April 2005

Dear Healthcare Professional,

In an effort to keep you informed of important new developments, Biogen Idec and Elan Pharmaceuticals are providing an update related to the ongoing safety evaluation of TYSABRI® (natalizumab). This ongoing safety evaluation has led to a previously diagnosed case of malignant astrocytoma being reassessed as progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), in a patient in an open label Crohn's disease clinical trial.

As previously reported, we initiated an additional comprehensive safety evaluation, both retrospective and current, of patients who participated in TYSABRI clinical trials. In the course of this safety evaluation, we identified a case warranting reassessment in an open label Crohn's disease clinical trial. In July 2003, the case was reported by the clinical trial investigator as malignant astrocytoma. This diagnosis was confirmed at the time by histopathology of a brain biopsy specimen. The patient experienced a progressive course and died in December 2003.

As part of the ongoing safety evaluation, and in agreement with the clinical trial investigator, the case was re-reviewed. Following this additional evaluation, the diagnosis has been reassessed as PML. The patient had received 8 doses of TYSABRI over an 18-month period and prior medication history included multiple courses of immunosuppressant agents.

We are continuing our extensive safety evaluations of TYSABRI and any possible link to PML. Because we believe in the promising therapeutic benefit of TYSABRI, we are working to complete these evaluations expeditiously. We are reviewing clinical trial data, working with investigators to evaluate the approximately 3,000 patients in multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease and rheumatoid arthritis trials, and working with experts in the field of neurology, including PML and multiple sclerosis experts. The results of these safety evaluations will be discussed with regulatory agencies to determine possible re-initiation of dosing in clinical trials and future commercial availability.

Thank you for your patience and continued support over the past few weeks. We will continue to inform you of important new developments and changes. In the meantime, please contact Medical Information at 1-888-489-7227.

Sincerely,

Whaijen Soo, MD, PhD
Senior Vice President
Medical Research
Biogen Idec

Lars Ekman, MD, PhD
Executive Vice President and President
Global Research and Development
Elan Pharmaceuticals

Biogen Idec, Inc. 14 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142 Elan Pharmaceuticals, 7475 Lusk Blvd, San Diego, CA 92121