NDA 20-323/S-021

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
Attention: Lynn Mellor
Associate Director, Drug Regulatory Affairs
59 Route 10
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080

Dear Ms. Mellor:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated April 30, 1999, received May 3, 1999, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Vivelle® (estradiol transdermal system) 0.0375, 0.05, 0.075, and 0.1 mg per day.

We acknowledge receipt of your submissions dated June 18, September 20, November 4 and 23, 1999; and January 7, 18 (facsimile) and 24, and February 4 and 7, 2000.

This supplemental new drug application provides for the use of 0.0375 mg Vivelle® for the treatment of moderate-to-severe vasomotor symptoms associated with the menopause, treatment of vulvar and vaginal atrophy and treatment of hypoestrogenism due to hypogonadism, castration, or primary ovarian failure. The application supports removal of the previous labeling statement: "Some women taking the 0.0375 mg/day dosage may experience a delayed onset of action."

We have completed the review of this supplemental application, as amended, and have concluded that adequate information has been presented to demonstrate that the drug product is safe and effective for use as recommended in the agreed upon labeling text. Accordingly, the supplemental application is approved effective on the date of this letter.

The final printed labeling (FPL) must be identical to the submitted draft labeling (package insert and patient package insert submitted February 4, 2000).

Please submit 20 copies of the FPL as soon as it is available, in no case more than 30 days after it is printed. Please individually mount ten of the copies on heavy-weight paper or similar material. For administrative purposes, this submission should be designated "FPL for approved supplement NDA 20-323/S-21." Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

In addition, please submit three copies of the introductory promotional materials that you propose to use for this product. All proposed materials should be submitted in draft or mock-up form, not final print. Please submit one copy to this Division and two copies of both the promotional materials and the package insert directly to:

Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications, HFD-40
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

If a letter communicating important information about this drug product (i.e., a "Dear Health Care Practitioner" letter) is issued to physicians and others responsible for patient care, w request that you submit a copy of the letter to this NDA and a copy to the following address:

MEDWATCH, HF-2
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Please submit one market package of the drug product when it is available.

We remind you that you must comply with the requirements for an approved NDA set forth under 21 CFR 314.80 and 314.81.

If you have any questions, call Diane Moore, Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 827-4260.

Sincerely,

Susan Allen, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Director
Division of Reproductive and Urologic Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation III
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research