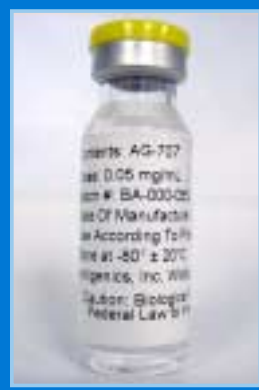


AG-707

INVESTIGATIONAL THERAPEUTIC VACCINE FOR GENITAL HERPES



AG-707 (RH-HSP70-PC) IS AN INVESTIGATIONAL THERAPEUTIC VACCINE DESIGNED TO TREAT GENITAL HERPES, A CHRONIC DISEASE CAUSED BY HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS TYPE 2 (HSV-2). AG-707 IS DESIGNED TO INDUCE BOTH 'KILLER' AND 'HELPER' T-CELL IMMUNE RESPONSES AGAINST THE GENITAL HERPES VIRUS.

THE AG-707 THERAPEUTIC VACCINE PROGRAM REPRESENTS THE FIRST NON-AUTOLOGOUS APPLICATION OF ANTIGENICS' HEAT SHOCK PROTEIN (HSP) TECHNOLOGY. BASED ON AG-702, AN EARLIER VACCINE THAT CONTAINED A SINGLE ANTIGEN FROM THE GENITAL HERPES VIRUS, AG-707 IS A POLYVALENT (MULTIPLE-ANTIGEN) THERAPEUTIC VACCINE THAT IS DESIGNED TO TREAT HSV-2 INFECTION IN A BROAD POPULATION OF PATIENTS. IT IS CURRENTLY BEING EVALUATED IN A MULTICENTER PHASE 1 TRIAL.

DISEASE BACKGROUND Genital herpes is caused by infection with herpes simplex virus type 2. After the primary infection, the virus establishes life-long latency within cells of the nervous system. Recurrent disease is common, occurring as a consequence of reactivation of the latent virus. The spectrum of symptoms for both the primary infection and recurrent outbreaks is broad enough such that many HSV-2 infections may go unrecognized. Unrecognized infections and subclinical shedding are thought to be the main sources of infection transmission, as transmitting individuals are usually unaware that they are passing on the virus.

A GROWING EPIDEMIC Although often overshadowed by other sexually transmitted diseases, genital herpes remains a serious global problem. Recent reports indicate that up to 500,000 cases of new genital HSV infections occur each year in the United States, with up to one in five Americans age 12 and over already infected. The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 21 million people worldwide are infected each year. In addition, genital herpes is associated with more serious sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV, because pathogens can gain easy access to the body through herpes lesions, which can recur many times a year.

NEED FOR NEW TREATMENTS The frequency of infection with the genital herpes virus has increased 30 percent since the late 1970s. Even if controlled with use of viral suppressive therapies, genital herpes remains a chronic disease with a potential of transmission to sexual partners. The development of an effective therapeutic HSV vaccine has the potential to offer new options to individuals with recurrent disease, decrease the number of outbreaks and reduce the severity of infection.

BROAD HSP TECHNOLOGY Similar to Antigenics' investigational, therapeutic cancer vaccine, AG-707 consists of HSP-peptide complexes. However, unlike Oncophage® (vitespen; formerly HSPPC-96), AG-707 is designed to be a non-patient-specific product. Because the majority of HSV-2 antigens are essentially the same in all infected patients, personalization of the genital herpes vaccine is not required.

NOVEL VACCINE APPROACH AG-707 is a polyvalent (multiple-antigen) therapeutic vaccine consisting of a recombinant human HSP complexed with 32 synthetic peptides that are representative of the functionally and structurally relevant sequences of various HSV-2 proteins. Antigenics is conducting a Phase 1 study of AG-707 to evaluate the safety of and immune response to AG-707 in genital herpes patients.

ONGOING TRIAL The multicenter, randomized, dose-escalating Phase 1 trial of AG-707 will involve up to 78 patients who are infected with HSV-2 and have a documented history of clinically active genital herpes. Patients will be randomized to receive AG-707 alone; AG-707 in combination with an adjuvant (a substance designed to improve immune response to vaccination); placebo; or adjuvant alone. The trial is designed to sequentially evaluate the safety of three dose cohorts of AG-707. The study will determine the overall safety profile and immune response of AG-707 with and without the adjuvant, as well as evaluate immune response to AG-707 vaccination compared with immune response to placebo or adjuvant alone.