

Contains Nonbinding Recommendations
Draft – Not for Implementation
Draft Guidance on Varenicline Tartrate
October 2024

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Active Ingredient:	Varenicline tartrate
Dosage Form:	Tablet
Route:	Oral
Strengths:	EQ 0.5 mg Base, EQ 1 mg Base
Recommended Studies:	Two options: (1) Biopharmaceutics Classification System (BCS)-based biowaiver or (2) one in vivo bioequivalence study with pharmacokinetic endpoints

I. Option 1: BCS Class I-based biowaiver

A waiver request of in vivo testing for both strengths of this product may be considered provided that the appropriate documentation regarding high solubility, high permeability and rapid dissolution as detailed in the most recent version of the FDA guidance for industry on *M9 Biopharmaceutics Classification System-Based Biowaivers^a* is submitted in the application. Applicants may use the information contained in the approved labeling of the reference listed drug (RLD). Peer reviewed articles may not contain the necessary details of the testing for the Agency to make a judgment regarding the quality of the studies. A decision regarding the acceptability of the waiver request can only be made upon assessment of the data submitted in the application.

II. Option 2: One in vivo bioequivalence study with pharmacokinetic endpoints

1. Type of study: Fasting
Design: Single-dose, two-treatment, two-period crossover in vivo
Strength: EQ 1 mg Base
Subjects: Healthy males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females
Additional comments: None

Analyte to measure: Varenicline in plasma

Bioequivalence based on (90% CI): Varenicline

Waiver request of in vivo testing: EQ 0.5 mg Base strength based on (i) acceptable bioequivalence study on the 1 mg strength, (ii) acceptable in vitro dissolution testing of both strengths, and (iii) proportional similarity of the formulations between both strengths

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 both strengths of the test product and RLD.¹ Specifications will be determined upon review of the abbreviated new drug application.

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^a For the most recent version of a guidance, check the FDA guidance website at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents>.

¹ If the RLD is not available, refer to the most recent version of the FDA guidance for industry on *Referencing Approved Drug Products in ANDA Submissions*.