ANNEX I

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

▼This medicinal product is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions. See section 4.8 for how to report adverse reactions.

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Junod 60 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each pre-filled syringe contains 60 mg of denosumab in 1 mL of solution (60 mg/mL).

Denosumab is a human monoclonal IgG2 antibody produced in a mammalian cell line (Chinese hamster ovary cells) by recombinant DNA technology.

Excipient with known effect: This medicine contains 46 mg sorbitol (E 420) and 0.1 mg polysorbate 20 (E 432) in each mL of solution.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for injection (injection).

Clear, colourless to slightly yellow solution.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women and in men at increased risk of fractures. In postmenopausal women Junod significantly reduces the risk of vertebral, non-vertebral and hip fractures.

Treatment of bone loss associated with hormone ablation in men with prostate cancer at increased risk of fractures (see section 5.1). In men with prostate cancer receiving hormone ablation, Junod significantly reduces the risk of vertebral fractures.

Treatment of bone loss associated with long-term systemic glucocorticoid therapy in adult patients at increased risk of fracture (see section 5.1).

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

The recommended dose is 60 mg denosumab administered as a single subcutaneous injection once every 6 months into the thigh, abdomen or upper arm.

Patients must be adequately supplemented with calcium and vitamin D (see section 4.4).

Patients treated with Junod should be given the package leaflet and the patient card.

The optimal total duration of antiresorptive treatment for osteoporosis (including both denosumab and

bisphosphonates) has not been established. The need for continued treatment should be re-evaluated periodically based on the benefits and potential risks of denosumab on an individual patient basis, particularly after 5 or more years of use (see section 4.4).

Elderly (age ≥ 65)
No dose adjustment is required in elderly patients.

Renal impairment
No dose adjustment is required in patients with renal impairment (see section 4.4 for recommendations relating to monitoring of calcium).

No data is available in patients with long-term systemic glucocorticoid therapy and severe renal impairment (glomerular filtration rate < 30 mL/min).

Hepatic impairment
The safety and efficacy of denosumab have not been studied in patients with hepatic impairment (see section 5.2).

Paediatric population
Junod should not be used in children aged < 18 years because of safety concerns of serious hypercalcaemia, and potential inhibition of bone growth and lack of tooth eruption (see sections 4.4 and 5.3). Currently available data for children aged 2 to 17 years are described in sections 5.1 and 5.2.

Method of administration

For subcutaneous use.

Administration should be performed by an individual who has been adequately trained in injection techniques.

For instructions on use, handling and disposal of the medicinal product, see section 6.6.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

Hypocalcaemia (see section 4.4).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Traceability

In order to improve the traceability of biological medicinal products, the name and the batch number of the administered product should be clearly recorded.

Calcium and vitamin D supplementation

Adequate intake of calcium and vitamin D is important in all patients.

Precautions for use

Hypocalcaemia
It is important to identify patients at risk for hypocalcaemia. Hypocalcaemia must be corrected by adequate intake of calcium and vitamin D before initiating therapy. Clinical monitoring of calcium levels is recommended before each dose and, in patients predisposed to hypocalcaemia within two weeks after the initial dose. If any patient presents with suspected symptoms of hypocalcaemia during treatment (see section 4.8 for symptoms) calcium levels should be measured. Patients should be

encouraged to report symptoms indicative of hypocalcaemia.

In the post-marketing setting, severe symptomatic hypocalcaemia (resulting in hospitalisation, life-threatening events, and fatal cases) have been reported. While most cases occurred in the first few weeks of initiating therapy, it has also occurred later.

Concomitant glucocorticoid treatment is an additional risk factor for hypocalcaemia.

Renal impairment
Patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance < 30 mL/min) or receiving dialysis are at greater risk of developing hypocalcaemia. The risks of developing hypocalcaemia and accompanying parathyroid hormone elevations increase with increasing degree of renal impairment. Severe and fatal cases have been reported. Adequate intake of calcium, vitamin D and regular monitoring of calcium is especially important in these patients, see above.

Skin infections
Patients receiving denosumab may develop skin infections (predominantly cellulitis) leading to hospitalisation (see section 4.8). Patients should be advised to seek prompt medical attention if they develop signs or symptoms of cellulitis.

Osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ)
ONJ has been reported rarely in patients receiving denosumab for osteoporosis (see section 4.8).

The start of treatment/new treatment course should be delayed in patients with unhealed open soft tissue lesions in the mouth. A dental examination with preventive dentistry and an individual benefit-risk assessment is recommended prior to treatment with denosumab in patients with concomitant risk factors.

The following risk factors should be considered when evaluating a patient's risk of developing ONJ:
- potency of the medicinal product that inhibits bone resorption (higher risk for highly potent compounds), route of administration (higher risk for parenteral administration) and cumulative dose of bone resorption therapy.
- cancer, co-morbid conditions (e.g., anaemia, coagulopathies, infection), smoking.
- concomitant therapies: corticosteroids, chemotherapy, angiogenesis inhibitors, radiotherapy to head and neck.
- poor oral hygiene, periodontal disease, poorly fitting dentures, history of dental disease, invasive dental procedures (e.g., tooth extractions).

