## Aristada Initio™ (aripiprazole lauroxil) – New drug approval

- On July 2, 2018, Alkermes announced the FDA approval of Aristada Initio (aripiprazole lauroxil), in combination with oral aripiprazole for the initiation of Aristada when used for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults.
    - The approval of Aristada Initio provides physicians with an alternative regimen to initiate patients onto any dose of Aristada injection on day 1.
    - Previously, the first Aristada injection was recommended in conjunction with oral aripiprazole for 21 consecutive days.

- Oral aripiprazole is generically available as tablets, disintegrating tablets, and solution. Aripiprazole is also available as Abilify Maintena®, a brand extended-release injectable suspension.
    - The oral formulations are approved for the treatment of schizophrenia and other indications as outlined in the individual drug labels.
    - Abilify Maintena is indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults and as maintenance monotherapy treatment of bipolar I disorder in adults.

- Aristada Initio leverages Alkermes' proprietary NanoCrystal® technology, which provides an extended-release formulation using a smaller particle size compared to Aristada, thereby enabling faster dissolution and more rapid achievement of relevant drug levels.

- The effectiveness of Aristada Initio, in combination with oral aripiprazole and for the initiation of Aristada injection, was established by adequate and well-controlled studies of oral aripiprazole and Aristada injection in adult patients with schizophrenia. Aristada Initio is also supported by a single pharmacokinetic bridging study.

- Similar to other antipsychotic products, Aristada Initio carries a boxed warning regarding increased mortality in elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis.

- Other warnings and precautions of Aristada Initio include cerebrovascular adverse reactions including stroke; potential for dosing and medication errors; neuroleptic malignant syndrome; tardive dyskinesia; metabolic changes; pathological gambling and other compulsive behaviors; orthostatic hypotension; falls; leukopenia, neutropenia, and agranulocytosis; seizures; potential for cognitive and motor impairment; body temperature regulation; and dysphagia.

- The most common adverse reaction (≥ 5% and at least twice that for placebo) with aripiprazole use was akathisia.

- The recommended dose of Aristada Initio is one 675 mg intramuscular injection and one 30 mg dose of oral aripiprazole in conjunction with Aristada injection. The first Aristada injection may be administered either on the same day as Aristada Initio or up to 10 days thereafter.
    - Aristada Initio should only be administered by a healthcare professional, and should only be used as a single dose to initiate Aristada injection treatment or as a single dose to re-initiate Aristada injection treatment following a missed dose. Aristada Initio is not for repeated dosing.
    - Aristada Initio is not interchangeable with Aristada due to differing pharmacokinetic profiles.
    - For patients who have never taken aripiprazole, tolerability should be established with oral aripiprazole prior to starting treatment with Aristada Initio.
    - Refer to the Aristada Initio label for further dosing information.

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- Alkermes plans to launch Aristada Initio in mid-July 2018. Aristada Initio will be available as an extended-release injectable suspension packaged as a 675 mg single-dose, pre-filled syringe.