

Draft Guidance on Cetirizine Hydrochloride

October 2024

This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA, or the Agency) on this topic. It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. To discuss an alternative approach, contact the Office of Generic Drugs.

In general, FDA's guidance documents do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities. Instead, guidances describe the Agency's current thinking on a topic and should be viewed only as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are cited. The use of the word *should* in Agency guidances means that something is suggested or recommended, but not required.

Active Ingredient: Cetirizine hydrochloride

Dosage Form: Capsule

Route: Oral

Strengths: 5 mg, 10 mg

Recommended Study: One in vivo bioequivalence study with pharmacokinetic endpoints

1. Type of study: Fasting
Design: Single-dose, two-treatment, two-period crossover in vivo
Strength: 10 mg
Subjects: Healthy males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females
Additional comments: None

Analyte to measure: Cetirizine in plasma

Bioequivalence based on (90% CI): Cetirizine

Waiver request of in vivo testing: 5 mg strength based on (i) acceptable bioequivalence study on the 10 mg strength, (ii) acceptable in vitro dissolution testing of both strengths, and (iii) proportional similarity of the formulations between both strengths

Note that OTC cetirizine hydrochloride capsules, 5 mg and 10 mg, are available in two presentations as: “Allergy” and “Hives Relief”, under the same reference drug application. Conduct the bioequivalence studies comparing to either one of the reference listed drugs (RLDs) presentations. Applicants may submit the appropriate labeling and packaging information for one or both presentations under the same abbreviated new drug application (ANDA). Both generic presentations of this product must be the same as the RLD.

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 ANDA.

Document History: Recommended April 2011; Finalized August 2017; Revised October 2024

Unique Agency Identifier: PSG_022429

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*.