All patients should be encouraged to maintain good oral hygiene, receive routine dental check-ups, and immediately report any oral symptoms such as dental mobility, pain or swelling or non-healing of sores or discharge during treatment with denosumab. While on treatment, invasive dental procedures should be performed only after careful consideration and be avoided in close proximity to denosumab administration.

The management plan of the patients who develop ONJ should be set up in close collaboration between the treating physician and a dentist or oral surgeon with expertise in ONJ. Temporary interruption of treatment should be considered until the condition resolves and contributing risk factors are mitigated where possible.

Osteonecrosis of the external auditory canal
Osteonecrosis of the external auditory canal has been reported with denosumab. Possible risk factors for osteonecrosis of the external auditory canal include steroid use and chemotherapy and/or local risk factors such as infection or trauma. The possibility of osteonecrosis of the external auditory canal should be considered in patients receiving denosumab who present with ear symptoms including chronic ear infections.

Atypical fractures of the femur

Atypical femoral fractures have been reported in patients receiving denosumab (see section 4.8).

Atypical femoral fractures may occur with little or no trauma in the subtrochanteric and diaphyseal regions of the femur. Specific radiographic findings characterise these events. Atypical femoral fractures have also been reported in patients with certain co-morbid conditions (e.g., vitamin D deficiency, rheumatoid arthritis, hypophosphatasia) and with use of certain medicinal products (e.g., bisphosphonates, glucocorticoids, proton pump inhibitors). These events have also occurred without antiresorptive therapy. Similar fractures reported in association with bisphosphonates are often bilateral; therefore, the contralateral femur should be examined in denosumab-treated patients who have sustained a femoral shaft fracture. Discontinuation of denosumab therapy in patients suspected to have an atypical femur fracture should be considered pending evaluation of the patient based on an individual benefit-risk assessment. During denosumab treatment, patients should be advised to report new or unusual thigh, hip, or groin pain. Patients presenting with such symptoms should be evaluated for an incomplete femoral fracture.

Long-term antiresorptive treatment
Long-term antiresorptive treatment (including both denosumab and bisphosphonates) may contribute to an increased risk for adverse outcomes such as osteonecrosis of the jaw and atypical femur fractures due to significant suppression of bone remodelling (see section 4.2).

Treatment discontinuation
Following denosumab discontinuation, decrease in bone mineral density (BMD) is expected (see section 5.1), leading to an increased risk for fractures. Thus, monitoring of BMD is recommended, and alternative treatment should be considered according to clinical guidelines.

Concomitant treatment with other denosumab-containing medicinal products
Patients being treated with denosumab should not be treated concomitantly with other denosumab-containing medicinal products (for prevention of skeletal related events in adults with bone metastases from solid tumours).

Paediatric population

Hypercalcaemia in paediatric patients
Junod should not be used in paediatric patients (age < 18). Serious hypercalcaemia has been reported. Some clinical trial cases were complicated by acute renal injury.

Excipients

This medicinal product contains 46 mg sorbitol in each mL of solution. The additive effect of concomitantly administered products containing sorbitol (or fructose) and dietary intake of sorbitol (or fructose) should be taken into account.
This medicinal product contains 0.1 mg of polysorbate 20 in each 1 mL. Polysorbates may cause allergic reactions. Tell your doctor if you have or your child has any known allergies.
This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per mL that is to say essentially ‘sodium-free’.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

In an interaction study, denosumab did not affect the pharmacokinetics of midazolam, which is metabolised by cytochrome P450 3A4 (CYP3A4). This indicates that denosumab should not alter the pharmacokinetics of medicinal products metabolised by CYP3A4.

There are no clinical data on the co-administration of denosumab and hormone replacement therapy (oestrogen), however, the potential for a pharmacodynamic interaction is considered to be low.

In post-menopausal women with osteoporosis, the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of denosumab were not altered by previous alendronate therapy, based on data from a transition study

(alendronate to denosumab).

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

There are no or limited amount of data from the use of denosumab in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3).

Junod is not recommended for use in pregnant women and women of child-bearing potential not using contraception. Women should be advised not to become pregnant during and for at least 5 months after treatment with Junod. Any effects of denosumab are likely to be greater during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy since monoclonal antibodies are transported across the placenta in a linear fashion as pregnancy progresses, with the largest amount transferred during the third trimester.

Breast-feeding

It is unknown whether denosumab is excreted in human milk. In genetically engineered mice in which RANKL has been turned off by gene removal (a "knockout mouse"), studies suggest absence of RANKL (the target of denosumab, see section 5.1) during pregnancy may interfere with maturation of the mammary gland leading to impaired lactation post-partum (see section 5.3). A decision on whether to abstain from breast-feeding or to abstain from therapy with Junod should be made, taking into account the benefit of breast-feeding to the new-born/infant and the benefit of denosumab therapy to the woman.

