

## Russia OK's Kamada's rabies vaccine

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By Vadim Sviderski

Kamada, which produces life-saving biopharmaceuticals, has completed the registration process in Russia for its passive rabies vaccine. The company plans to begin marketing the vaccine, to be sold under the trade name Rebinolin, in the first half of 2011.

Rabies is transmitted through the bite of an infected animal and attacks its victim's central nervous system. The passive rabies vaccine, administered by injection, is produced from human plasma enriched with antibodies and prevents the onset of the disease.

Each year about 10 million people worldwide are known to be bitten by dogs and other mammals, and require preventive medical treatment. Tens of thousands who do not receive timely treatment die from the disease. Kamada estimates that the world market for passive rabies vaccine totals about \$100 million per annum.

Kamada currently produces and markets a rabies vaccine under the trade name KamRAB in Israel, South America and Asia. It expects sales for this product to rise after it completes the registration process in the U.S. and other countries.

The company is looking to expand its operations in Russia with other products. Earlier this year Kamada's intravenous AAT drug, used in treating Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Deficiency, was approved by Russia's health ministry. Also approved was its Anti-D (Rho ) drug for the prevention of disease in fetuses from blood-type discrepancies with the mother.

"The approval to market and sell in Russia an additional product developed by Kamada further attests to the technology developed by Kamada and the quality of its products," said David Tsur, president of Kamada. "Continued development of anti-rabies vaccines and Anti -D is taking place alongside the main commercial activity of the company, which is focused on beginning U.S. sales of the intravenous AAT drug."

Meitav Investment House raised its holdings in the company last week to 5.1%, purchasing for its provident funds shares worth NIS 934,000 at a price of NIS 22.38 per share.