NDA 21-056

Ligand Pharmaceuticals
Attention: Howard T. Holden, Ph.D.
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Compliance
10275 Science Center Drive
San Diego, CA 92121-1117

Dear Dr. Holden:

Please refer to your new drug application (NDA) dated December 8, 1999, received December 9, 1999, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Targretin (bexarotene) gel 1%.

We acknowledge receipt of your submissions dated June 6, 8 and 15, 2000. Your submission of June 8, 2000 constituted a complete response to our June 9, 2000 action letter.

This new drug application provides for the use of Targretin (bexarotene) gel 1% for the topical treatment of cutaneous lesions in patients with CTCL (Stage IA and IB) who have refractory or persistent disease after other therapies or who have not tolerated other therapies.

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 agreed upon enclosed labeling text. Accordingly, the application is approved effective on the date of this letter.

The final printed labeling (FPL) must be identical to the enclosed labeling (text for the package insert, text for the patient package insert, immediate container and carton labels). 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 paper 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. Alternately, you may submit the FPL electronically according to the guidance for industry titled *Providing Regulatory Submissions in Electronic Format - NDAs* (January 1999). For administrative purposes, this submission should be designated "FPL for approved NDA 21-056." 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.

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-42
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 Amy Baird, Consumer Safety Officer, at (301) 594-5771.

Sincerely,

Richard Pazdur, M.D.
Director
Division of Oncology Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation I
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

Enclosure

cc:
Archival NDA 21-056
HFD-150/Div. Files
HFD-150/Baird
HFD-150/White/Johnson/Ahn/Rothmann/G. Chen/Kim/Wood/Gene Williams/Rahman
HFD-150/Pease (with labeling)
HF-2/MedWatch (with labeling)
HFD-002/ORM (with labeling)
HFD-101/ADRA (with labeling)
HFD-104/Peds/V.Kao (with labeling)
HFD-104/Peds/T.Crescenzi (with labeling)
HFD-42/DDMAC (with labeling)
HFI-20/Press Office (with labeling)
HFD-400/OPDRA (with labeling)
HFD-613/OGD (with labeling)
HFD-35/Orphan Drugs
HFD-095/DDMS-IMT (with labeling)
HFD-810/DNDC Division Director
DISTRICT OFFICE
R/D by: Baird-6-26-00
R/D init by: Pease-6-26-00/Rothmann-6-26-00/Chen-6-26-00/Wood-6-26-00/Schmidt-6-27-00/
GeneWilliams-6-26-00/Rahman-6-26-00/White-6-26-00/Johnson-6-27-00
F/T by: Baird-6-27-00
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APPROVAL (AP)