Fertility

No data are available on the effect of denosumab on human fertility. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to fertility (see section 5.3).

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Junod has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile

The most common side effects with denosumab (seen in more than 1 patient in 10) are musculoskeletal pain and pain in the extremity. Uncommon cases of cellulitis, rare cases of hypocalcaemia, hypersensitivity, osteonecrosis of the jaw and atypical femoral fractures (see sections 4.4 and 4.8 - Description of selected adverse reactions) have been observed in patients taking denosumab.

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

The data in Table 1 below describe adverse reactions reported from phase II and III clinical trials in patients with osteoporosis and breast or prostate cancer patients receiving hormone ablation; and/or spontaneous reporting.

The following convention has been used for the classification of the adverse reactions (see Table 1): very common (≥ 1/10), common (≥ 1/100 to < /10), uncommon (≥ 1/1 000 to < 1/100), rare (≥ 1/10 000 to < 1/1 000), very rare (< 1/10 000) and not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data). Within each frequency grouping and system organ class, adverse reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

Table 1 Adverse reactions reported in patients with osteoporosis and breast or prostate cancer

patients receiving hormone ablation

MedDRA system organ class	Frequency category	Adverse reactions
Infections and infestations	Common	Urinary tract infection
	Common	Upper respiratory tract infection
	Uncommon	Diverticulitis[1]
	Uncommon	Cellulitis[1]
	Uncommon	Ear infection
Immune system disorders	Rare	Drug hypersensitivity[1]
	Rare	Anaphylactic reaction[1]
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Rare	Hypocalcaemia[1]
Nervous system disorders	Common	Sciatica
Gastrointestinal disorders	Common	Constipation
	Common	Abdominal discomfort
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Common	Rash
	Common	Eczema
	Common	Alopecia
	Uncommon	Lichenoid drug eruptions[1]
	Very rare	Hypersensitivity vasculitis
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	Very common	Pain in extremity
	Very common	Musculoskeletal pain[1]
	Rare	Osteonecrosis of the jaw[1]
	Rare	Atypical femoral fractures[1]
	Not known	Osteonecrosis of the external auditory canal[2]

[1] See below Description of selected adverse reactions.
[2] See section 4.4.

In a pooled analysis of data from all phase II and phase III placebo-controlled studies, influenza-like illness was reported with a crude incidence rate of 1.2% for denosumab and 0.7% for placebo. Although this imbalance was identified via a pooled analysis, it was not identified via a stratified analysis.

Description of selected adverse reactions

Hypocalcaemia
In two phase III placebo-controlled clinical trials in postmenopausal women with osteoporosis, approximately 0.05% (2 out of 4 050) of patients had declines of serum calcium levels (less than 1.88 mmol/L) following denosumab administration. Declines of serum calcium levels (less than 1.88 mmol/L) were not reported in either the two phase III placebo-controlled clinical trials in patients receiving hormone ablation or the phase III placebo-controlled clinical trial in men with osteoporosis.

In the post-marketing setting, rare cases of severe symptomatic hypocalcaemia resulting in hospitalisation, life-threatening events, and fatal cases have been reported predominantly in patients at increased risk of hypocalcaemia receiving denosumab, with most cases occurring in the first weeks of initiating therapy. Examples of the clinical manifestations of severe symptomatic hypocalcaemia have included QT interval prolongation, tetany, seizures and altered mental status (see section 4.4). Symptoms of hypocalcaemia in denosumab clinical studies included paraesthesias or muscle stiffness, twitching, spasms and muscle cramps.

Skin infections
In phase III placebo-controlled clinical trials, the overall incidence of skin infections was similar in the placebo and the denosumab groups: in post-menopausal women with osteoporosis (placebo [1.2%, 50 out of 4 041] versus denosumab [1.5%, 59 out of 4 050]); in men with osteoporosis (placebo [0.8%, 1 out of 120] versus denosumab [0%, 0 out of 120]); in breast or prostate cancer patients receiving

hormone ablation (placebo [1.7%, 14 out of 845] versus denosumab [1.4%, 12 out of 860]). Skin infections leading to hospitalisation were reported in 0.1% (3 out of 4, 041) of post-menopausal women with osteoporosis receiving placebo versus 0.4% (16 out of 4, 050) of women receiving denosumab. These cases were predominantly cellulitis. Skin infections reported as serious adverse reactions were similar in the placebo (0.6%, 5 out of 845) and the denosumab (0.6%, 5 out of 860) groups in the breast and prostate cancer studies.

Osteonecrosis of the jaw
ONJ has been reported rarely, in 16 patients, in clinical trials in osteoporosis and in breast or prostate cancer patients receiving hormone ablation including a total of 23 148 patients (see section 4.4). Thirteen of these ONJ cases occurred in post-menopausal women with osteoporosis during the phase III clinical trial extension following treatment with denosumab for up to 10 years. Incidence of ONJ was 0.04% at 3 years, 0.06% at 5 years and 0.44% at 10 years of denosumab treatment. The risk of ONJ increased with duration of exposure to denosumab.

