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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

NDA 21-114

FEB 23 2000

Alcon Research, Ltd.
Attention: Scott Krueger
Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs
6201 South Freeway
Fort Worth, Texas 76134-2099

Dear Mr. Krueger:

Please refer to Alcon Universal, Limited's new drug application (NDA) dated August 25, 1999, received August 26, 1999, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Betaxon (levobetaxolol hydrochloride ophthalmic suspension) 0.5%.

We acknowledge receipt of your submissions dated May 25 and 26, October 1, 15 and 20, December 2, 7, 8, 13, 17, and 20, 1999, and January 12, 18 and 24, and February 15 and 17, 2000.

This new drug application provides for the use of Betaxon for lowering intraocular pressure in patients with chronic open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension.

We have completed the review of this 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 submission dated February 17, 2000. Accordingly, the application is approved effective on the date of this letter.

The final printed labeling (FPL) must be identical to the draft labeling submitted February 17, 2000. Marketing the product with FPL that is not identical to the approved labeling text may render the product misbranded and an unapproved new drug.

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 NDA 21-114." Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

Validation of the regulatory methods has not been completed. At the present time, it is the policy of the Center not to withhold approval because the methods are being validated. Nevertheless, we expect your continued cooperation to resolve any problems that may be identified.

Be advised that, as of April 1, 1999, all applications for new active ingredients, new dosage forms, new indications, new routes of administration, and new dosing regimens are required to contain an assessment of the safety and effectiveness of the product in pediatric patients unless this requirement is waived or deferred (63 FR 66632). We note that you have not fulfilled the requirements of 21 CFR 314.55 (or 601.27). We are deferring submission of your pediatric studies until October 1, 2002. However, in the interim, please submit your pediatric drug development plans and we will review your plans.

Pediatric studies conducted under the terms of section 505A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act may result in additional marketing exclusivity for certain products (pediatric exclusivity). A written request for pediatric information on levobetaxolol hydrochloride for the treatment of elevated intraocular pressure was issued on October 15, 1999. Please note that satisfaction of the requirements in 21 CFR 314.55 alone may not qualify you for pediatric exclusivity. FDA does not necessarily ask a sponsor to complete the same scope of studies to qualify for pediatric exclusivity as it does to fulfill the requirements of the pediatric rule.

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:

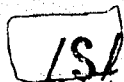
Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications, HFD-40
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

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 Lori M. Gorski, Project Manager, at (301) 827-2090.

Sincerely,

 2/23/00

Wiley A. Chambers, M.D.

Deputy Director

Division of Anti-Inflammatory, Analgesic and
Ophthalmic Drug Products, HFD-550

Office of Drug Evaluation V

Center for Drug Evaluation and Research