Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

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September 28, 2006

Dockets Management Branch
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
HFA-305, Room 1061
5630 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20852

SUITABILITY PETITION

This petition is submitted pursuant to 21 CFR 10.30, as provided for in 21 CFR 314.93 and Section 505(j)(2)(C) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, to request the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration to declare that the drug product Fexofenadine Hydrochloride for Oral Suspension, 30 mg/5 mL and 60 mg/5 mL, is suitable for submission as an abbreviated new drug application (ANDA).

A. Action Requested

The petition is submitted for changes in the dosage form and strength [from "30 mg, 60 mg and 180 mg tablets" to "30 mg/5 mL and 60 mg/5 mL powder for oral suspension"] from that of the currently approved drug product, Allegra® (fexofenadine hydrochloride) Tablets, 30 mg, 60 mg, and 180 mg manufactured by Sanofi-Aventis. Fexofenadine Hydrochloride for Oral Suspension will be marketed in 30 mg/5 mL and 60 mg/5 mL strengths.

The drug, the route of administration and the dosage regimen for use, apart from differences explained under "statement of grounds" following, are the same as the reference listed drug product.

B. Statement of Grounds

Allegra® has two approved indications: Seasonal allergic rhinitis and Chronic idiopathic urticaria. For both approved indications, the recommended total daily dose of Allegra® for children 6 to 11 years is 30 mg twice daily. A dose of 30 mg once daily is the recommended starting dose in patients with decreased renal function.

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The recommended total daily dose of Allegra® for children 12 years and older and for adults is 60 mg twice daily or 180 mg once daily. A dose of 60 mg once daily is the recommended starting dose in patients with decreased renal function.

Allegra® is not approved for use in children under 6 years of age.

The requested change in dosage form should not raise any questions regarding safety or efficacy, as the proposed Fexofenadine Hydrochloride for Oral Suspension, 30 mg/5 mL and 60 mg/5 mL can deliver the full range of dosing approved for Allegra®. It is expected that the oral suspension formulation will be most useful for dosing children under 12 years of age and will also be useful for adults with difficulty swallowing tablets.

Additionally, Fexofenadine Hydrochloride for Oral Suspension is expected to offer an alternative to the tablets, which could provide benefits for certain age groups and patients:

- Easier to take for those children or other patients who experience difficulty swallowing tablets.
- This may lead to better patient compliance or ease of administration for certain patients.

The proposed drug product will be formulated to be bioequivalent to the reference listed drug product - Allegra® (fexofenadine hydrochloride) Tablets, 180 mg. The bioequivalence data will be submitted in the ANDA.

Labeling of the proposed product (provided as **Enclosure 1**) will be the same as that of the reference listed drug product (provided as **Enclosure 2**) with differences explained above.

Further, the petitioner intends to collaborate closely with the Agency on the labeling and package insert of the proposed product to assure the labeling is the same as the reference listed drug except for those changes necessitated because the drug product is manufactured by a different sponsor and due to the differences approved by this petition.

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C. Pediatric Use Information

In December of 2003, Congress passed the Pediatric Research Equity Act of 2003 that amended the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act to provide the agency authority to require drug firms to study certain drugs in pediatric patients if the agency felt that such study would provide beneficial health data for that patient population. The act also provided a provision for a waiver from such requirement if:

> (iii) the drug or biological product—
>
> > (I) does not represent a meaningful therapeutic benefit over existing therapies for pediatric patients; and
> >
> > (II) is not likely to be used in a substantial number of pediatric patients.

Fexofenadine hydrochloride has been extensively studied in the pediatric population (ages 6 to 11 years) in adequate and well controlled clinical studies in seasonal allergic rhinitis. Safety and efficacy were demonstrated in these studies in about 661 pediatric patients. As noted in the package insert, the safety of Allegra® tablets at a dose of 30 mg twice daily has been demonstrated in 438 pediatric patients 6 to 11 years of age in two placebo controlled seasonal allergic rhinitis studies. For detail on those studies, please refer to **Enclosure 3**.

More recently, the package insert was updated to include data from studies in younger pediatric patients. Three clinical safety studies comparing 15 mg BID and 30 mg BID to placebo (n = 430) have been conducted in pediatric patients aged 6 months to 5 years. In general, fexofenadine hydrochloride was well tolerated in these studies. As noted in the approved labeling, "no unexpected adverse events were seen given the known safety profile of fexofenadine and likely adverse reactions for this patient population." In addition the innovator was awarded a period of pediatric exclusivity associated with the studies it performed. Thus, it is assumed that the innovator's studies were responsive to the written request issued by the agency.

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The dosing range for the proposed new formulation [powder for oral suspension] is the same as for the reference listed drug and is consistent with the dosing recommendations of the reference listed drug. Bioequivalence studies comparing the proposed Fexofenadine Hydrochloride for Oral Suspension, 60 mg/5 mL with Allegra® (fexofenadine hydrochloride) Tablets, 180 mg, will be submitted with the ANDA for approval.

The petitioner hereby requests that a waiver from the conduct of additional pediatric studies be granted for the approval of this petition to permit a subsequent ANDA filing. The drug product subject of this petition does not represent a meaningful therapeutic benefit over existing therapies for pediatric patients. In addition, as the package insert of Sanofi-Aventis' Allegra® (fexofenadine) tablets contains adequate dosing and administration information for the pediatric population, no additional studies are required and it would not be ethical to have to reproduce those same types of studies in the pediatric patient population that supported the current pediatric labeling.

D. Environmental Impact

An environmental assessment report on the action requested in this petition is not required under 21 CFR 25.31.

E. Economic Impact

The petitioner does not believe that this is applicable in this case, but will agree to provide such an analysis if requested by the agency.

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F. Certification

The undersigned certifies that to the best of her knowledge, this petition includes all information and views on which the petition relies, and that it includes representative data and information known to the petitioner, which are unfavorable to the petition.

Sincerely,

For Lupin Limited,

LESLIE SANDS
Director – Regulatory Affairs (USA)
Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Enclosures - As above

Cc: Mr. Leo Zadecky, Office of Generic Drugs

Enclosure 1: Labeling of Proposed Product
Enclosure 2: Allegra® Labeling
Enclosure 3: Pediatric Studies

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