The risk of ONJ has also been assessed in a retrospective cohort study among 76 192 postmenopausal women newly initiating treatment with denosumab. The incidence of ONJ was 0.32% (95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.26, 0.39) among patients using denosumab up to 3 years and 0.51% (95% CI: 0.39, 0.65) among patients using denosumab up to 5 years of follow-up.

Atypical fractures of the femur
In the osteoporosis clinical trial programme, atypical femoral fractures were reported rarely in patients treated with denosumab (see section 4.4).

Diverticulitis
In a single phase III placebo-controlled clinical trial in patients with prostate cancer receiving androgen deprivation therapy (ADT), an imbalance in diverticulitis adverse events was observed (1.2% denosumab, 0% placebo). The incidence of diverticulitis was comparable between treatment groups in post-menopausal women or men with osteoporosis and in women undergoing aromatase inhibitor therapy for non-metastatic breast cancer.

Drug-related hypersensitivity reactions
In the post-marketing setting, rare events of drug-related hypersensitivity, including rash, urticaria, facial swelling, erythema, and anaphylactic reactions have been reported in patients receiving denosumab.

Musculoskeletal pain
Musculoskeletal pain, including severe cases, has been reported in patients receiving denosumab in the post-marketing setting. In clinical trials, musculoskeletal pain was very common in both denosumab and placebo groups. Musculoskeletal pain leading to discontinuation of study treatment was uncommon.

Lichenoid drug eruptions
Lichenoid drug eruptions (e.g., lichen planus-like reactions) have been reported in patients in the post-marketing setting.

Other special populations

Paediatric population
Junod should not be used in paediatric patients (age < 18). Serious hypercalcaemia has been reported (see section 5.1). Some clinical trial cases were complicated by acute renal injury.

Renal impairment
In clinical studies, patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance < 30 mL/min) or receiving dialysis were at greater risk of developing hypocalcaemia in the absence of calcium supplementation. Adequate intake of calcium and vitamin D is important in patients with severe renal impairment or receiving dialysis (see section 4.4).

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the HPRA Pharmacovigilance Website: www.hpra.ie

4.9 Overdose

There is no experience with overdose in clinical studies. Denosumab has been administered in clinical studies using doses up to 180 mg every 4 weeks (cumulative doses up to 1, 080 mg over 6 months), and no additional adverse reactions were observed.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Drugs for treatment of bone diseases; Other drugs affecting bone structure and mineralisation, ATC code: M05BX04

Junod is a biosimilar medicinal product. Detailed information is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency https://www.ema.europa.eu.

Mechanism of action

Denosumab is a human monoclonal antibody (IgG2) that targets and binds with high affinity and specificity to RANKL, preventing activation of its receptor, RANK, on the surface of osteoclast precursors and osteoclasts. Prevention of the RANKL/RANK interaction inhibits osteoclast formation, function and survival, thereby decreasing bone resorption in cortical and trabecular bone.

Pharmacodynamic effects

Denosumab treatment rapidly reduced the rate of bone turnover, reaching a nadir for the bone resorption marker serum type 1 C-telopeptides (CTX) (85% reduction) by 3 days, with reductions maintained over the dosing interval. At the end of each dosing interval, CTX reductions were partially attenuated from maximal reduction of ≥ 87% to approximately ≥ 45% (range 45-80%), reflecting the reversibility of denosumab's effects on bone remodelling once serum levels diminish. These effects were sustained with continued treatment. Bone turnover markers generally reached pre-treatment levels within 9 months after the last dose. Upon re-initiation, reductions in CTX by denosumab were similar to those observed in patients initiating primary denosumab treatment.

Immunogenicity

Anti-denosumab antibodies may develop during denosumab treatment. No apparent correlation of antibody development with pharmacokinetics, clinical response or adverse event has been observed.

Clinical efficacy and safety in post-menopausal women with osteoporosis
Efficacy and safety of denosumab administered once every 6 months for 3 years were investigated in post-menopausal women (7 808 women aged 60-91 years, of which 23.6% had prevalent vertebral fractures) with baseline bone mineral density (BMD) T-scores at the lumbar spine or total hip between –2.5 and –4.0 and a mean absolute 10-year fracture probability of 18.60% (deciles: 7.9-32.4%) for major osteoporotic fracture and 7.22% (deciles: 1.4-14.9%) for hip fracture. Women with other diseases or on therapies that may affect bone were excluded from this study. Women received calcium (at least 1 000 mg) and vitamin D (at least 400 IU) supplementation daily.

Effect on vertebral fractures
Denosumab significantly reduced the risk of new vertebral fractures at 1, 2 and 3 years ($p < 0.0001$) (see Table 2).

