

GSK to licence Roche cardiac drug for India

C H UNNIKRISHNAN
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GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals (GSK) is planning to in-licence the blockbuster cardiovascular drug, Carvedilol, of Swiss pharmaceuticals major Roche for the Indian market.

Carvedilol is the first beta blocker to have improved survival chances of critical heart patients. GSK India, which is learnt to have signed a memorandum of understanding with Roche for licensing the patented molecule for an undisclosed sum, will soon finalise the rights agreement. Though a GSK source confirmed that an internationally patented cardiovascular drug would soon be added to its Indian cardiovascular product basket, he declined to disclose the inventor's name and nature of the licensing deal.

Girish Talang, managing director, Roche India, was not avail-

Ranbaxy gets FDA nod for migraine drug

OUR CORPORATE BUREAU
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Ranbaxy Laboratories has received a tentative approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) to manufacture and market sumatriptan succinate tablets for the treatment of acute migraine attacks in adults in the US. The market share for sumatriptan in the US is pegged at \$857 million annually. Jim Meehan, vice-president (sales and marketing), Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Inc, the US subsidiary of Ranbaxy Labs, said, "This product, to be launched after a final US FDA approval, holds immense potential for Ranbaxy as it will expand its growing portfolio of affordable generic product formulations."

able for comments as he was travelling abroad. In India, of the Rs 430 crore cardiovascular segment, the market for Carvedilol is pegged at Rs 16.6 crore. There are about five generic brands of the drug available in India.

The drug is currently mar-

keted worldwide by Roche under the trade names - Cardiol, Coreg, Coropres, Dilbloc, Dimitone, Eucardic and Kredex except in North America where it is marketed by GlaxoSmithKline under the trade name of Coreg and in Japan.