

ASTRAZENECA PLC
Form 6-K
May 11, 2018

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of May 2018

Commission File Number: 001-11960

AstraZeneca PLC

1 Francis Crick Avenue
Cambridge Biomedical Campus
Cambridge CB2 0AA
United Kingdom

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7): _____

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the Registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b):
82- _____

AstraZeneca PLC

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

1.
(AstraZeneca update on Fasenra PIII trial in COPD)

11 May 2018 07:00 BST

AstraZeneca provides update on GALATHEA Phase III trial for Fasenra in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

GALATHEA Phase III trial did not meet the primary endpoint of a statistically-significant reduction of exacerbations in patients with COPD

Second Phase III trial TERRANOVA is ongoing with results expected later this quarter

AstraZeneca and MedImmune, its global biologics research and development arm, today announced top-line results from the GALATHEA Phase III trial for Fasenra (benralizumab) in patients with moderate to very severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The trial did not meet the primary endpoint of a statistically-significant reduction of exacerbations in patients with COPD.

Dr. Sean Bohan, Executive Vice President, Global Medicines Development and Chief Medical Officer, said: "COPD is a debilitating disease with significant unmet need among patients whose disease remains uncontrolled despite treatment with existing inhaled therapies. We will now await the results of TERRANOVA and a full evaluation of both trials to determine next steps for Fasenra in COPD."

The pivotal Phase III trials GALATHEA and TERRANOVA are randomised, double-blinded, 56-week placebo-controlled, multi-centre trials assessing the safety and efficacy of Fasenra as an add-on to dual or triple inhaled therapy compared to placebo in patients with moderate to very severe COPD with a history of exacerbations across a range of baseline blood eosinophils.¹

The safety and tolerability findings in GALATHEA were consistent with those observed in previous trials with Fasenra. A full evaluation of the data is ongoing and the results will be submitted for presentation at a forthcoming medical meeting.

Fasenra is AstraZeneca's first respiratory biologic and is currently approved as an add-on treatment for severe eosinophilic asthma in the US, EU, Japan and several other countries.

The results of the GALATHEA trial do not impact the approved indication in severe eosinophilic asthma.

About COPD

COPD is a progressive disease which can cause obstruction of airflow in the lungs resulting in debilitating bouts of breathlessness.² It affects an estimated 384 million people worldwide and is predicted to be the third-leading cause of death by 2020.^{2,3} At initial diagnosis, approximately one-third of COPD patients have severe or very severe forms of

this disease.⁴ Improving lung function, reducing exacerbations and managing daily symptoms such as breathlessness are important to the management of COPD.²

About 30-40% of moderate to severe COPD patients on triple inhaled therapy (ICS/LAMA/LABA) remain uncontrolled and continue to experience exacerbations.^{5,6} COPD exacerbations significantly impair quality of life and are linked to disease progression, accelerated decline in lung function, and increased hospitalisations and mortality.^{7,8,9}

About Fasentra

Fasentra (benralizumab) is a monoclonal antibody that recruits natural killer cells to induce rapid and near-complete depletion of eosinophils, a type of white blood cell that are a normal part of the body's immune system.^{10,11} Depletion of circulating eosinophils is rapid, with an onset of action within 24 hours as confirmed in Phase I/II severe asthma trials.^{10,11,12}

Fasentra is AstraZeneca's first respiratory biologic now approved in severe eosinophilic asthma in the US, EU, Japan, Canada and Australia and under regulatory review in several other jurisdictions.

Fasentra was developed by AstraZeneca with MedImmune, the company's global biologics research and development arm and is in-licensed from BioWa, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kyowa Hakko Kirin Co., Ltd., Japan.

About the VOYAGER Programme

VOYAGER is AstraZeneca's Phase III Fasentra clinical trial programme in COPD and, with close to 4,000 patients, it is currently the largest COPD biologics development programme in the world.¹³ The VOYAGER programme includes two trials, GALATHEA and TERRANOVA, evaluating Fasentra in patients with moderate to very severe COPD with a history of exacerbations across a range of baseline blood eosinophils.¹³

About AstraZeneca in Respiratory Disease

Respiratory disease is one of AstraZeneca's main therapy areas, and the Company has a growing portfolio of medicines that reached more than 18 million patients in 2017. AstraZeneca's aim is to transform asthma and COPD treatment through inhaled combinations at the core of care, biologics for the unmet needs of specific patient populations, and scientific advancements in disease modification.

The Company is building on a 40-year heritage in respiratory disease and AstraZeneca's capability in inhalation technology spans pressurised metered-dose inhalers and dry powder inhalers, as well as the Aerosphere Delivery Technology. The company also has a growing portfolio of respiratory biologics, including Fasentra (anti-eosinophil, anti-IL-5 α), now approved for severe eosinophilic asthma, and tezepelumab (anti-TSLP), which achieved its Phase IIb primary and secondary endpoints and is continuing development in the Phase III PATHFINDER clinical trial programme. AstraZeneca's research is focused on addressing underlying disease drivers focusing on the lung epithelium, lung immunity and lung regeneration.

