

Carotegrast Methyl: Adis Evaluation

Key Points

- A small-molecule $\alpha 4$ integrin antagonist being developed by EA Pharma and Kissei Pharmaceutical for the treatment of ulcerative colitis
- Received its first approval on 28 March 2022 in Japan
- Approved for the treatment of moderate ulcerative colitis in patients with inadequate response to 5-aminosalicylic acid

Summary

Carotegrast methyl (Carogra[®]) is a small-molecule $\alpha 4$ integrin antagonist being developed by EA Pharma (formerly Ajinomoto Pharmaceuticals) and Kissei Pharmaceutical for the treatment of ulcerative colitis.

The active metabolite of carotegrast methyl exerts an anti-inflammatory effect by blocking the interaction of $\alpha 4\beta 1$ or $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrins and their ligands, VCAM-1 and MAd-CAM-1, thereby inhibiting the adhesion of inflammatory cells, including T cells, to vascular endothelial cells and extravasation into inflammatory sites.

In March 2022, carotegrast methyl received its first approval in Japan for the treatment of moderate ulcerative colitis in patients who had inadequate response to 5-aminosalicylic acid.

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