



Press Release
June 2007

BUPRENORPHINE

MERCK GENERIQUES BECOMES THE 2nd PARTNER OF ETHYPHARM IN FRANCE

Ethypharm has signed a new licensing agreement with the Merck Generique laboratory for the marketing of Buprenorphine.

Thus, Merck is Ethypharm's second marketing partner for this product in France. The product was launched on April 25th 2007.

Last year, Ethypharm concluded a licensing agreement with the Arrow laboratory who became the first marketing partner for this generic of Subutex in France.

Registered in Europe, the product will shortly be launched by marketing partner Nycomed in Scandinavia, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

"We are happy to sign this agreement with Merck," declared Bruno Delie, Sales and Marketing Director of Ethypharm.

"Merck is the main French generic company. Its leading position should enable us to consolidate our sales on this expanding market. We intend to extend the commercialization of this product to the main European markets, once our partners have obtained the necessary authorizations," he added.

Buprenorphine is a generic formulation of Subutex® indicated in the treatment of opiate dependency. It is a legally recognized drug containing a morphine-like substance. This major pharmaco-dependency substitute product is a morphinic antagonistic/ agonist which removes the effect of need and hence the source of dependency.

In 2006, the Buprenorphine market represented more than 82 millions of sales in France in the field of the substitute treatment of major pharmaco dependency to opiates.

This signature with the leading Generics Company (30% of market share in France) makes way for a notable increase in the market share of Buprenorphine as well as a strong competitive position of this product on the French market.

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