CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

Application Number: NDA 20180/S13

APPROVAL LETTER

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

NDA 20-180/S-013

Merck Research Laboratories
Attention: Robert E. Silverman, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Regulatory Affairs
P.O. Box 4, BLA-20
West Point, PA 19486

MAY 12 1997

Dear Dr. Silverman:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated November 12, 1996, received November 13, 1996, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Proscar™ (finasteride) tablets.

We acknowledge receipt of your submission dated December 27,1996. The User Fee goal date for this application is May 13, 1997.

The supplemental application provides for an alternative site for the manufacture of the which is involved in the synthesis of the drug substance.

We have completed the review of this supplemental application and it is approved.

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, please contact Terri F.Rumble, B.S.N., Regulatory Health Project Manager, at (301) 827-4260.

Sincerely,

/S/ 5/8/97

Moo-Jhong Rhee, Ph.D.
Chemistry Team Leader
Division of Reproductive and Urologic Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation II
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

cc:

Original NDA 20-180
HFD-580/Div. Files
HFD-580/CSO/T.Rumble
HFD-580/Rarick/Jolson/Rhee
HFD-820/ONDC Division Director
HFD-92/DDM-DIAB
DISTRICT OFFICE

Drafted by: Rumble/May 8, 1997/nda/suppl/20180.013
Initialed by: Rhee,5.8.97
final: Rumble 5/8/97

APPROVAL (AP)

CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

APPLICATION NUMBER: NDA 20180/S13

CORRESPONDENCE

Robert E. Silverman, M.D., Ph.D.
Director
Regulatory Affairs

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Merck & Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 4
West Point PA 19486
Fax 610 397 2516
Tel 610 397 2944
215 652 5000

ORIGINAL

November 12, 1996

NDA NO. 20-180 REF. NO. 013
NDA SUPPL FOR SCM

MERCK
Research Laboratories

Lisa Rarick, M.D., Division Director
Division of Reproductive and Urologic
Drug Products, HFD-580
Office of Drug Evaluation II (CDER)
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Rarick:

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT - CHANGES BEING EFFECTED
NDA 20-180: PROSCAR™ (Finasteride)

Pursuant to Section 505(b) of the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act and in accordance with 21 CFR 314.70 (c), we submit a supplement to NDA 20-180.

As indicated on the attached Form FDA 356h, the supplemental application provides for changes in Item 3 of the approved New Drug Application for PROSCAR™.

The attached supplement provides for an alternative site in the manufacture of the in the finasteride process for PROSCAR™, at the Merck Manufacturing Division (MMD) facilities in Ponders End, United Kingdom. The address of Ponders End facility is: Merck Sharp & Dohme, Ltd, Morson Road, Ponders End, Enfield Middx EN3 4TJ, United Kingdom. The process remains as described in NDA 20-180. The most recent satisfactory GMP inspection of the Ponders End facility took place between October 4, 1995 and October 6, 1995.

Merck commits to incorporating three early production batches of PROSCAR™, manufactured from finasteride using the alternative site for the into the existing drug product stability testing program. Testing will be conducted in accordance with the stability protocol. If any production lot does not meet approved specifications, Merck will promptly withdraw from the market any lot so effected and/or discuss the deviation with the agency.

Approved on 5/12/97 7/21/97

REVIEWS COMPLETED
AP letter sent 5/12/97
CSO ACTION:
☒ LETTER ☐ N.A.I. ☐ MEMO
Rumble 5/13/97
CSO INITIALS DATE

The changes will become effective on or about January 1, 1997 and will apply to all packages of PROSCAR™ distributed from the company's manufacturing facilities at West Point, PA.

Pursuant to 21 CFR 314.70(a), a complete field copy of this supplement has been submitted to the FDA Philadelphia District Office.

As required by Section 306(k)(1) of the Generic Drug Enforcement Act [21 U.S.C. 335a (k)(1)], we hereby certify that, in connection with this application, Merck & Co., Inc. did not and will not use in any capacity the services of any person debarred under subsection 306 (a) of (b) of the Act.

We consider the filing of this Supplemental New Drug Application to be a confidential matter, and request the Food and Drug Administration not to make its content, nor any future communications in regard to it, public without first obtaining the written permission of Merck & Co., Inc.

Questions concerning this supplemental application should be directed to Robert E. Silverman, M.D., Ph.D. (610/397-2944) or, in my absence, Bonnie J. Goldmann, M.D. (610/397-2383).

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Silverman, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Regulatory Affairs

Attachments

Federal Express

Desk Copy: Philadelphia District Office
Food and Drug Administration
Room 900
U.S. Custom House
2nd & Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-2973

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Robert E. Silverman, M.D., Ph.D.
Director
Regulatory Affairs

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Merck & Co., Inc.
West Point PA 19486
Fax 610 397 2516
Tel 610 397 2944
215 652 5000

NDA NO. 20-180 REF. NO. 013
NDA SUPPL FOR SCM

REVIEWS COMPLETED
AP letter sent 5/12/97
CSO ACTION:
[X] LETTER [ ] N.A.I. [ ] MEMO
DRumble 5/13/97
CSO INITIALS DATE

December 27, 1996

MERCK
Research Laboratories

CENTER FOR DRUG
REC'D
DEC 30 1996
HFD-580
EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

Lisa D. Rarick, M.D. - Division Director
Division of Reproductive and Urologic
Drug Products HFD-580
Office of Drug Evaluation II (CDER)
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Rarick:

NDA 20-180/S-013: PROSCAR™
(Finasteride)
Special Supplement - Changes Being Effected

Reference is made to the above Supplemental New Drug Application (SNDA) submitted on November 12, 1996, and a telephone discussion between Ms. Rumble and Dr. Silverman on December 6, 1996. Ms. Rumble requested additional information related to this SNDA and reported that the Agency considered this supplement to require prior approval.

By this letter and attachments, Merck Research Laboratories (MRL) is providing the requested information :

- Description of the synthetic scheme (Attachment 1)
- Equipment involved (Attachment 2)
- Impurity profile of the final intermediate (Attachment 3)
- Tests and specifications of the final intermediate and raw materials (Attachment 4)

The proposed alternate site in Ponders End, U.K., uses the same process, tests and specifications as those conducted under NDA 20-180 at the currently approved site in Ballydine. As stipulated in the November 12, 1996 submission, Ponders End has undergone a GMP inspection by FDA within the last two years. Therefore, MRL believes that this SNDA fulfills the requirements of 21CFR 314.70(c)(3) to be classified as a

"Special Supplement - Changes Being Effected (SS-CBE)" and requests that the Agency provide clarification for their rationale in denying such classification to this SNDA.

In compliance with the Agency's previous assessment, the proposed alternative site will not be utilized until the Agency approves this application or endorses classification of the supplement as SS-CBE. We will follow-up by telephone with the Agency on this matter within the coming few weeks.

We consider the information included in this submission to be a confidential matter, and request that the Food and Drug Administration not make its content, nor any future communications in regard to it, public without first obtaining the written permission of Merck & Co., Inc.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Robert E. Silverman, M.D., Ph.D. (610) 397-2944 or, in my absence, Bonnie J. Goldmann, M.D. (610) 397-2383.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Silverman, M.D., Ph.D.

mcs/q/ltr//397

Federal Express #1

Desk Copy: Ms. Terri Rumble, HFD-580, Room 17B-45, Federal Express #1