Table 2 The effect of denosumab on the risk of new vertebral fractures

	Proportion of women with fracture (%)		Absolute risk reduction (%) (95% CI)	Relative risk reduction (%) (95% CI)
	Placebo n = 3 906	Denosumab n = 3 902		
0-1 year	2.2	0.9	1.4 (0.8, 1.9)	61 (42, 74)**
0-2 years	5.0	1.4	3.5 (2.7, 4.3)	71 (61, 79)**
0-3 years	7.2	2.3	4.8 (3.9, 5.8)	68 (59, 74)*

*$p < 0.0001$, **$p < 0.0001$ – exploratory analysis

Effect on hip fractures
Denosumab demonstrated a 40% relative reduction (0.5% absolute risk reduction) in the risk of hip fracture over 3 years ($p < 0.05$). The incidence of hip fracture was 1.2% in the placebo group compared to 0.7% in the denosumab group at 3 years.

In a post-hoc analysis in women > 75 years, a 62% relative risk reduction was observed with denosumab (1.4% absolute risk reduction, $p < 0.01$).

Effect on all clinical fractures
Denosumab significantly reduced fractures across all fracture types/groups (see Table 3).

Table 3 The effect of denosumab on the risk of clinical fractures over 3 years

	Proportion of women with fracture (%)+		Absolute risk reduction (%) (95% CI)	Relative risk reduction (%) (95% CI)
	Placebo n = 3 906	Denosumab n = 3 902		
Any clinical fracture[1]	10.2	7.2	2.9 (1.6, 4.2)	30 (19, 41)***
Clinical vertebral fracture	2.6	0.8	1.8 (1.2, 2.4)	69 (53, 80)***
Non-vertebral fracture[2]	8.0	6.5	1.5 (0.3, 2.7)	20 (5, 33)**
Major non-vertebral fracture[3]	6.4	5.2	1.2 (0.1, 2.2)	20 (3, 34)*
Major osteoporotic fracture[4]	8.0	5.3	2.7 (1.6, 3.9)	35 (22, 45)***

*$p \leq 0.05$; **$p = 0.0106$ (*secondary endpoint included in multiplicity adjustment*), ***$p \leq 0.0001$
+ Event rates based on Kaplan-Meier estimates at 3 years.
[1] Includes clinical vertebral fractures and non-vertebral fractures.
[2] Excludes those of the vertebrae, skull, facial, mandible, metacarpus, and finger and toe phalanges.
[3] Includes pelvis, distal femur, proximal tibia, ribs, proximal humerus, forearm, and hip.
[4] Includes clinical vertebral, hip, forearm, and humerus fractures, as defined by the WHO.

In women with baseline femoral neck BMD ≤ -2.5, denosumab reduced the risk of non-vertebral fracture (35% relative risk reduction, 4.1% absolute risk reduction, $p < 0.001$, exploratory analysis).

The reduction in the incidence of new vertebral fractures, hip fractures and non-vertebral fractures by denosumab over 3 years were consistent regardless of the 10-year baseline fracture risk.

Effect on bone mineral density
Denosumab significantly increased BMD at all clinical sites measured, versus placebo at 1, 2 and 3 years. Denosumab increased BMD by 9.2% at the lumbar spine, 6.0% at the total hip, 4.8% at the femoral neck, 7.9% at the hip trochanter, 3.5% at the distal 1/3 radius and 4.1% at the total body over 3 years (all $p < 0.0001$).

In clinical studies examining the effects of discontinuation of denosumab, BMD returned to

approximately pre-treatment levels and remained above placebo within 18 months of the last dose. These data indicate that continued treatment with denosumab is required to maintain the effect of the medicinal product. Re-initiation of denosumab resulted in gains in BMD similar to those when denosumab was first administered.

Open-label extension study in the treatment of post-menopausal osteoporosis
A total of 4 550 women (2 343 denosumab, 2 207 placebo) who missed no more than one dose of investigational product in the pivotal study described above and completed the month 36 study visit agreed to enrol in a 7-year, multinational, multicentre, open-label, single-arm extension study to evaluate the long-term safety and efficacy of denosumab. All women in the extension study were to receive denosumab 60 mg every 6 months, as well as daily calcium (at least 1 g) and vitamin D (at least 400 IU). A total of 2 626 subjects (58% of the women included in the extension study i.e., 34% of the women included in the pivotal study) completed the extension study.

In patients treated with denosumab for up to 10 years, BMD increased from the pivotal study baseline by 21.7% at the lumbar spine, 9.2% at the total hip, 9.0% at the femoral neck, 13.0% at the trochanter and 2.8% at the distal 1/3 radius. The mean lumbar spine BMD T-score at the end of the study was −1.3 in patients treated for 10 years.

Fracture incidence was evaluated as a safety endpoint but efficacy in fracture prevention cannot be estimated due to high number of discontinuations and open-label design. The cumulative incidence of new vertebral and non-vertebral fractures were approximately 6.8% and 13.1% respectively, in patients who remained on denosumab treatment for 10 years (n = 1 278). Patients who did not complete the study for any reason had higher on-treatment fracture rates.

