

**ARKANSAS GASTROENTEROLOGY, P.A.**

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November 15, 2000

Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Room - 23, 12420 Parklawn Drive  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I am writing this letter in regard to Lotrinex which was approved last March by The Food and Drug Administration for its use in patients with diarrhea predominant irritable bowel syndrome. As a practicing gastroenterologist, I have had the opportunity to use Lotrinex in the care of my patients with diarrhea predominant irritable bowel syndrome and have found it to be very helpful in treating these patients. Many of these patients have had poor control of their symptoms on previously available therapies and the use of Lotrinex in some of these patients has resulted in dramatic improvement in symptoms and in improved quality of life and in productivity at work.

I have served as an investigator for clinical research protocols in which Lotrinex has been studied and therefore have considerable familiarity with the medication. I am aware of the serious complications that have occurred with the use of the medication since its approval last March. It is my opinion that Lotrinex is a safe medication when used in the appropriate patient group and excluding those who have contraindications for its use. I am aware that Lotrinex remains under evaluation by The Food and Drug Administration and I am writing to let you know that as a practicing gastroenterologist, I have seen the beneficial effects of this medication in my patients with diarrhea predominant irritable bowel syndrome.

Sincerely,



Gary M. Barton, M.D.

GMB/rd

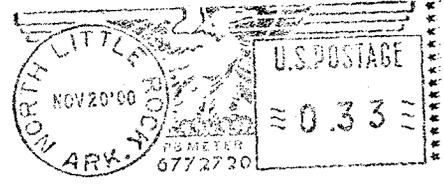
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**S GASTROENTEROLOGY, P.A.**

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