

Aurobindo Pharma in a legal tangle

TRUSHNA UDGIRKAR

Hyderabad

JAPANESE drugmaker Shionogi has sued Indian company Aurobindo Pharma in an attempt to stop it from producing the generic version of their drug Doribax.

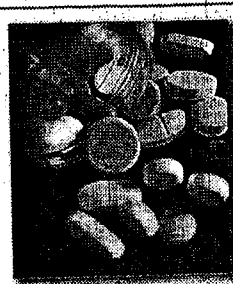
Aurobindo had filed for an abbreviated new drug application last year seeking FDA's go-ahead to market the drug in the US, before the patent expires.

The drug is used for anti-bacterial treatment of patients with abdominal or urinary tract infections in an injectable form. The lawsuit was filed at the Illinois Northern District Court, last week. The patent for the drug in the US is due to expire in 2021. It was issued in 2012 by the US PTO.

Shionogi was allowed to introduce the drug in Japan by the regulatory authority in 2005. The company had initially granted Peninsula Pharmaceuticals exclusive rights to develop and market the drug in North America and other regions. Peninsula then initiated clinical development of doripenem (the key active ingredient) in December 2002.

Later, Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, acquired Peninsula in June 2005. It then acquired the right for development of this drug in the US and Europe. The FDA in 2007 granted approval under the tradename Doribax.

Meanwhile, another Hyderabad-based company Hetero Labs is seen caught in similar lawsuits



Generic tussle

■ The drug is used for anti bacterial treatment of patients with abdominal infections

■ The patent for the drug in US, '402, will expire in 2021. It was issued in 2012

■ Hetero Labs is seen caught in similar law suits filed by Otsuka Pharmaceuticals

filed by Otsuka Pharmaceuticals for infringing their patent of brand drug Abilify used to treat bipolar and schizophrenia disorders. The company is also sued by Millenium Pharmaceuticals for wanting to manufacture the generic version of their drug Velcade.

For Indian generic companies, facing such lawsuits has become an integral part of the business.

Aurobindo Pharma features among the top 10 companies in India in terms of consolidated revenues.

Aurobindo exports to over 125 countries across the globe with more than 70 per cent of its revenues derived out of international operations.

trushnaudgirkar
@mydigitalfc.com

Patent