Thirteen adjudicated cases of osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ) and two adjudicated cases of atypical fractures of the femur occurred during the extension study.

Clinical efficacy and safety in men with osteoporosis

Efficacy and safety of denosumab once every 6 months for 1 year were investigated in 242 men aged 31-84 years. Subjects with an eGFR < 30 mL/min/1.73 m^2 were excluded from the study. All men received calcium (at least 1 000 mg) and vitamin D (at least 800 IU) supplementation daily.

The primary efficacy variable was percent change in lumbar spine BMD, fracture efficacy was not evaluated. Denosumab significantly increased BMD at all clinical sites measured, relative to placebo at 12 months: 4.8% at lumbar spine, 2.0% at total hip, 2.2% at femoral neck, 2.3% at hip trochanter, and 0.9% at distal 1/3 radius (all $p < 0.05$). Denosumab increased lumbar spine BMD from baseline in 94.7% of men at 1 year. Significant increases in BMD at lumbar spine, total hip, femoral neck and hip trochanter were observed by 6 months ($p < 0.0001$).

Bone histology in post-menopausal women and men with osteoporosis

Bone histology was evaluated in 62 post-menopausal women with osteoporosis or with low bone mass who were either naïve to osteoporosis therapies or had transitioned from previous alendronate therapy following 1-3 years treatment with denosumab. Fifty-nine women participated in the bone biopsy sub-study at month 24 (n = 41) and/or month 84 (n = 22) of the extension study in post-menopausal women with osteoporosis. Bone histology was also evaluated in 17 men with osteoporosis following 1 year treatment with denosumab. Bone biopsy results showed bone of normal architecture and quality with no evidence of mineralisation defects, woven bone or marrow fibrosis. Histomorphometry findings in the extension study in post-menopausal women with osteoporosis showed that the antiresorptive effects of denosumab, as measured by activation frequency and bone formation rates, were maintained over time.

Clinical efficacy and safety in patients with bone loss associated with androgen deprivation

Efficacy and safety of denosumab once every 6 months for 3 years were investigated in men with

histologically confirmed non-metastatic prostate cancer receiving ADT (1 468 men aged 48-97 years) who were at increased risk of fracture (defined as > 70 years, or < 70 years with a BMD T-score at the lumbar spine, total hip, or femoral neck < -1.0 or a history of an osteoporotic fracture.) All men received calcium (at least 1 000 mg) and vitamin D (at least 400 IU) supplementation daily.

Denosumab significantly increased BMD at all clinical sites measured, relative to treatment with placebo at 3 years: 7.9% at the lumbar spine, 5.7% at the total hip, 4.9% at the femoral neck, 6.9% at the hip trochanter, 6.9% at the distal 1/3 radius and 4.7% at the total body (all $p < 0.0001$). In a prospectively planned exploratory analysis, significant increases in BMD were observed at the lumbar spine, total hip, femoral neck and the hip trochanter 1 month after the initial dose.

Denosumab demonstrated a significant relative risk reduction of new vertebral fractures: 85% (1.6% absolute risk reduction) at 1 year, 69% (2.2% absolute risk reduction) at 2 years and 62% (2.4% absolute risk reduction) at 3 years (all $p < 0.01$).

Clinical efficacy and safety in patients with bone loss associated with adjuvant aromatase inhibitor therapy

Efficacy and safety of denosumab once every 6 months for 2 years were investigated in women with non-metastatic breast cancer (252 women aged 35-84 years) and baseline BMD T-scores between -1.0 to -2.5 at the lumbar spine, total hip or femoral neck. All women received calcium (at least 1 000 mg) and vitamin D (at least 400 IU) supplementation daily.

The primary efficacy variable was percent change in lumbar spine BMD, fracture efficacy was not evaluated. Denosumab significantly increased BMD at all clinical sites measured, relative to treatment with placebo at 2 years: 7.6% at lumbar spine, 4.7% at total hip, 3.6% at femoral neck, 5.9% at hip trochanter, 6.1% at distal 1/3 radius and 4.2% at total body (all $p < 0.0001$).

Treatment of bone loss associated with systemic glucocorticoid therapy

Efficacy and safety of denosumab were investigated in 795 patients (70% women and 30% men) aged 20 to 94 years treated with ≥ 7.5 mg daily oral prednisone (or equivalent).

Two subpopulations were studied: glucocorticoid-continuing (≥ 7.5 mg daily prednisone or its equivalent for ≥ 3 months prior to study enrolment; n = 505) and glucocorticoid-initiating (≥ 7.5 mg daily prednisone or its equivalent for < 3 months prior to study enrolment; n = 290). Patients were randomised (1:1) to receive either denosumab 60 mg subcutaneously once every 6 months or oral risedronate 5 mg once daily (active control) for 2 years. Patients received calcium (at least 1 000 mg) and vitamin D (at least 800 IU) supplementation daily.

