



University of Pittsburgh Physicians

Part of
UPMC Health System

Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition

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November 21, 2000

Janet Woodcock, M.D.
Director DCER
Food and Drug Administration
Dept. of Health and Human Services
Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20847

Dear Dr. Woodcock,

I am a physician on staff at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. My specialty is in the functional bowel disorders, including Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

I have recently used Lotrinex for many patients and have had some success with it. At times, it is a very good choice for patients for which no other medications have been beneficial. I am aware of the recent difficulties in some patients with this medication. Nonetheless, I feel that with proper management of the patient on this medication most of these difficulties can be avoided. I do feel that it is an important medication and it is really the only medication that has scientific evidence of efficacy for this very common disorder. I would hate to see it removed from the market as I certainly can say that there are several of my patients that benefit from it.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven Abo, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

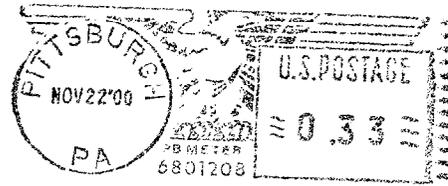
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