



DEC 17 2001

AAI International  
Attention: Wayne L. Whittingham  
2320 Scientific Park Drive, Suite 229  
Wilmington, NC 28403

Docket No. 01P-0379/CP1

Dear Mr. Whittingham:

This is in response to your petition filed on August 30, 2001, requesting permission to file an Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) for the following drug products: Azathioprine Tablets, 75 mg and 100 mg. The listed drug product to which you refer in your petition is Azathioprine Tablets, 50 mg, approved under NDA 16-324, held by Faro Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Your request involves changes in strength from that of the listed drug product (i.e., from 50 mg to 75 mg & 100 mg). The changes you request are the type of changes that are authorized under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (Act).

We have reviewed your petition under Section 505(j)(2)(C) of the Act and have determined that it is approved. This letter represents the Agency's determination that an ANDA may be submitted for the above-referenced drug products.

Under Section 505(j)(2)(C)(i) of the Act, the Agency must approve a petition seeking a strength that differs from the strength of the listed drug product unless it finds that investigations must be conducted to show the safety and effectiveness of the differing strength.

The Agency finds that the change in strength for the specific proposed drug products do not pose questions of safety or effectiveness because the uses, dose, and route of administration of the proposed drug products are the same as that of the listed drug product. The Agency concludes, therefore, that investigations are not necessary in this instance. In addition, if shown to meet bioavailability requirements, the proposed drug products can be expected to have the same therapeutic effect as the listed reference drug product.

The approval of this petition to allow an ANDA to be submitted for the above-referenced drug products does not mean that the Agency has determined that an ANDA will be approved for the drug products. The determination of whether an ANDA will be approved is not made until the ANDA itself is submitted and reviewed by the Agency.

01P-0379

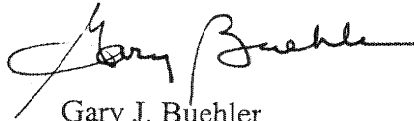
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01P-0379/CP1  
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To permit review of your ANDA submission, you must submit all information required under Sections 505(j)(2)(A) and (B) of the Act. To be approved, the drug products will, among other things, be required to meet current bioavailability requirements under Section 505(j)(2)(A)(iv) of the Act. Please submit your protocol for these drug products to the Office of Generic Drugs, Division of Bioequivalence prior to the submission of your ANDA. During the review of your application, the Agency may require the submission of additional information. The listed drug product to which you refer in your ANDA must be the one upon which you based this petition. In addition, you should refer in your ANDA to the appropriate petition docket number cited above, and include a copy of this letter in the ANDA submission.

A copy of this letter approving your petition will be placed on public display in the Dockets Management Branch, Room 1061, Mail Stop HFA-305, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Buehler", written over a horizontal line.

Gary J. Buehler  
Director  
Office of Generic Drugs  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research