

Intas becomes first Indian firm to launch biosimilars in EU

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Intas became the first Indian company to launch a biosimilar in highly regulated markets like EU, the US and Japan. The company on February 23, 2015 announced that they have launched their first biosimilar, Filgrastim, in Europe, through their wholly owned subsidiary Accord Healthcare. The product has recently been introduced under the brand Accofil and has already won two prestigious tenders, in Netherlands and the UK respectively. In addition, Intas is also the only company from India to have two of its products, filgrastim and peg-filgrastim filed for registration in the US, through its collaboration partner.

Accofil® is a biosimilar product of Neupogen (filgrastim) and will offer patients cost effective therapy that is comparable in quality, safety and efficacy. Accofil® is indicated for the treatment of reduction in the duration of neutropenia and the incidence of febrile neutropenia, mobilization of peripheral blood progenitor cells, severe congenital, cyclic, or idiopathic neutropenia and persistent neutropenia in patients with advanced HIV infection.

Mr Binish Chudgar, Vice-chairman of the company said, "The launch of our filgrastim in Europe is another demonstration of our commitment to global healthcare at affordable prices. Accofil (filgrastim), which was developed at our own laboratories

and manufactured at our own cGMP approved site in Ahmedabad, showcases our expertise in biopharmaceutical development and its manufacture. This is only the first of many biological products that we will launch in EU and other regulated markets over the next few years."

Intas is one of the pioneers and market leaders of biosimilars in India, having launched its first product in the domestic market in 2004. The company has eight biosimilar products in the market, including one monoclonal antibody MABTAS (rituximab), the largest indigenously development portfolio of biosimilar products. The company also has one of the richest pipeline of future products, that will enable it to continue to provide cost effective biosimilar alternates to imported and expensive biologic therapies, for the Indian population. Intas is the first company in India to have its biologics manufacturing facility accredited by the European Health Authority.