

## **Better quality of life with new orphan drug for Addison ´s disease**

*Helsingborg / San Diego June 21<sup>st</sup> 2010- DuoCort Pharma ´s new physiological treatment for adrenal insufficiency improves patients´ quality of life. The Swedish pharmaceutical company presents new data from its phase II/III trial at the 92<sup>nd</sup> annual ENDO congress in San Diego today.*

The new treatment from **DuoCort Pharma** has a more physiological release profile which mimics the natural secretion pattern of cortisol. In this way, treatment outcome and quality of life are improved for patients. The company has also developed methods to optimize the dosage regimen which also contributes to an improvement in therapy over time.

DuoCort Pharma is also presenting the results of a worldwide survey of 1200 **adrenal insufficiency** patients. Over 60% report that current therapy results in reduced and compromised quality of life necessitating changes to physical activity, social life, work life and family life. Three quarters are concerned about long term side effects of their replacement therapy such as osteoporosis, obesity, fatigue and cardiovascular morbidity, in that order. These data demonstrate a large need for improvement in glucocorticoid replacement therapy.

These results confirm several earlier studies showing premature death, compromised quality of life, and increased cardiovascular risk factors in patients treated for adrenal insufficiency. The likely reason for these outcomes is the very outdated replacement treatment that is used today which cannot mimic the normal diurnal **cortisol** profile.

**Gudmundur Johannsson**, professor and senior physician at the Department of Endocrinology, **Sahlgrenska University Hospital**, Gothenburg, Sweden and Chief Medical Officer of DuoCort Pharma, says "This new more **physiological** therapy has excellent potential to significantly improve cortisol replacement for over 200 000 patients in Europe and more than 125 000 patients in the US who suffer from adrenal insufficiency and need life-long cortisol replacement therapy for survival. The improvement in cardiovascular risk factors, well-being and quality of life as well as a simplified and more individualised dosage regimen will make this a welcome new treatment option to help patients lead a more normal life."

Earlier this year a market authorisation application was filed with the European Medicines Agency, which is an important step towards market introduction for the new orphan drug from DuoCort Pharma.

## About Adrenal insufficiency

Patients suffering from **adrenal insufficiency** (cortisol deficiency) are unable to produce their own cortisol. To survive, they need replacement therapy with hydrocortisone. Adrenal insufficiency is a rare disease that affects patients in their active years. Because it is a chronic condition, they require this life-saving therapy throughout their lives. Treatment of adrenal insufficiency involves replacing, or substituting, the hormones that the patient's own adrenal glands are not making. Cortisol is replaced using **hydrocortisone**, the synthetic form of cortisol.

There are different types of adrenal insufficiency: primary adrenal insufficiency also called Addison's disease, secondary adrenal insufficiency and CAH - congenital adrenal hyperplasia.

**For more details on the data please also see:**

[http://www.abstracts2view.com/endo/view.php?nu=ENDO10L\\_P3-646](http://www.abstracts2view.com/endo/view.php?nu=ENDO10L_P3-646)

[http://www.abstracts2view.com/endo/view.php?nu=ENDO10L\\_P2-677](http://www.abstracts2view.com/endo/view.php?nu=ENDO10L_P2-677)

[http://www.abstracts2view.com/endo/view.php?nu=ENDO10L\\_P3-644](http://www.abstracts2view.com/endo/view.php?nu=ENDO10L_P3-644)

## About DuoCort Pharma

DuoCort Pharma is a drug development company focused on improving glucocorticoid therapy. The company has its origins among researchers at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg and at Uppsala University in Sweden. DuoCort has developed an improved glucocorticoid replacement therapy for patients with adrenal insufficiency, a rare disease for which DuoCort has orphan drug designations in Europe and the USA. The new product is a once daily dual-release hydrocortisone oral tablet. It has an outer layer that releases the drug immediately and an inner core that releases the drug over the day to mimic the body's own release profile of cortisol. The tablets come in both 5 mg and 20 mg sizes. For more information please visit [www.duocort.com](http://www.duocort.com)

DuoCort Pharma AB is a project company of the life science incubator **PULS**. For more information visit [www.pulsinvest.se](http://www.pulsinvest.se).

## Contact information

**Gudmundur Johannsson**, Chief Medical Officer, tel +46 70-528 08 72

**Maria Forss**, CEO tel +46 70-967 00 07

**Jacob Kaluski**, Chairman of the Board of Directors, tel +46 70-356 56 65