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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 99N-2532]

Determination That Astemizole 10-Milligram Tablets Were Withdrawn From Sale for Safety Reasons

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined that astemizole 10-milligram (mg) tablets (Hismanal) were withdrawn from sale for safety reasons. The agency will not accept or approve abbreviated new drug applications (ANDA's) for astemizole 10-mg tablets.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrea C. Masciale, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-7), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-594-2041.

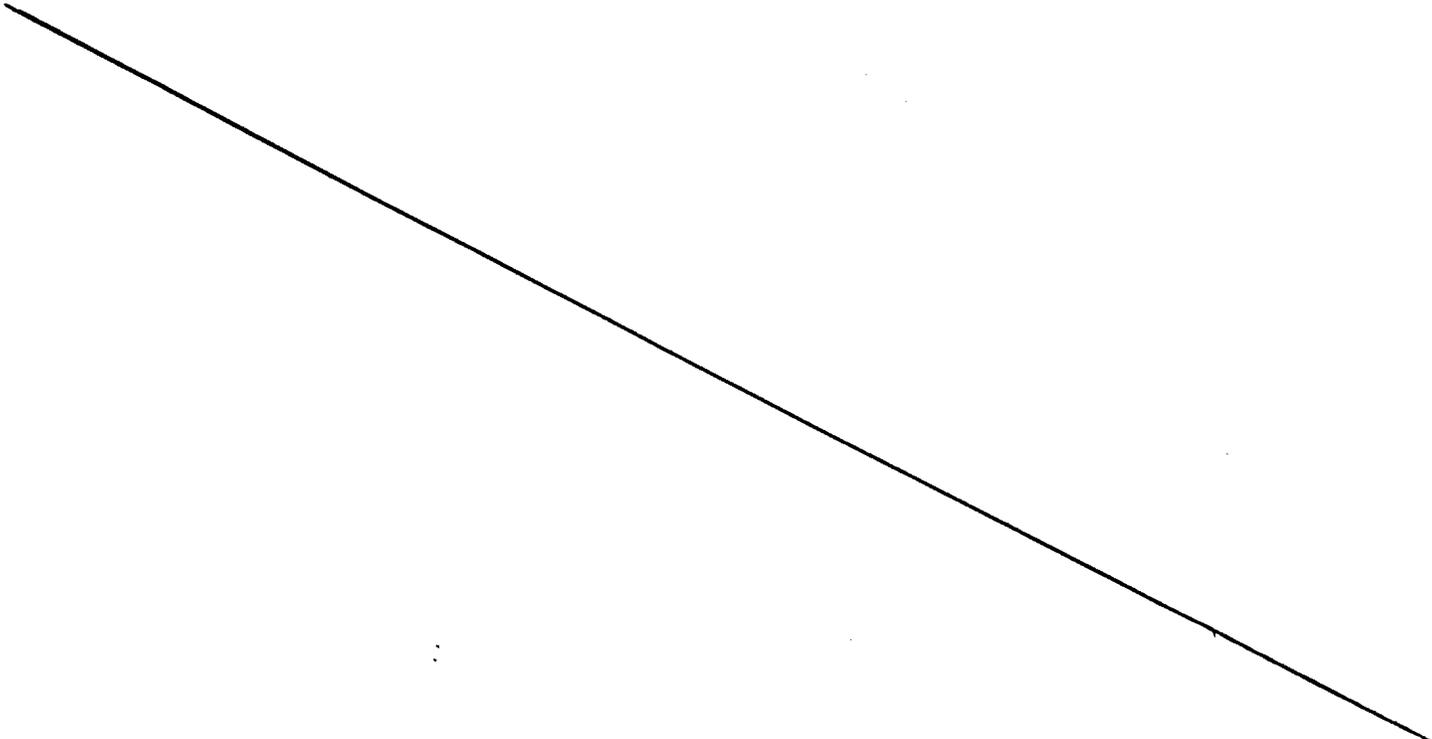
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1984, Congress enacted the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-417) (the 1984 amendments), which authorized the approval of duplicate versions of approved innovator drug products under an ANDA procedure. ANDA sponsors generally must show that the drug for which they are seeking approval contains the same active ingredient in the same strength and dosage form as the "listed drug," which is a drug that was previously approved under a new drug application (NDA). Sponsors of ANDA's are not required to repeat the extensive clinical testing necessary to gain approval of an NDA. The only data from investigations required in an ANDA are data to show that the drug that is the subject of the ANDA is bioequivalent to the listed drug.

The 1984 amendments include what is now section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)), which requires FDA to publish a list of all approved drugs.

FDA publishes this list as part of the “Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations,” which is generally known as the “Orange Book.” Under FDA regulations, drugs are withdrawn from the list if the agency withdraws or suspends approval of the drug’s NDA or ANDA for reasons of safety or effectiveness or if FDA determines that the listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness (§ 314.162 (21 CFR 314.162)). FDA may not approve an ANDA that does not refer to a listed drug (21 CFR 314.92(a)).

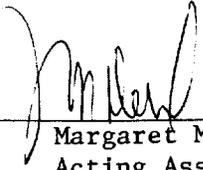
Astemizole 10-mg tablets (Hismanal) are the subject of approved NDA 19-402, currently held by Janssen Pharmaceutica (Janssen). In 1988, FDA approved the NDA for Hismanal tablets for the relief of symptoms associated with seasonal allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria. On June 18, 1999, Janssen withdrew Hismanal tablets from sale in the United States. The agency’s review of the withdrawal of astemizole 10-mg tablets (Hismanal) from the market has considered the sponsor’s explanation of the basis for the withdrawal of the product and information available to the agency regarding Hismanal. The current evidence supports the conclusion under § 314.161 (21 CFR 314.161) that astemizole 10-mg tablets (Hismanal) were withdrawn from the market for safety reasons.

The agency has determined, under § 314.161, that astemizole 10-mg tablets (Hismanal) were withdrawn from the market for safety reasons. Accordingly, the agency will remove astemizole



10-mg tablets (Hismanal) from the "Orange Book" (§ 314.162). FDA will not accept or approve ANDA's that refer to this drug product.

Dated: 8/13/99
August 13, 1999



Margaret M. Dotzel
Acting Associate Commissioner for Policy

[FR Doc. 99-???? Filed ??-??-99; 8:45 am]

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