

Torrent pact for biosimilars

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



Mumbai, Dec. 25: Torrent Pharmaceuticals has entered into an exclusive licensing agreement with Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Life Sciences to market three biosimilars in the country.

Biosimilars are cloned versions of biological drugs. Biologics are made from living cells, unlike normal medicines that are manufactured from chemical substances.

The agreement between the Ahmedabad-based company and Reliance Life Sciences covers three biosimilars — Rituximab, Adalimumab and Cetuximab.

Under the pact, Reliance Life Sciences will develop and supply these products at its facility in Navi Mumbai after obtaining all regulatory approvals and supply to Torrent Pharma for 10 years. Torrent Pharma will be the only company to market these biosimilars in the country other than Reliance Life Sciences.

Torrent Pharma did not disclose the financial details of the agreement. The company had ventured into oncology and dermatology around two years ago. The company expects that the tie-up with Reliance Life Sciences will significantly boost its presence in these segments.

Rituximab and Cetuximab cater to the oncology segment and are used in the treatment of leukaemia, lymphoma, colorectal, head and neck cancers.

Adalimumab is the most preferred therapy for the treatment of auto immune disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and IBD.

Torrent Pharma has in the past launched the biosimilar Darbepoetin under the brand name Darbator, which is used during dialysis. Its acquisition of the domestic formulations business of Elder Pharma has given it a strong foothold in pain management.

Reliance Life Sciences is present in segments such as biopharmaceuticals, pharmaceuticals and clinical research services. It now makes at least eight biosimilars.

Reliance GeneMedix plc, a UK-based subsidiary of the company with a manufacturing facility in Ireland, develops biosimilars for the European market.

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