

Barr, Teva sued over Allegra

New York

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RANBAXY Laboratories said on Tuesday it has sued rival generic drug makers Barr Pharmaceuticals and Teva Pharmaceutical in a dispute over generic versions of the popular allergy medicine Allegra.

India's Ranbaxy and its partner in the suit, privately held Agvar Chemicals Inc., charge they were blindsided by a deal Barr made with Teva that effectively cut them out as suppliers of fexofenadine hydrochloride, the active ingredient for manufacturing generic Allegra tablets.

Ranbaxy and Agvar are seeking damages and equitable relief for what they charge was breach of contract,



The suit was filed in New Jersey Superior Court.

"We operated in good faith over a period of five years, lending technical expertise to Barr in the development of the fexofenadine hydrochloride tablets, and investing heavily in facilities to meet the demands of Barr, only to be surprised by an undisclosed relationship between Barr and Teva," Jay

fraud and interference associated with the supply of active ingredients regarding the sale of fexofenadine hydrochloride tablets in the United States.

Deshmukh, Ranbaxy's vice president of global intellectual property, said in a statement. Barr spokeswoman Carol Cox said based on Barr's arrangement with Ranbaxy and Agvar, the company considers the suit to be "without merit and frivolous and we intend to defend ourselves." She added that Barr, based in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, had not yet seen the actual suit. Barr in August received US regulatory approval to market generic Allegra, receiving 180 days of marketing exclusivity. A week later, Barr announced a deal with Israel's Teva to allow it to sell the drug during Barr's exclusivity period. That arrangement included the use of a different supplier of the active ingredient, rather than Ranbaxy and Agvar, the complaining companies said. — Reuters