

December 14, 2006

0270 6 00 20 19 53

Food and Drug Administration
ATTN: Division of Dockets Management
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, HFA-301
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket number 1978N-0065, RIN 0910-AF53)

Sirs:

As a practicing dermatologist for over 27 years I am dismayed at the FDA's apparent interest in restricting access to hydroquinones.

Hydroquinone is, perhaps, the most effective treatment available for dark discolorations of skin including melasma, photo-aging, post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation, as well as medically and cosmetic disfiguring dyschromias. This molecule has been used in the US for almost 50 years by millions of people and has exhibited safety and effectiveness that is patently clear to dermatologists who have prescribed or recommended it.

In spite of exposure to natural sources of hydroquinone in wheat, pears, berries, coffee, tea, onions, rice and red wine, association with carcinogenicity has not been identified. Moreover, in more than 50 years of manufacture and use of hydroquinones, there have been no reported cases of related malignancies.

Please keep this information in mind as you give serious and unbiased consideration to your decision about this most useful and very safe product.

Sincerely,



David P. Van Dam, M.D.

78N-0065

CS8
Accredited by
Accreditation Association
for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.