

Padova, March 29th, 2023

RE: Application from GARDP for inclusion of flomoxef sodium in the WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines (EML) and Essential Medicines for Children (EMLc).

Dear EML Secretariat,

I am writing to express my support to the application made by GARDP for the inclusion of Flomoxef Sodium into the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (EML) and Essential Medicines for Children (EMLc). As the President of PENTA, one of the largest clinical research network that develops and advances research on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infections in children, and as a specialist in infectious diseases, I understand the importance of having new or improved treatment options for both adults and children.

Flomoxef sodium is a cephalosporin that has activity against infections caused by ESBL producing Enterobacterales (ESBL-PE). Importantly, it has been approved in all ages, including neonates. Therefore, it can become an important tool for management of multidrug-resistant infections caused by the Enterobacterales family, including ESBL producers across all ages. Having worked extensively in the paediatric field, I would especially like to highlight the potential importance of this agent for the empiric management of neonatal sepsis. In many countries, where the burden of ESBL producing pathogens is high, an alternative to ampicillin-based regimens and to carbapenems will allow stopping the progression of sepsis while sparing carbapenems. This is especially relevant in the absence of diagnostics to inform treatment choice, as is the case in many LMICs.

Flomoxef sodium can be an alternative treatment and therefore I support its inclusion in the EML and EMLc. Consideration by EML Selection Committee will hopefully contribute to increasing access to flomoxef in LMICs by facilitating National EML and formulary adoption, and also reinforce the strategy of repurposing old antibiotics with activity against multidrug resistant pathogens.

Best regards



Prof Carlo Giaquinto

President