

April 6, 2026

General Announcement

Senju Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Mochida Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

**Launch of “Avarept[®] Ophthalmic Suspension 0.3%” in Japan,
A Novel Treatment of Dry Eye Disease through TRPV1 Inhibition**

Senju Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Osaka, Japan; President: Mr. Shuhei Yoshida; hereinafter: Senju) is pleased to announce that “Avarept[®] Ophthalmic Suspension 0.3%” (Generic Name: Motugivatrep; hereinafter: Avarept[®]), discovered and licensed from Mochida Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan; President: Mr. Naoyuki Mochida; hereinafter: Mochida) and developed by Senju as an eye drop treatment for Dry Eye Disease (DED), has been launched in Japan today.

Avarept[®] represents a novel therapy for DED with Transient Receptor Potential cation channel subfamily V member 1 (TRPV1) ^{*1} antagonist, designed to improve both subjective symptoms and objective signs of DED through inhibition of TRPV1. A pivotal Phase III clinical trial conducted by Senju (Study Name: 3-02 Clinical Trial^{*2}) successfully met the primary endpoint by demonstrating statistically significant improvement in dry eye symptom severity, as measured by a 15-item patient-reported questionnaire, the Dry Eye-Related Quality-of-Life Score (DEQS)^{*3}. This achievement marks the world’s first successful clinical development of a TRPV1 antagonist for DED, completed in Japan.

DED, the target disease of Avarept[®], is defined as “A multifactorial disease characterized by an unstable tear film causing discomfort and/or visual impairment, accompanied by ocular surface disorder”¹⁾. Recently, the number of DED patients has been increasing due to an aging population, the long-term use of contact lenses, and the widespread use of Visual Display Terminals (VDT) such as PCs and Smartphones.

Kozo Ito, “Executive Officer, Head of Pharmaceutical Marketing Division at Senju”, said: “DED can significantly affect patients’ daily lives and quality of life. We have always been committed to understanding patient’s perspectives and addressing the challenges they experienced, such as ocular dryness and eye discomfort. Avarept[®] was developed to provide a new treatment option by achieving rapid improvement in subjective symptoms. We sincerely hope that Avarept[®] will contribute to making the daily lives of individual patients more comfortable.”

Tomokazu Matsusue, “Executive Managing Officer, Head of Business Development Division at Mochida”, said: “We are very pleased that the TRPV1 antagonist, which has been researched over many years since its discovery, has now been launched through Senju’s extensive development efforts as the world’s first DED treatment with TRPV1 antagonistic activity. We sincerely hope that Avarept[®] will contribute to improving symptoms in the many patients suffering from DED.”

Senju is committed to contributing to treatments that improve patients’ quality of life and to providing appropriate information to healthcare professionals.

Mochida is dedicated to leveraging its foresight and innovation to further its involvement in drug discovery research and thereby continues its contributions toward improving the quality of life for patients.

*1 TRPV1

A cation channel responds to and is activated by stimuli including capsaicin, heat, inflammatory mediators, and osmotic pressure. In individuals with DED, elevated tear film osmolarity and increased concentrations of inflammatory mediators are well-documented. It is hypothesized that these conditions lead to the activation or sensitization of TRPV1 channels ²⁾, consequently reducing the activation threshold of corneal sensory nerves ¹⁾.

*2 3-02 Clinical Trial

A Phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-masked, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study in patients with DED

*3 DEQS : Dry Eye-related Quality of life Score

A 15-item patient-reported questionnaire that measures the severity of dry eye symptoms and their impact on daily activities, is available for evaluating several aspect of Quality of life including mental health³⁾

1) : “Dry Eye Diagnostic Guidelines” Japan Dry Eye Society (2019)

2) : Z. Pan et al. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2011; 52(1): 485-93., P. Rozas et al. Pain 2016; 157(6):1346-62.

3) : Y. Sakane et al. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2013;131(10):1331-1338.

Product Overview

Product Name	Avarept® Ophthalmic suspension 0.3%
Generic Name	Motugivatrep
Dosage Forms and Strengths	Ophthalmic suspension eyedrop, containing Motugivatrep 3mg per 1mL
Efficacy and Effects	Dry Eye Disease (DED)
Dosage	1 drop at a time, 4 eye drop per day
NHI Drug Price	JPY 577.50 per 5-mL bottle
Approval Date	December 22, 2025
NHI Drug Price Listing Date	March 18, 2026
Launch Date	April 6, 2026
Marketing Authorization Holder	Senju Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
Distributor	Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited



For reference

The brand name Avarept[®] Ophthalmic Suspension 0.3% was derived by combining “AVA,” which express an image of freedom and vitality, with “VAREPT,” an anagram of “VATREP,” the stem used in the name of TRPV1 inhibition, resulting in the name Avarept[®].

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