
November 12, 1999

ASTRAZENECA - INTERLOCUTORY INJUNCTION TO PREVENT MARKETING OF A GENERIC OMEPRAZOLE PRODUCT IN GERMANY DENIED

AstraZeneca today announced that its request for an interlocutory injunction in Germany to prevent Azupharma GmbH from marketing a generic omeprazole version has been denied by the Appeal Court in Frankfurt. Omeprazole is the substance used in Losec[®].

AstraZeneca has filed requests in Germany for preliminary injunctions against eight companies, has filed six main actions and is currently defending its patent rights in seven other patent cases related to omeprazole. In August 1999, AstraZeneca was granted an interlocutory injunction to prevent Ratiopharm GmbH and Merckle GmbH selling a generic version of omeprazole.

The substance patent for omeprazole began expiring in the first countries in 1999. In most countries, AstraZeneca has been granted Patent Term Extensions or Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs). This extended coverage for the substance expires in the USA in 2001, in most European countries in 2002-2004, and in Japan in 2004. The product is also protected by patents directed to formulations, uses, intermediates and processes.

Further Enquiries:

Media:

Staffan Ternby, tel: +44 8 553 261 07
Lucy Williams, tel +44 171 304 5034

Steve Brown, tel +44 171 304 5033

Investor Relations:

Staffan Ternby, tel: +44 8 553 261 07
Elizabeth Sutton, tel +44 171 304 5101
Ed Seage, tel +1 302 886 4065

Michael Olsson, tel +46 553 259 52
Jörgen Winroth, tel +1 609 896 4148