About MedImmune

MedImmune is the global biologics research and development arm of AstraZeneca, a global, innovation-driven biopharmaceutical business that focuses on the discovery, development and commercialisation of small molecule and biologic prescription medicines. MedImmune is pioneering innovative research and exploring novel pathways across Oncology, Respiratory, Cardiovascular & Metabolic Diseases, and Infection and Vaccines. The MedImmune headquarters is located in Gaithersburg, Md., one of AstraZeneca's three global R&D centres, with additional sites in Cambridge, UK and Mountain View, Calif. For more information, please visit www.medimmune.com

About AstraZeneca

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

AstraZeneca is a global, science-led biopharmaceutical company that focuses on the discovery, development and commercialisation of prescription medicines, primarily for the treatment of diseases in three therapy areas - Oncology, Cardiovascular & Metabolic Diseases and Respiratory. The Company also is selectively active in the areas of autoimmunity, neuroscience and infection. AstraZeneca operates in over 100 countries and its innovative medicines are used by millions of patients worldwide.

For more information, please visit www.astrazeneca.com and follow us on Twitter @AstraZeneca.

Media Relations

Gonzalo Viña	UK/Global	+44 203 749 5916
Karen Birmingham	UK/Global	+44 203 749 5634
Rob Skelding	UK/Global	+44 203 749 5821
Matt Kent	UK/Global	+44 203 749 5906
Jacob Lund	Sweden	+46 8 553 260 20
Michele Meixell	US	+1 302 885 2677

Investor Relations

Thomas Kudsk Larsen		+44 203 749 5712
Craig Marks	Finance, Fixed Income, M&A	+44 7881 615 764
Henry Wheeler	Oncology	+44 203 749 5797
Mitchell Chan	Oncology; Other	+1 240 477 3771
Christer Gruvris	Brilinta; Diabetes	+44 203 749 5711
Nick Stone	Respiratory; Renal	+44 203 749 5716
US toll free		+1 866 381 7277

Adrian Kemp
Company Secretary
AstraZeneca PLC

References

1. U.S. National Institutes of Health. "Benralizumab Efficacy in Moderate to Very Severe Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) With Exacerbation History (GALATHEA)." NCT02138916. 2018. Last Accessed May 2018. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02138916?term=GALATHEA&rank=1>.
2. GOLD. Global Strategy for the Diagnosis, Management and Prevention of COPD, Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) 2018. [Online]. Available at: <http://goldcopd.org>. Last accessed January 2018.
3. Bereza BG, Nielsen AT, Valgardsson S et al. Patient preferences in severe COPD and asthma: a comprehensive literature review. *International Journal of COPD*. 2015; 10: 739-744.

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

4. Mapel DW, Anand AD, Blanchette CM et al. Severity of COPD at initial spirometry-confirmed diagnosis: data from medical charts and administrative claims. *Int J Chron Obstruct Pulmon Dis.* 2011;6:573-81. doi: 10.2147/COPD.S16975.
5. Vestbo J, Papi A, Corradi M, et al. Single inhaler extrafine triple therapy versus long-acting muscarinic antagonist therapy for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (TRINITY): a double-blind, parallel group, randomised controlled trial. *Lancet* 2017; 389: 1919-29.
6. Mullerova H, Maskell J, Meeraus WH, Galkin D, Albers FC, Gait C. Characterization of COPD patients treated with inhaled triple therapy containing inhaled corticosteroids [ICS], long-acting beta2- agonists [LABA], and long-acting muscarinic antagonists [LAMA] in the UK. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2017; 195: A4986. abstract.
7. Hurst JR, Vestbo J, Anzueto A, et al. Evaluation of COPD Longitudinally to Identify Predictive Surrogate Endpoints(ECLIPSE) Investigators. Susceptibility to exacerbation in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *N Engl J Med.* 2010 Sep 16;363(12):1128-38.
8. Lange P, Halpin DM, O'Donnell DE, MacNee W. Diagnosis, assessment, and phenotyping of COPD: beyond FEV₁. *Int J Chron Obstruct Pulmon Dis.* 2016 Feb 19;11 Spec Iss:3-12.
9. Soler-Cataluna JJ et al. Severe acute exacerbations and mortality in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *Thorax.* 2005 Nov; 60: 925-31.
10. Kolbeck R, Kozhich A, Koike M, et al. MEDI-563, a humanized anti-IL-5 receptor a mAb with enhanced antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity function. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 2010 Jun;125(6):1344-1353.e2.
11. Pham TH, Damera G, Newbold P, Ranade K. Reductions in eosinophil biomarkers by benralizumab in patients with asthma. *Respir Med.* 2016; 111:21-29.
12. Laviolette M, Gossage DL, Gauvreau G, et al. Effects of benralizumab on airway eosinophils in asthmatic patients with sputum eosinophilia. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 2013 Nov; 132(5): 1086 - 1096.e5.
13. AstraZeneca. Clinical Trials Appendix Full-Year and Q4 2017 Results Update. Available at <https://www.astrazeneca.com/content/dam/az/PDF/2017/Full-Year/Full-Year%202017%20Results%20Clinical%20trials%20ap> Last Accessed May 2018.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AstraZeneca PLC

Date: 11 May 2018

By: /s/ Adrian Kemp

Name: Adrian Kemp

Title: Company Secretary