

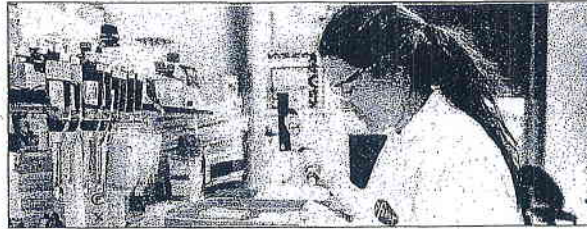
Court Blocks Reliance Life from Launching Breast Cancer Drug

A copy of Roche's Herceptin, the drug got nod in June; co says Rel Life hasn't done some tests

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has blocked Reliance Life Sciences from launching a copy of Switzerland-based pharmaceutical company Roche's breast cancer drug trastuzumab.

In its November 2 order, the court directed both parties to file written submissions by November 16, following which it will hear the case on a day-to-day basis and not permit adjournments. According to experts in the area of intellectual property and patents, Roche has argued that Reliance Life Sci-



ences has not conducted certain tests that prove its product is similar to Roche's drug, which sells under the brand-name Herceptin.

In his eight-page order, Justice Manmohan Singh noted that "se-

rious issues are raised" and that Reliance has not launched the product despite regulatory approvals granted to it in June this year.

Roche has said that if the product is not taken through all the

stages of tests before being developed into the final product it could raise quality issues.

The drug maker is also fighting a drawn-out court battle with Biocon and its ally Mylan on charges that the two companies have used product inserts that compare their products with Herceptin.

Roche had abandoned its patent claims for Herceptin in India in 2013. Since India has no laws on data exclusivity, legal experts said the final court verdict on the two cases will be watched carefully. Both Biocon and Mylan have their respective copies of Herceptin in the Indian market.

Regulatory