

## Lupin and Ind-Swift launch new anti-diarrhoeal drug\_\_\_\_\_

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Mumbai, June 9, 2004: Pharma major Lupin Limited and Ind-Swift Limited have launched Nitazoxanide, an anti-diarrhoeal/anthelmintic for the first time in India under the brand names Nizonide and Netazox respectively.

Nitazoxanide is a revolutionary molecule having an anti amoebic & anthelmintic action. Nitazoxanide is indicated for Amoebiasis, Helminthiasis, Giardiasis, Fascioliasis, Trichomoniasis & Cryptosporidiosis.

Nitazoxanide is the first molecule in its segment to receive FDA approval in last 40 years for Giardiasis. Nitazoxanide is the only approved drug for the treatment of diarrhoea caused by *Cryptosporidium parvum* in children of 12-month to 11-year age group. Nitazoxanide provides a convenient compliance advantage of a three-day therapy as against the prevalent five-day therapy offered by earlier molecules. The current market size of anti-diarrhoeal/ anthelmintic is estimated at around Rs. 150 crore (AC Nielsen ORG MARG - MAT April 2004)

Ind-Swift has recently obtained the approval from the Drug Controller General India (DCGI) for the manufacture and launch of this drug in India. The drug has been launched in 500 mg tablets, 200 mg dispersible tablets and 100 mg/5 ml suspension forms.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. V.K. Mehta - Director Ind-Swift said, "Nitazoxanide is a new molecule with remarkable results. Most of the available therapies have low cure rates, with greater chance of resistance development, frequent dosages and a long duration of treatment. All this reduces patient compliance. Nitazoxanide is a relatively more effective drug developed in-house by the Company's R&D. Ind Swift is optimistic on the success of this molecule".

Mr. S. P. Chakraborty, Executive Vice President-India Region Formulations Business, Lupin Limited added "With the launch of Nitazoxanide, Lupin offers a value advantage to the patient in line with the company's efforts in providing better therapy to existing conditions"

About Diarrhoea: Diarrhoea is the second biggest cause of child mortality in India. The

World Health Organisation estimates that four million children under the age of five die each year from diarrhoea, mainly in developing countries. In India, the figure is 6 lac deaths every year or to be precise 1,666 deaths per day.

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