

## Draft Guidance on Mesalamine

This draft guidance, once finalized, will represent the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) current thinking on this topic. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative approach, contact the Office of Generic Drugs.

**Active ingredient:** Mesalamine

**Form/Route:** Suppository/Rectal

**Recommended studies:** 2 studies

The following studies (*in vivo and in vitro*) are recommended to establish bioequivalence of mesalamine rectal suppository, provided that the test product is qualitatively (Q1) and quantitatively (Q2) the same as the reference listed drug (RLD):

1. Type of study: Bioequivalence study with pharmacokinetic endpoints (fasting)  
Design: Single-dose, two-way crossover *in-vivo*  
Strength: 1000 mg  
Subjects: Healthy males and females, general population.  
Additional comments: Applicants may consider using a reference-scaled average bioequivalence approach for mesalamine. If using this approach, the applicant should provide evidence of high variability in the bioequivalence parameters (i.e., within-subject variability  $\geq 30\%$ ) for the reference product. For general information on this approach refer to the Progesterone Capsule Guidance for additional information regarding highly variable drugs.

**Analytes to measure (in appropriate biological fluid):** Mesalamine in plasma

**Bioequivalence based on (90% CI):** Mesalamine

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2. Type of study: *in vitro* comparative physicochemical characterization of the test and RLD formulations:  
Design: The *in vitro* tests should be performed on at least 12 samples from one lot of the test product and one lot of the reference listed drug used in the *in vivo* Pharmacokinetic endpoint study.  
Strength: 1000 mg  
Additional comments: Provide *in vitro* evidence that the test and RLD products have the same final physico-chemical characteristics, to include
  - differential scanning calorimetry;
  - viscosity;
  - melting point; and
  - density.

**Waiver request of *in-vivo* testing:** Not applicable.

**Dissolution test method and sampling times:**

Please note that a **Dissolution Methods Database** is available to the public at the OGD website at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/ogd/index.htm>. Please find the dissolution information for this product at this website. Please conduct comparative dissolution testing on 12 dosage units each of all strengths of the test and reference products. Specifications will be determined upon review of the application.