
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported):

July 23, 2015

Heron Therapeutics, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

001-33221

94-2875566

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

(Commission
File Number)

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

123 Saginaw Drive, Redwood City, California

94063

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

650-366-2626

Not Applicable

Former name or former address, if changed since last report

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 8.01 Other Events.

On July 23, 2015, Heron Therapeutics, Inc. (the "Company") issued a press release announcing the initiation of a second Phase 2 clinical trial of HTX-011, the Company's lead product candidate for the prevention of post-operative pain, as described in the press release furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit No./ Description

99.1 Press Release, dated July 23, 2015

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Heron Therapeutics, Inc.

July 24, 2015

By: */s/ Esme C. Smith*

Name: Esme C. Smith

Title: VP, General Counsel & Secretary

Exhibit Index

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release dated July 23, 2015

Heron Therapeutics Initiates Second Phase 2 Clinical Trial of HTX-011 for the Treatment of Post-Operative Pain

- HTX-011 to be evaluated in approximately 60 patients undergoing inguinal hernia repair

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. – July 23, 2015 – Heron Therapeutics, Inc. (NASDAQ: HRTX), a biotechnology company focused on improving the lives of patients by developing best-in-class medicines that address major unmet medical needs, today announced that it has initiated a second Phase 2 clinical trial of HTX-011. HTX-011, which utilizes Heron’s proprietary Biochronomer® drug delivery technology, is a long-acting formulation of the local anesthetic bupivacaine in a fixed-dose combination with the anti-inflammatory meloxicam for the prevention of post-operative pain.

The placebo-controlled, dose-finding, Phase 2 clinical trial in approximately 60 patients undergoing inguinal hernia repair will evaluate the efficacy and safety of HTX-011, containing 200 mg or 400 mg of bupivacaine combined with meloxicam, compared to placebo. HTX-011 is also currently being evaluated in a placebo-controlled, dose-finding, Phase 2 clinical trial in patients undergoing bunionectomy. In a previously completed, placebo-controlled, Phase 1 clinical trial, HTX-011 achieved the desired pharmacokinetic profile for both bupivacaine and meloxicam, with therapeutically relevant plasma bupivacaine levels sustained for 2-3 days.

“We are extremely pleased to be expanding our Phase 2 development program for HTX-011 with the initiation of a study in patients undergoing hernia repair,” commented Barry D. Quart, Pharm.D., Chief Executive Officer of Heron. “Our ongoing clinical trial in patients undergoing bunionectomy is progressing extremely well, supporting the expansion of the HTX-011 Phase 2 development program. We look forward to reporting data from both the bunionectomy study and the hernia repair study in the second half of 2015.”

About HTX-011 for Post-Operative Pain

HTX-011, which utilizes Heron’s proprietary Biochronomer® drug delivery technology, is a long-acting formulation of the local anesthetic bupivacaine in a fixed-dose combination with the anti-inflammatory meloxicam for the prevention of post-operative pain. By delivering sustained levels of both a potent anesthetic and an anti-inflammatory agent directly to the site of tissue injury, HTX-011 was designed to deliver superior pain relief while potentially reducing the need for systemically administered pain medications such as opioids, which carry the risk of harmful side effects, abuse and addiction. In a Phase 1 clinical trial, HTX-011 achieved the desired pharmacokinetic profile for both bupivacaine and meloxicam. Specifically, therapeutically relevant plasma bupivacaine levels were sustained for 2-3 days. The anesthetic effects of HTX-011 persisted through 96 hours, which closely correlated with plasma bupivacaine concentrations, and HTX-011 was well-tolerated with no serious adverse events. Heron is currently conducting two placebo-controlled, dose-finding, Phase 2 clinical trials of HTX-011 in patients undergoing bunionectomy or inguinal hernia repair. Heron expects to report results from both of these trials in the second half of 2015.

About Heron Therapeutics, Inc.

Heron Therapeutics, Inc. is a biotechnology company focused on improving the lives of patients by developing best-in-class medicines that address major unmet medical needs. Heron is developing novel, patient-focused solutions that apply its innovative science and technologies to already-approved pharmacological agents. Heron’s goal is to build on therapeutics with well-known pharmacology by improving their tolerability and efficacy as well as broadening their potential field of use. Heron is currently developing four pharmaceutical products for patients suffering from cancer or pain. SUSTOL® is Heron’s injectable, extended-release formulation of granisetron that is being developed for the prevention of both acute and delayed chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) associated with moderately emetogenic chemotherapy (MEC) or highly emetogenic chemotherapy (HEC). CINV is one of the most debilitating side effects of chemotherapy and is a leading cause of premature discontinuation of cancer treatment. Heron recently reported positive, top-line results from its Phase 3 MAGIC study and resubmitted its New Drug Application (NDA) for SUSTOL to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in July 2015. HTX-019, also being developed for the prevention of CINV, has the potential to become the first polysorbate 80-free, intravenous formulation of aprepitant, a neurokinin-1 (NK₁) receptor antagonist. Heron intends to file an NDA for HTX-019 using the 505(b)(2) regulatory pathway in the second half of 2016. HTX-011, Heron’s long-acting formulation of the local anesthetic bupivacaine in a fixed-dose combination with the anti-inflammatory meloxicam, is currently being evaluated in two Phase 2 trials for the prevention of post-operative pain. Heron expects to report results from both of these trials in the second half of 2015. HTX-003, a long-acting formulation of buprenorphine, is being developed for the potential management of chronic pain and opioid addiction. All of Heron’s product candidates utilize Heron’s innovative science and technology platforms, including its proprietary Biochronomer® drug delivery technology, which can deliver therapeutic levels of a wide range of otherwise short-acting pharmacological agents over a period of days to weeks with a single injection.

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. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, those associated with: the acceptance of the Company's resubmission of its New Drug Application (NDA) for SUSTOL[®], whether the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves the SUSTOL NDA as submitted or supports as broad of a labeled indication for SUSTOL as requested, the progress in the research and development of HTX-019, HTX-011, HTX-003 and our other programs, including the timing of preclinical, clinical, and manufacturing activities, safety and efficacy results from our studies that may not justify the pursuit of further development of our product candidates, the launch and acceptance of SUSTOL and new products generally, our financial position and our ability to raise additional capital to fund operations, if necessary, or to pursue additional business opportunities, strategic business alliances we may pursue or the potential acquisition of products or technologies, and our ability to grow our organization to sustain the commercial launch for SUSTOL, and other risks and uncertainties identified in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Forward-looking statements reflect our analysis only on their stated date, and Heron undertakes no obligation to update or revise these statements except as may be required by law.

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