Exblifep® (cefepime/enmetazobactam) – New drug approval

- On February 22, 2024, the FDA approved Allecra Therapeutics' Exblifep (cefepime/enmetazobactam), for the treatment of patients 18 years of age and older with complicated urinary tract infections (cUTI) including pyelonephritis, caused by the following susceptible microorganisms: *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Proteus mirabilis*, and *Enterobacter cloacae* complex.

- Exblifep is a combination product that contains cefepime, a cephalosporin antibacterial drug, and enmetazobactam, a beta-lactamase inhibitor.

- The efficacy of Exblifep was established in a double-blind, noninferiority study in adults with cUTI, including pyelonephritis. Patients received Exblifep or piperacillin/tazobactam for 7 days, or up to 14 days for patients with concurrent bacteremia. The microbiological modified intent-to-treat population included a total of 345 and 333 patients in the Exblifep and piperacillin/tazobactam treatment groups, respectively.

    — Exblifep demonstrated efficacy with regard to composite response, defined as clinical cure and microbiological response, at the Test of Cure visit (7 days after the end of treatment). The composite response was 79.1% and 58.9% with Exblifep and piperacillin/tazobactam, respectively (treatment difference 21.2, 95% CI: 14.3, 27.9).

- Warnings and precautions for Exblifep include hypersensitivity reactions; neurotoxicity; *Clostridioides difficile*-associated diarrhea; positive direct Combs' tests; prolonged prothrombin time; development of drug-resistant bacteria; and interactions with urine glucose testing.

- The most common adverse reactions (≥ 5%) with Exblifep use were increased transaminases, increased bilirubin, headache, and phlebitis/infusion site reactions.

- The recommended dose of Exblifep is 2.5 grams (2 grams cefepime and 0.5 grams enmetazobactam) administered every 8 hours by intravenous infusion over 2 hours in patients 18 years of age and older with an estimated glomerular filtration rate between 60 and 129 mL/min. The duration of treatment is 7 days and up to 14 days for patients with concurrent bacteremia.

- Allecra Therapeutics' launch plans for Exblifep are pending. Exblifep will be available as a powder for reconstitution in a single-dose vial containing 2 grams cefepime and 0.5 grams enmetazobactam.