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NeuroAID
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Promising: Moleac will launch the clinical trial for NeuroAid in Oct

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SINGAPORE-BASED drug firm Moleac, which has turned a traditional Chinese medicine into a treatment for stroke patients, said it would launch a clinical trial for the product in October.

NeuroAid, which is made up of a mixture of 14 extracts and includes plants such as red sage and milkvetch roots, is currently sold in China, and in Singapore as an alternative medicine for stroke patients, a spokeswoman for the firm said. If the clinical trial is successful, NeuroAid would be recognised as a drug and sold in major markets including Europe and the US, the spokeswoman said.

Traditional Chinese medicine is regarded as an alternative medicine in the West, although in China it is a key mode of modern healthcare.

Today, the only treatment available for Ischemic stroke — the most common kind of stroke caused by a clot or other blockage disrupting the flow of blood to the brain — is the clot-buster t-PA, but it has to be given within three hours and less than 5 per cent of stroke victims get it.

Other stroke drugs have failed trials. German biotech firm Faion AG and its US partner Forest Laboratories' experimental stroke treatment failed in May while AstraZeneca's stroke drug NXY-059 flopped last year.

Moleac, set up in 2002, told Reuters last year that it expected to sell NeuroAid in Europe and the US this year. — Reuters