DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

OCT 21 2003

David W. Grob, MS, RAC
Director
Regulatory Affairs OTC & Labeling
Purdue Pharma L.P.
The Purdue Frederick Company
One Stamford Forum
Stamford, CT 06901-3431

RE: Docket No. 78N-036L
Comment No. RPT 16

Dear Mr. Grob:

Reference is made to your submission, dated March 28, 2003, containing a study to support the safety of senna-containing over-the-counter (OTC) laxative drug products. The purpose of the study was to investigate the potential carcinogenic response to senna after oral administration to Sprague-Dawley rats.

The agency is in the process of reviewing your study. However, before the review can be completed, we will need additional data. In your 2-year oral (gavage) carcinogenicity study with senna-MIS (Madaus AG Indian Senna) in Sprague-Dawley rats, groups of animals received 0, 0, 25, 100 and 300 mg/kg/day doses. We note that in the low and mid dose groups, the brains of only 42 and 45 (of 60) animals were examined, respectively. As per the protocol, please complete the histopathological examinations of the brain tissues from the remaining animals of the low and mid dose groups and submit this data to the agency for review.

FDA is looking forward to receiving these additional data so that we can quickly clarify the monograph status of OTC senna drug products. Please submit this additional information to the Division of Dockets Management (formerly the Dockets Management Branch) (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, Rockville, M.D. 20852 and refer to the docket and comment numbers above. If you have any additional questions contact Ms. Mary Robinson at 301-827-2222.

Sincerely yours,

CJG for Ganley

Charles J. Ganley, M.D.
Director
Division of Over-the-Counter Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation V
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research