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Draft Guidance on Cetirizine Hydrochloride

August 2022

This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA, or the Agency) on this topic. It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. To discuss an alternative approach, contact the Office of Generic Drugs.

This guidance, which interprets the Agency's regulations on bioequivalence at 21 CFR part 320, provides product-specific recommendations on, among other things, the design of bioequivalence studies to support abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs) for the referenced drug product. FDA is publishing this guidance to further facilitate generic drug product availability and to assist the generic pharmaceutical industry with identifying the most appropriate methodology for developing drugs and generating evidence needed to support ANDA approval for generic versions of this product.

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way, unless specifically incorporated into a contract. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law. FDA guidance documents, including this guidance, should be viewed only as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are cited. The use of the word should in FDA guidances means that something is suggested or recommended, but not required.

In May 2008, FDA issued a finalized product-specific guidance for industry on generic cetirizine hydrochloride. We are now issuing revised draft guidance for industry that replaces the previously issued guidance.

Active Ingredient: Cetirizine hydrochloride

Dosage Form; Route: Tablet, chewable; oral

Recommended Studies: Two in vivo bioequivalence studies with pharmacokinetic endpoints

1. Type of study: Fasting
Design: Single-dose, two-treatment, two-period crossover in vivo
Strength: 10 mg
Subjects: Males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females, general population
Additional comment: The tablet should be chewed, then swallowed without water.

2. Type of study: Fed
Design: Single-dose, two-treatment, two-period crossover in vivo
Strength: 10 mg
Subjects: Males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females, general population
Additional comment: See comment above.

Analyte to measure: Cetirizine in plasma

Bioequivalence based on (90% CI): Cetirizine

Waiver request of in vivo testing: 2.5 mg and 5 mg strengths based on (i) acceptable bioequivalence studies on the 10 mg strength, (ii) acceptable in vitro dissolution testing of all the strengths, and (iii) proportional similarity of the formulations across all strengths

Cetirizine hydrochloride chewable tablet is the subject of two separate indications. Each strength should be submitted to each appropriate indication.

Dissolution test method and sampling times: The dissolution information for this drug product can be found in the FDA's Dissolution Methods database, <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/dissolution/>. Conduct comparative dissolution testing on 12 dosage units for each of all strengths of the test and reference products. Specifications will be determined upon evaluation of the ANDA.

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