

Torrent Pharma inks pact with Reliance for 3 biosimilars

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Ahmedabad: City-based Torrent Pharmaceuticals, a part of the Sudhir Mehta-led Torrent group, has entered into an exclusive licensing agreement with Reliance Life Sciences for marketing three biosimilars – Rituximab, Adalimumab and Cetuximab – in India.

As per the agreement, Reliance Life Sciences will develop and supply these products to Torrent Pharma after obtaining all necessary regulatory approvals, Torrent said in a release. Reliance Life Sciences will manufacture these products at its facility in Navi Mumbai and supply to Torrent Pharma for a period of ten years.

Rituximab and Cetuximab cater to oncology segment and are used in treatment of various cancers like leukaemia, lymphoma, colorectal, head and neck cancers. Adalimumab is a therapy for treatment of autoimmune disorders like rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and IBD.

Interestingly, another city-based pharma firm, Zydus Cadila, had recently become the first company in the world to launch Adalimumab, which is a biosimilar of Humira, the world's largest selling drug.

Torrent Pharma had launched exclusive divisions for oncology and dermatology segments in 2011-12. The licensing agreement with Reliance Life Sciences is expected to significantly boost its presence in these segments in the coming years, a release said. Rituximab and Cetuximab cater to oncology segment and are used in treatment of various cancers like leukaemia, lymphoma, colorectal, head and neck cancers. Adalimumab is a therapy for treatment of autoimmune disorders like rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and IBD.

Biosimilars

Also known as follow-on biologics, are biologic medical products whose active drug substance is made by a living organism



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