Drugs

PEER-REVIEWED FEATURE

Pacritinib: Adis Evaluation

Key Points

- An oral kinase inhibitor is being developed by CTI BioPharma for the treatment of myelofibrosis and graft-versus-host disease
- Received its first approval on 28 February 2022 in the USA
- Approved for use in the treatment of adults with intermediate- or high-risk primary or secondary (post-polycythemia vera or post-essential thrombocythemia) myelofibrosis with a platelet count below 50 × 10^9/L

Summary

Pacritinib (VONJO™) is an orally administered, small molecule kinase inhibitor being developed by CTI BioPharma for the treatment of myelofibrosis and graft-versus-host disease. Pacritinib received its first approval in February 2022 in the USA for the treatment of adults with intermediate- or high-risk primary or secondary (post-polycythemia vera or post-essential thrombocythemia) myelofibrosis with a platelet count below 50 × 10^9/L. The accelerated approval was based on results from the randomized, active-controlled, phase III PERSIST-2 trial, in which spleen volume reduction was demonstrated in pacritinib recipients. This article summarizes the milestones in the development of pacritinib leading to this first approval for myelofibrosis.