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## **Update on MRSA Aurograb® Phase IIa trial – safety data**

**13 January 2003 – Manchester, UK:** *NeuTec* Pharma plc, the biopharmaceutical company targeting drug-resistant, life-threatening infections, announces the completion of its initial dose ranging phase IIa study for the treatment of MRSA infection with the drug Aurograb®.

Aurograb® is a genetically recombinant antibody (“grab”) used in the treatment of severe infection due to antibiotic resistant strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* commonly referred to as MRSA (**M**ethicillin **R**esistant **S**taphylococcus **a**ureus).

This study reports the first clinical data in eight patients with MRSA sepsis on vancomycin therapy. It was designed to look for unexpected toxicity due to Aurograb® and to establish the dosing parameters for subsequent studies which will examine efficacy. The data generated has not raised any concerns over the toxicological profile of Aurograb®. These results now allow *NeuTec* Pharma to proceed to a tolerability and pharmacokinetic phase IIb study, expected to commence Q1 2003.

MRSA is regarded as the hospital “superbug” by virtue of its ability to spread and cause outbreaks with a high mortality of up to 50%. This is by producing abscesses, pneumonia and blood poisoning. Hospital-acquired infections killed up to 5,000 patients in the UK last year.

The “gold standard” treatment is vancomycin. Strains have been reported from Japan, USA and Europe, which are intermediate or fully resistant to this antibiotic. Pre-clinical work confirms that the combination of Aurograb® and vancomycin is more active than either drug on its own.

The key sequence used to produce Aurograb® was discovered by *NeuTec* Pharma’s new platform technology FABTEC®. This is available for licensing in the identification and production of new drugs for the treatment of infections.

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