762 (registered in March 2005)

In addition to the current patent, a succession of other HGF gene therapy related medical-use patent applications have been filed in order to expand the scope of clinical applications.

Meanwhile, this trend will have no effect on AnGes MG's business performance for the current fiscal year.