Contains Nonbinding Recommendations

Draft Guidance on Calcipotriene

This draft guidance, once finalized, will represent the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) current thinking on this topic. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative approach, contact the Office of Generic Drugs.

Active ingredient: Calcipotriene

Form/Route: Solution/Topical

Strength: 0.005%

Recommended study: Request for Waiver of In vivo Bioequivalence Study Requirements

Bioequivalence study recommendations:

To qualify for a waiver of the in vivo bioequivalence (BE) study requirements under 21 CFR 320.22(b)(3), a generic calcipotriene topical solution product must have the same active ingredient in the same concentration and dosage form as the reference listed drug product (RLD) and must not have an inactive ingredient or other change in formulation from the RLD that may significantly affect systemic or local availability.

For a topical drug product that differs from the RLD in inactive ingredients [as permitted by the chemistry, manufacturing and controls regulations for abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs), 21 CFR 314.94(a)(9)(v)], the regulation specifies that the applicant must identify and characterize the differences and provide information demonstrating that the differences do not affect the safety or efficacy of the proposed drug product.

Due to the possibility of hypercalcemia from systemic calcipotriene absorption with this product, differences in inactive ingredients may not be acceptable without data showing that the proposed product will not result in increased systemic absorption compared to the RLD. Proposals regarding appropriate evaluation of systemic absorption should be discussed with the Division of Bioequivalence.

For products applied to the scalp, differences in surfactants or potential penetration enhancers may change the distribution of the product over the scalp or penetration of the drug into the diseased tissues. Therefore, clinical endpoint bioequivalence studies are requested for generic calcipotriene topical solution products with differences in these ingredients that are proportionally more than +/- 5% compared to the RLD.