



NDA 20-920/S-023

Scios, Inc.
c/o Ms. Purve Patel
Associate Director, Regulatory Affairs
Johnson & Johnson
Pharmaceutical Research & Development, L.L.C.
920 Rt. 202 South
Raritan, NJ 08869

Dear Ms. Patel:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated December 11, 2008, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Natrecor (nesiritide) for Injection.

We acknowledge receipt of your submission dated April 1, 2009.

This supplemental new drug application provides for labeling revised as follows:

1. Under PRECAUTIONS/General, the following text has been deleted from the first paragraph:

“No serious allergic or anaphylactic reactions have been reported with Natrecor.”

2. The PRECAUTIONS/Pregnancy section has been changed from:

Pregnancy: Category C: Animal developmental and reproductive toxicity studies have not been conducted with nesiritide. It is also not known whether Natrecor can cause fetal harm when administered to pregnant women or can affect reproductive capacity. Natrecor should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies any possible risk to the fetus.

To:

Pregnancy: Category C: It is not known whether Natrecor can cause fetal harm when administered to pregnant women or if it can affect reproductive capacity. A developmental reproductive toxicology study was conducted in pregnant rabbits using doses up to 1440 mcg/kg/day given by constant infusion for 13 days. At this level of exposure (based on AUC, approximately 70 x human exposure at the recommended dose) no adverse effects on live births or fetal development were observed. Natrecor should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies any possible risk to the fetus.

3. The following new Postmarketing Experience section has been added at the end of the ADVERSE REACTIONS section:

Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post-approval use of Natrecor. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not possible to reliably estimate their frequency: hypersensitivity reactions.

4. The OVERDOSAGE section has been changed from:

No data are available with respect to overdose in humans. The expected reaction would be excessive hypotension, which should be treated with drug discontinuation or reduction (see PRECAUTIONS) and appropriate measures

To:

Overdose with Natrecor therapy has been reported and is primarily the result of either a miscalculated Natrecor dose or a mechanical error such as an infusion-pump malfunction or an infusion-pump programming error. The most frequently reported adverse event reported with Natrecor overdose is hypotension, which may be asymptomatic and most often resolves with drug stoppage, although in some cases hypotension may persist for several hours beyond discontinuation.. Treatment of Natrecor overdose should include drug discontinuation and the administration of supportive measures (See PRECAUTIONS – Cardiovascular).

5. Additional minor editorial changes have been made and are reflected in the attached labeling.

We have completed our review of this application, as amended. This application is approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the agreed-upon labeling text.

As soon as possible, but no later than 14 days from the date of this letter, please submit the content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(1)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format as described at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/datacouncil/spl.html> that is identical to the enclosed labeling. Upon receipt, we will transmit that version to the National Library of Medicine for public dissemination. For administrative purposes, please designate this submission, “SPL for approved NDA 20-920/S-023.” Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

If you issue a letter communicating important information about this drug product (i.e., a “Dear Health Care Professional” letter), we request that you submit a copy of the letter to this NDA and a copy to the following address:

MEDWATCH
Food and Drug Administration
Suite 12B05
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

We remind you that you must comply with reporting requirements for an approved NDA (21 CFR 314.80 and 314.81).

If you have any questions, please call Russell Fortney, Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 796-1068.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Norman Stockbridge, M.D., Ph.D.
Director
Division of Cardiovascular and Renal Products
Office of Drug Evaluation I
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

Enclosure: Agreed-upon Labeling Text

**This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically and
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/s/

Norman Stockbridge
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