Effect on bone mineral density
In the glucocorticoid-continuing subpopulation, denosumab demonstrated a greater increase in lumbar spine BMD compared to risedronate at 1 year (denosumab 3.6%, risedronate 2.0%; $p < 0.001$) and 2 years (denosumab 4.5%, risedronate 2.2%; $p < 0.001$). In the glucocorticoid-initiating subpopulation, denosumab demonstrated a greater increase in lumbar spine BMD compared to risedronate at 1 year (denosumab 3.1%, risedronate 0.8%; $p < 0.001$) and 2 years (denosumab 4.6%, risedronate 1.5%; $p < 0.001$).

In addition, denosumab demonstrated a significantly greater mean percent increase in BMD from baseline compared to risedronate at the total hip, femoral neck, and hip trochanter.

The study was not powered to show a difference in fractures. At 1 year, the subject incidence of new radiological vertebral fracture was 2.7% (denosumab) versus 3.2% (risedronate). The subject incidence of non-vertebral fracture was 4.3% (denosumab) versus 2.5% (risedronate). At 2 years, the corresponding numbers were 4.1% versus 5.8% for new radiological vertebral fractures and 5.3% versus 3.8% for non-vertebral fractures. Most of the fractures occurred in the GC-C subpopulation.

Paediatric population

A single-arm phase III study evaluated the efficacy, safety, and pharmacokinetics was conducted in children with osteogenesis imperfecta, aged 2 to 17 years, 52.3% male, 88.2% Caucasian. A total of 153 subjects initially received subcutaneous (SC) denosumab 1 mg/kg, up to a maximum of 60 mg, every 6 months for 36 months. Sixty subjects transitioned to every 3 months dosing.

At month 12 of every 3 months dosing, the least squares (LS) mean (standard error, SE) change from baseline in lumbar spine BMD Z-score was 1.01 (0.12).

The most common adverse events reported during every 6 months dosing were arthralgia (45.8%), pain in extremity (37.9%), back pain (32.7%), and hypercalciuria (32.0%). Hypercalcaemia was reported during every 6 months (19%) and every 3 months (36.7%) dosing. Serious adverse events of hypercalcaemia (13.3%) were reported during every 3 months dosing.

In an extension study (n = 75), serious adverse events of hypercalcaemia (18.5%) were observed during every 3 months dosing.

The studies were terminated early due to the occurrence of life-threatening events and hospitalisations due to hypercalcaemia (see section 4.2).

In one multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study conducted in 24 paediatric patients with glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis, aged 5 to 17 years, evaluating change from baseline in lumbar spine BMD Z-score, safety and effectiveness were not established hence Junod should not be used for this indication.

The European Medicines Agency has waived the obligation to submit the results of studies with the reference medicinal product containing denosumab in all subsets of the paediatric population in the treatment of bone loss associated with sex hormone ablative therapy, and in subsets of the paediatric population below the age of 2 in the treatment of osteoporosis. see section 4.2 for information on paediatric use.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Following subcutaneous administration of a 1.0 mg/kg dose, which approximates the approved 60 mg dose, exposure based on AUC was 78% as compared to intravenous administration at the same dose level. For a 60 mg subcutaneous dose, maximum serum denosumab concentrations (C_{max}) of 6 mcg/mL (range 1-17 mcg/mL) occurred in 10 days (range 2-28 days).

Biotransformation

Denosumab is composed solely of amino acids and carbohydrates as native immunoglobulin and is unlikely to be eliminated via hepatic metabolic mechanisms. Its metabolism and elimination are expected to follow the immunoglobulin clearance pathways, resulting in degradation to small peptides and individual amino acids.

Elimination

After C_{max}, serum levels declined with a half-life of 26 days (range 6-52 days) over a period of 3 months (range 1.5-4.5 months). Fifty-three percent (53%) of patients had no measurable amounts of denosumab detected at 6 months post-dose.

No accumulation or change in denosumab pharmacokinetics with time was observed upon subcutaneous multiple dosing of 60 mg once every 6 months. Denosumab pharmacokinetics were not affected by the formation of binding antibodies to denosumab and were similar in men and women.

Age (28-87 years), race and disease state (low bone mass or osteoporosis; prostate or breast cancer) do not appear to significantly affect the pharmacokinetics of denosumab.

A trend was observed between higher body weight and lower exposure based on AUC and C_{max}. However, the trend is not considered clinically important, since pharmacodynamic effects based on bone turnover markers and BMD increases were consistent across a wide range of body weight.

Linearity/non-linearity

In dose ranging studies, denosumab exhibited non-linear, dose-dependent pharmacokinetics, with lower clearance at higher doses or concentrations, but approximately dose-proportional increases in exposures for doses of 60 mg and greater.

Renal impairment

In a study of 55 patients with varying degrees of renal function, including patients on dialysis, the degree of renal impairment had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of denosumab.

Hepatic impairment

No specific study in patients with hepatic impairment was performed. In general, monoclonal antibodies are not eliminated via hepatic metabolic mechanisms. The pharmacokinetics of denosumab is not expected to be affected by hepatic impairment.

