

Pfizer sues Torrent Pharma for alleged patent infringement

COGENCIS

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Pfizer Inc has filed a suit against Ahmedabad-based Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd alleging infringement of patents of its erectile dysfunction drug Viagra, according to court documents available with Cogencis.

Viagra, or the sildenafil citrate tablet, was the first oral medication approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to treat erectile dysfunction. The product clocked sales of around \$1.88 billion globally. Pfizer's US patent over Viagra expires in October 2019, but the drug has already lost exclusivity in most major European markets.

Generic variants

Torrent Pharma has filed an abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) seeking the US Food and Drug Administration's approval for its generic version of Viagra before the expiry of patents. Torrent informed Pfizer about its ANDA for 25 mg, 50 mg, and 100 mg tablets of Viagra in January.

Last year, Pfizer reached a lawsuit settlement with Israel's TevaPharmaceutical Industries Ltd allowing the latter to launch a generic version of Viagra in the US in December 2017 on payment of royalty.

Meanwhile, Pfizer has sued several other drug makers such as Apotex Inc and Mylan Inc.

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