

## Draft Guidance on Levomilnacipran Hydrochloride

This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA, or the Agency) on this topic. It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. To discuss an alternative approach, contact the Office of Generic Drugs.

**Active Ingredient:** Levomilnacipran hydrochloride

**Dosage Form; Route:** Extended release capsule; oral

**Recommended Studies:** Two in vivo studies

1. Type of study: Fasting  
Design: Single-dose, two-way crossover in-vivo  
Strength: EQ 120 mg Base  
Subjects: Healthy males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females, general population
2. Type of study: Fed  
Design: Single-dose, two-way crossover in-vivo  
Strength: EQ 120 mg Base  
Subjects: Healthy males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females, general population

---

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

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

**Waiver request of in-vivo testing:** EQ 20 mg Base, EQ 40 mg Base, and EQ 80 mg Base based on (i) acceptable bioequivalence studies on the EQ 120 mg Base strength, (ii) acceptable in-vitro dissolution testing of all strengths, and (iii) proportional similarity of the formulations across all strengths.

**Dissolution test method and sampling times:** The dissolution information for this drug product can be found on the FDA-Recommended Dissolution Methods website available to the public at the following location: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/dissolution/>. 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 abbreviated new drug application (ANDA).

In addition to the method above, for modified release products, dissolution profiles on 12 dosage units each of test and reference products generated using USP Apparatus I at 100 rpm and/or Apparatus II at 50 rpm in at least three dissolution media (pH 1.2, 4.5 and 6.8 buffer) should be submitted in the application. Agitation speeds may have to be increased if appropriate. It is

acceptable to add a small amount of surfactant, if necessary. Please include early sampling times of 1, 2, and 4 hours and continue every 2 hours until at least 80% of the drug is released, to provide assurance against premature release of drug (dose dumping) from the formulation. Specifications will be determined upon review of the data submitted in the application.

Due to a concern of dose dumping of drug from this drug product when taken with alcohol, the Agency currently requests that additional dissolution testing be conducted using various concentrations of ethanol in the dissolution medium, as follows:

Testing Conditions: Volume: 1000 mL, water, apparatus 2 (Paddle) @ 75 rpm, with and without alcohol;

Test 1: Twelve units tested according to the proposed method (water), with data collection every 15 minutes for a total of 2 hours

Test 2: Twelve units analyzed by substituting 5% (v/v) of test medium with alcohol, USP and data collection every 15 minutes for a total of 2 hours

Test 3: Twelve units analyzed by substituting 20% (v/v) of test medium with alcohol, USP and data collection every 15 minutes for a total of 2 hours

Test 4: Twelve units analyzed by substituting 40% (v/v) of test medium with alcohol, USP and data collection every 15 minutes for a total of 2 hours

Both test and RLD products must be tested accordingly and data must be provided on individual unit, means, range and %CV on both strengths.