# Heron Therapeutics Announces Publication of Results from Phase 3 EPOCH 1 Study of HTX-011 in Patients Undergoing Bunionectomy

May 21, 2019

SAN DIEGO, May 21, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Heron Therapeutics, Inc. (Nasdaq: HRTX), a commercial-stage biotechnology company focused on improving the lives of patients by developing best-in-class treatments to address some of the most important unmet patient needs, today announced that the results from the pivotal Phase 3 EPOCH 1 bunionectomy study of the investigational agent HTX-011 have been published online by the *Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine* (RAPM) journal. The article, entitled "HTX-011 reduced pain intensity and opioid consumption versus bupivacaine HCl in bunionectomy: phase III results from the randomized EPOCH 1 study," also will be published in the July 2019 print issue of RAPM. HTX-011 achieved all primary and key secondary endpoints in the EPOCH 1 study, demonstrating statistically significant reductions in both pain intensity and the use of opioid rescue medications following surgery and an increase in the proportion of patients who were opioid-free.

HTX-011 is a dual-acting, fixed-dose combination of the local anesthetic bupivacaine with a low dose of the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug meloxicam in a 33:1 ratio. It is the first and only extended-release local anesthetic to demonstrate in Phase 3 studies significantly reduced pain and opioid use through 72 hours compared to bupivacaine solution, the current standard-of-care local anesthetic for postoperative pain control.

In the EPOCH 1 study, all primary and key secondary endpoints were achieved. HTX-011 provided superior and sustained pain reduction compared to placebo and bupivacaine solution through the critical 72-hour postoperative window, when pain is often most severe. Significant reductions in pain occurred both early (in the first 8 through 24 hours) and were sustained from 24 through 72 hours. In addition to reductions in average pain intensity scores, HTX-011 significantly reduced the proportion of patients experiencing severe pain through 72 hours compared to placebo and bupivacaine solution. Significant reductions in pain were consistent with the significant decrease in total opioid consumption and the significant increase in opioid-free patients receiving HTX-011, both through 72 hours and as compared to placebo and bupivacaine solution. Most patients that required no opioids in the first 72 hours after surgery (82%) continued to be opioid-free through 28 days. HTX-011 was well tolerated, with a safety profile comparable to placebo and bupivacaine solution.

"This publication demonstrates that HTX-011 can significantly reduce postoperative pain, including severe pain, for 72 hours post-surgery and reduce the need for opioids compared to bupivacaine solution," said Eugene Viscusi, MD, Professor of Anesthesiology and Chief of Pain Medicine in the Department of Anesthesiology at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. "Surgery can contribute to the opioid problem, as it is often a patient's initial introduction to opioids, and it also can be the trigger for misuse and abuse due to unused pills from discharge prescriptions. Each year, an estimated 2.6 million Americans may become persistent opioid users following initial opioid exposure after surgery. The results from EPOCH 1 suggest that HTX-011 can be used to control pain effectively after surgery, thereby reducing the reliance on opioids and preventing the flow of unused opioid pills into our homes and communities."

The RAPM article can be found here.

**About the EPOCH 1 Study**

EPOCH 1 was a randomized, placebo- and active-controlled, double-blind, Phase 3 clinical study evaluating the efficacy and safety of locally administered HTX-011 at 60 mg/1.8 mg bupivacaine/meloxicam compared to placebo and the standard dose of bupivacaine solution (50 mg) for postoperative pain control following bunionectomy surgery in 412 patients. All primary and key secondary endpoints were achieved:

- There was a 27% reduction in pain intensity as measured by the Area Under the Curve (AUC) 0-72 when comparing HTX-011 to placebo ($p<0.0001$).
- There was an 18% reduction in pain intensity as measured by AUC 0-72 when comparing HTX-011 to the current standard-of-care, bupivacaine solution ($p=0.0002$).
- Over 72 hours post-surgery, patients receiving HTX-011 consumed 37% less opioids than patients receiving placebo ($p<0.0001$) and 25% less opioids than patients receiving bupivacaine solution ($p=0.0022$).
- 29% of patients receiving HTX-011 required no opioid medication for 72 hours post-surgery compared to only 2% receiving placebo ($p<0.0001$) and 11% receiving bupivacaine solution ($p=0.0001$). These results parallel the significantly reduced incidence of severe pain in patients receiving HTX-011 compared to both placebo (36% reduction; $p<0.0001$) and bupivacaine solution (29% reduction; $p<0.0001$).
- Among the HTX-011-treated patients who were opioid-free through 72 hours post-surgery, more than 90% remained opioid free through day 10 and 82% remained opioid free through day 28.
- HTX-011 was well tolerated, with a safety profile comparable to placebo and bupivacaine solution.

**About HTX-011 for Postoperative Pain**

HTX-011, which utilizes Heron's proprietary Biochronomer® drug delivery technology, is an investigational, long-acting, extended-release formulation

of the local anesthetic bupivacaine in a fixed-dose combination with the anti-inflammatory meloxicam for the management of postoperative pain. By delivering sustained levels of both a potent anesthetic and a local anti-inflammatory agent directly to the site of tissue injury, HTX-011 was designed to deliver superior pain relief while reducing the need for systemically administered pain medications such as opioids, which carry the risk of harmful side effects, abuse and addiction. HTX-011 has been shown to reduce pain significantly better than placebo or bupivacaine solution in five diverse surgical models: hernia repair, abdominoplasty, bunionectomy, total knee arthroplasty and breast augmentation. HTX-011 was granted Fast Track designation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the fourth quarter of 2017 and Breakthrough Therapy designation in the second quarter of 2018. Heron submitted a New Drug Application (NDA) to the FDA for HTX-011 in October of 2018 and received Priority Review designation in December of 2018. A Complete Response Letter was received from the FDA regarding the NDA for HTX-011 on April 30, 2019 relating to chemistry, manufacturing and controls and non-clinical information. No issues related to clinical efficacy or safety were noted. A Marketing Authorisation Application for HTX-011 was validated by the European Medicines Agency in March 2019 for review under the Centralised Procedure.

**About Heron Therapeutics, Inc.**

Heron Therapeutics, Inc. is a commercial-stage biotechnology company focused on improving the lives of patients by developing best-in-class treatments to address some of the most important unmet patient needs. Heron is developing novel, patient-focused solutions that apply its innovative science and technologies to already-approved pharmacological agents for patients suffering from pain or cancer. For more information, visit www.herontx.com.

**Forward-looking Statements**

This news release contains "forward-looking statements" as defined by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Heron cautions readers that forward-looking statements are based on management's expectations and assumptions as of the date of this news release and are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially, including, but not limited to, those associated with: whether the FDA approves the NDA for HTX-011; the timing of the commercial launch of HTX-011; the timing of the CHMP's review process for HTX-011; whether the European Commission authorizes the MAA for HTX-011; and other risks and uncertainties identified in the Company's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Forward-looking statements reflect our analysis only on their stated date, and Heron takes no obligation to update or revise these statements except as may be required by law.

**Investor Relations and Media Contact:**

David Szekeres
Senior VP, General Counsel, Business Development and Corporate Secretary
Heron Therapeutics, Inc.
dszekeres@herontx.com
858-251-4447

View original content:http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/heron-therapeutics-announces-publication-of-results-from-phase-3-epoch-1-study-of-htx-011-in-patients-undergoing-bunionectomy-300853697.html

SOURCE Heron Therapeutics, Inc.