

European office withdraws Nexium patent

21 December 2006

The European Patent Office, answering a generic drug maker's challenge, withdrew a patent on Britain-based AstraZeneca PLC's heartburn treatment, Nexium.

AstraZeneca officials said they were disappointed with the patent office's decision, but had other patents and intellectual property measures that protected the drug in Europe, the Wall Street Journal said. The ruling involved the drug's chemical composition. The patent was due to expire in 2014.

The generic drug maker Ratiopharm International GmbH of Germany challenged the patent, which led to the EPO's decision. Ratiopharm has not indicated its plans regarding a generic form of Nexium.

Generic drug makers are challenging Nexium's patents in the United States.

AstraZeneca said Nexium's \$4.6 billion in worldwide sales accounted for about a fifth of the company's third-quarter revenue.

Copyright 2006 by United Press International

APA citation: European office withdraws Nexium patent (2006, December 21) retrieved 13 October 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2006-12-european-office-nexium-patent.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.