Draft Guidance on Pitolisant Hydrochloride

May 2021

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This guidance, which interprets the Agency’s regulations on bioequivalence at 21 CFR part 320, provides product-specific recommendations on, among other things, the design of bioequivalence studies to support abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs) for the referenced drug product. FDA is publishing this guidance to further facilitate generic drug product availability and to assist the generic pharmaceutical industry with identifying the most appropriate methodology for developing drugs and generating evidence needed to support ANDA approval for generic versions of this product.

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This is a new draft product-specific guidance for industry on generic pitolisant hydrochloride.

Active Ingredient: Pitolisant hydrochloride

Dosage Form; Route: Tablet; oral

Recommended Studies: Two studies

1. Type of study: Fasting
   Design: Single-dose, two-treatment, two-period, crossover in vivo
   Strength: EQ 17.8 mg Base
   Subjects: Males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females, general population
   Additional comments: Exclude subjects with risk factors for QT interval prolongation and torsade de pointes. Monitor subjects for electrocardiogram changes during the study. Females of reproductive potential should use non-hormonal contraceptive method during the study and for at least 21 days after completion of the study.

2. Type of study: Fed
   Design: Single-dose, two-treatment, two-period, crossover in vivo

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Strength: EQ 17.8 mg Base
Subjects: Males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females, general population
Additional comments: See comments above.

Analyte to measure: Pitolisant in serum

Bioequivalence based on (90% CI): Pitolisant

Waiver request of in vivo testing: EQ 4.45 mg Base based on (i) acceptable bioequivalence studies on the EQ 17.8 mg Base strength, (ii) proportionally similar between both strengths, and (iii) acceptable in vitro dissolution testing of both strengths

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 and reference products. Specifications will be determined upon review of the abbreviated new drug application.

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