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New cancer drug launched in Egypt

NOVARTIS ANNOUNCES NEW LOWS IN PROGRESSION OF ADVANCED BREAST CANCER, PUBLISHING RESULTS OF MONALEESA STUDY

Novartis held a press conference on Thursday to announce the availability of a new advanced breast cancer treatment in Egypt, sharing the results of the latest clinical trials for the drug Ribociclib, known as MONALEESA. The press conference was moderated by Islam Annan, executive chairperson of Accsight and lecturer of drug economics at Ain Shams University's Faculty of Pharmacy.

Sherif Amin, general manager of Novartis Oncology in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, & Morocco, said, "our dedication to scientific research with the goal of providing cancer patients with more effective treatments clearly reflects the company's vision and commitment to patients and healthcare providers. The launch and registration of this drug in Egypt in record time is a major achievement, and we would like to thank all parties involved and the Ministry of Health authorities responsible for drug registration for their continued cooperation and fast-tracked procedures that allow for the provision of the latest

cancer treatments in Egypt."

He continued, "we are truly delighted to provide a new treatment that has proven to effectively improve quality of life and reduce the pain levels experienced by women living with this disease. We look forward to working with a variety of healthcare authorities and providers to deliver this hope to women with advanced breast cancer."

Hamdy Abdel Azim, professor of oncology at Kasr El Aini, said, "the treatment of advanced breast cancer has made giant leaps in recent years, including the discovery of CDK inhibitors. It has been established that these drugs, given in combination with traditional hormone therapy, achieve an unprecedented increase in symptom control and survival rates to reach up to two years with no disease activity. These results represent a major breakthrough in the treatment of hormone-receptor positive breast cancer patients, who account for 70% of all breast cancer cases."

Abdel Azim added, "the two sepa-



rate studies, MONALEESA-2 and MONALEESA-7, were identically designed, incorporating the same treatment protocols, but the average age of patients in the MONALEESA-2 study was 70 years, while the average age of patients in the MONALEESA-7 study was from 20 to 59 years (premenopause). The findings therefore demonstrated that the treatment is effective, regardless of the patient's age."

Amr Abdul Aziz, professor of oncology at Alexandria University,

said, "the MONALEESA study that focused on treatment using ribociclib for women with advanced breast cancer showed significant improvement for participants. Eight weeks into the study, a significant and sustained reduction in pain levels associated with the disease was evident, allowing patients to benefit from a longer recovery period before their conditions deteriorated, as opposed to patients who have undergone standalone hormone therapy."