



Healthcare

MORPHOSYS (BUY, FV EUR125) | Extension of Tremfya franchise underway with Psoriatic Arthritis US filing

- Following positive top-line results from the phase III (DISCOVER 1 & 2) studies announced last June, Janssen has submitted a sBLA seeking approval of Tremfya for the treatment of patients with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA). Both phase III have met their primary endpoints of patients achieving an ACR20 response after 24 weeks of treatment.
- Psoriatic arthritis is one of the many other indications where Tremfya is currently evaluated. It is indeed in pivotal trials for inflammatory bowel diseases, both ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.
- As a reminder, Tremfya is the follow-up to J&J's IL23/IL-12 inhibitor blockbuster Stelara, which is under strong competition from new entrants across immunology indications, most notably Novartis' Cosentyx. It is an IL-23 antagonist that binds to the p19 subunit of the IL-23 protein and inhibits the release of cytokine and chemokines.
- We believe that Tremfya has a superior efficacy profile than Cosentyx and a more convenient dosing. Indeed, its superiority in terms of efficacy has been derived from cross-trial comparisons as well as a head-to-head study presented in December 2018. On top of that, it is dosed by subcutaneous injection every two months while Cosentyx require monthly subcutaneous injections.

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