Paediatric population

Denosumab should not be used in paediatric populations (see sections 4.2 and 5.1).

In a phase III study of paediatric patients with osteogenesis imperfecta (n = 153), maximum serum denosumab concentrations were observed on day 10 across all age groups. For every 3 months and every 6 months dosing, mean serum denosumab trough concentrations were observed to be higher for children 11 to 17 years of age, while children 2 to 6 years of age had the lowest mean trough concentrations.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

In single and repeated dose toxicity studies in cynomolgus monkeys, denosumab doses resulting in 100 to 150 times greater systemic exposure than the recommended human dose had no impact on cardiovascular physiology, male or female fertility, or produced specific target organ toxicity.

Standard tests to investigate the genotoxicity potential of denosumab have not been evaluated, since such tests are not relevant for this molecule. However, due to its character it is unlikely that denosumab has any potential for genotoxicity.

The carcinogenic potential of denosumab has not been evaluated in long-term animal studies.

In preclinical studies conducted in knockout mice lacking RANK or RANKL, impairment of lymph node formation was observed in the foetus. An absence of lactation due to inhibition of mammary gland maturation (lobulo-alveolar gland development during pregnancy) was also observed in knockout mice lacking RANK or RANKL.

In a study of cynomolgus monkeys dosed with denosumab during the period equivalent to the first trimester at AUC exposures up to 99-fold higher than the human dose (60 mg every 6 months), there was no evidence of maternal or foetal harm. In this study, foetal lymph nodes were not examined.

In another study of cynomolgus monkeys dosed with denosumab throughout pregnancy at AUC exposures 119-fold higher than the human dose (60 mg every 6 months), there were increased

stillbirths and post-natal mortality; abnormal bone growth resulting in reduced bone strength, reduced haematopoiesis, and tooth malalignment; absence of peripheral lymph nodes; and decreased neonatal growth. A no observed adverse effect level for reproductive effects was not established. Following a 6-month period after birth, bone related changes showed recovery and there was no effect on tooth eruption. However, the effects on lymph nodes and tooth malalignment persisted, and minimal to moderate mineralisation in multiple tissues was seen in one animal (relation to treatment uncertain). There was no evidence of maternal harm prior to labour; adverse maternal effects occurred infrequently during labour. Maternal mammary gland development was normal.

In preclinical bone quality studies in monkeys on long-term denosumab treatment, decreases in bone turnover were associated with improvement in bone strength and normal bone histology. Calcium levels were transiently decreased, and parathyroid hormone levels transiently increased in ovariectomised monkeys treated with denosumab.

In male mice genetically engineered to express huRANKL (knock-in mice), which were subjected to a transcortical fracture, denosumab delayed the removal of cartilage and remodelling of the fracture callus compared to control, but biomechanical strength was not adversely affected.

Knockout mice (see section 4.6) lacking RANK or RANKL exhibited decreased body weight, reduced bone growth and lack of tooth eruption. In neonatal rats, inhibition of RANKL (target of denosumab therapy) with high doses of a construct of osteoprotegerin bound to Fc (OPG-Fc) was associated with inhibition of bone growth and tooth eruption. These changes were partially reversible in this model when dosing with RANKL inhibitors was discontinued. Adolescent primates dosed with denosumab at 27 and 150 times (10 and 50 mg/kg dose) the clinical exposure had abnormal growth plates. Therefore, treatment with denosumab may impair bone growth in children with open growth plates and may inhibit eruption of dentition.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Acetic acid, glacial*
Sodium hydroxide (for pH adjustment)*
Sorbitol (E420)
Polysorbate 20 (E432)
Water for injections
* Acetate buffer is formed by mixing acetic acid, glacial with sodium hydroxide.

6.2 Incompatibilities

In the absence of compatibility studies, this medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products.

6.3 Shelf life

4 years

Once removed from the refrigerator, Junod may be stored at room temperature (up to 25 °C) for up to 30 days in the original container and outer packaging in order to protect from light . It must be used within this 30-day period.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store in a refrigerator (2 °C – 8 °C).
Do not freeze.
Keep the pre-filled syringe in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

6.5 Nature and contents of container and special equipment for use, administration or implantation

One mL Junod is presented in a single use pre-filled glass syringe (Type I glass) with FluroTec® plunger stopper, staked-in needle (27 G × ½ IN), and rigid needle shield (elastomer + polypropylene rigid shell).

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

- Before administration, the solution should be inspected. Do not inject the solution if it contains particles, or is cloudy or discoloured.
- Do not shake.
- To avoid discomfort at the site of injection, allow the pre-filled syringe to reach room temperature (up to 25 °C) before injecting and inject slowly.
- Inject the entire contents of the pre-filled syringe.

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Gedeon Richter Plc.
Gyömrői út 19-21.
1103 Budapest
Hungary

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

EU/1/25/1933/001

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 23 June 2025.

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

Detailed information on this medicinal product is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency https://www.ema.europa.eu