

## Hard To Treat Diseases (HTDS) Update on Therapeutic effects of Combined Treatment With Ribavirin And Tiazofurin

BELGRADE, SERBIA, July 1, 2009 -- Hard To Treat Diseases (HTDS) ([www.htdsmedical.com](http://www.htdsmedical.com)) Chief Scientist with its Slavica BioChem subsidiary, Dr. Sanja Pekovic provided updates on recent clinical trials with animal subjects in regards to the use of Ribavirin And Tiazofurin for the potential treatment of Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

Dr. Pekovic reported; "It is now well accepted that axonal injury begins at an early stage in MS, and likely accounts for clinical progression seen later in the disease course, suggesting that early, aggressive treatment is critical in order to suppress long-term disability progression. Researchers from IBISS group (a related research group) tested the effect of combined treatment with ribavirin (R) and tiazofurin (T) administrated during the effector phase of disease.

R and T are purine nucleoside analogues, with the broad spectrum of anti-viral, anti-tumoral and anti-inflammatory properties. They detected amelioration of clinical signs of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE - animal model of MS) and faster recovery in the RT-treated group compared to the control EAE group.

Although the precise mechanisms of suppressive effects of combined therapy with R and T in ongoing EAE and prevention of demyelination and axonal loss, are yet unknown, the results gained in this study suggest that combination of these two nucleoside analogues might act at several steps during disease, and probably these actions function in concert. Therefore, the combination of these two nucleoside analogues might be a useful and relatively inexpensive approach for the treatment of MS".

Dr. Pekovic added: "We are hopeful, that with additional funding, we will be able to continue along this promising path, and continue researching the potential applications of a combination of ribavirin and tiazofurin in the treatment of MS".

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