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New Data Support Routine Childhood Vaccination with PREVENAR in Europe

– PREVENAR shown to reduce invasive pneumococcal disease in young children–

Maidenhead, England, Wednesday 14th May – Data presented at the 26th annual meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID) in Graz, Austria, provide additional evidence of the public health impact of the routine use of Prevenar* (Pneumococcal Saccharide Conjugated Vaccine, Adsorbed), which helps protect against the seven pneumococcal serotypes causing the majority of disease worldwide.¹

Specifically, since the introduction of Prevenar, also referred to as PCV7, into Germany's pediatric immunization schedule in 2006, there has been a 50 percent reduction in vaccine-type invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) in children younger than 2 years old compared with a pre-vaccine baseline.² In addition, a slight reduction in vaccine-type IPD among children aged 2-5 years old, an unvaccinated group, also was documented, suggesting a potential "indirect" effect among older children who were not immunized.²

* Trademark.



“These data are compelling and demonstrate the rapid reduction of IPD in German children following the inclusion of Prevenar in Germany’s national childhood immunization schedule,” says Dr. Mark van der Linden, Head of the National Reference Center for Streptococci at the Institute of Medical Microbiology, RWTH-Aachen, Germany. “Importantly, the results are consistent with the disease reduction documented in France and the United Kingdom, where young children are routinely immunized with Prevenar, highlighting the impact of the vaccine in countries where it is used across Europe.”^{3,4}

“Since pneumococcal disease is the number one vaccine-preventable cause of death in children younger than five years of age, we are incredibly proud of the growing body of evidence supporting universal childhood vaccination with Prevenar and are committed in our mission to help save children’s lives,” says Bernard Fritzell, Vice President, International Scientific & Clinical Affairs, Wyeth.⁵

In view of the demonstrated vaccine efficacy and high disease burden in young children, WHO recommends the priority inclusion of PCV7 in national immunization programs worldwide.⁶ Further, in January 2008, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) to WHO issued a preliminary recommendation that pneumococcal disease prevention be ranked as a very high priority on a global basis.⁷ Prevenar, the only licensed pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, is available in 88 countries worldwide and is part of the



routine national childhood immunization schedule in more than 20 of these countries, 12 of which are in Europe.⁸

Pneumococcal Disease

Pneumococcal disease affects both children and adults and is a leading cause of illness and death worldwide.⁹ Pneumococcal disease is caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and describes a group of illnesses, including invasive infections, such as bacteremia/sepsis and meningitis, as well as pneumonia and upper respiratory tract infections, including otitis media and sinusitis.

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

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