

The Role of Generic Drug and its Function

Gonna Thoti*

Department of Pharmacy Practice, University of Auburn, Auburn, USA

DESCRIPTION

Generic drugs are bioequivalent versions of brand-name medications. They contain the same active ingredients, are administered in the same way, and have the same strength, quality, and intended use. What sets generic drugs apart is that they come into the market after the patent on the original brand-name drug has expired. The process of bringing a generic drug to market involves rigorous testing and regulatory approval. Generic drug manufacturers must demonstrate to regulatory agencies, such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), that their product is bioequivalent to the brand-name drug. This means that the generic version must have the same rate and extent of absorption as the original, ensuring similar efficacy and safety profiles. The generic drug approval process is streamlined compared to the extensive clinical trials required for the development of new drugs. This efficiency is one of the key factors that contribute to the affordability of generic medications. One of the primary advantages of generic drugs is their cost-effectiveness. When a brand-name drug's patent expires, other manufacturers can produce and sell generic versions, leading to increased competition in the market. This competition drives down prices, making medications more affordable for consumers. Patients and healthcare systems benefit significantly from the cost savings associated with generic drugs. Affordability is a critical factor, especially for individuals managing chronic conditions that require ongoing medication. The availability of generic alternatives ensures that patients can access the treatments they need without placing an undue financial burden on themselves or the healthcare system. Concerns about the safety and efficacy of generic drugs are common but largely unfounded. Regulatory agencies, such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), have stringent standards to ensure that generic drugs meet the same

quality, safety, and efficacy criteria as their brand-name counterparts. It's essential for consumers and healthcare professionals to understand that generic drugs undergo thorough testing before they reach the market. The goal is to provide patients with a cost-effective alternative without compromising on the therapeutic benefits of the medication. The impact of generic drugs extends beyond national borders. In developing countries, where access to expensive brand-name medications may be limited, generic drugs play a pivotal role in addressing public health challenges. Generic versions of essential medications, including those for infectious diseases and chronic conditions, contribute to improving healthcare outcomes on a global scale. While generic drugs have made significant strides in increasing access to affordable medications, challenges persist. One major issue is the delay in the availability of generic versions due to legal battles between brand-name drug manufacturers and generic drug companies. These legal disputes, often related to patents and exclusivity rights, can delay the entry of more affordable alternatives into the market. Additionally, issues related to the quality of generic drugs, particularly those manufactured overseas, have raised concerns. Regulatory agencies continue to work on enhancing oversight and ensuring the quality and safety of generic medications. As healthcare systems worldwide suffer with the dual challenge of rising healthcare costs and the need for increased accessibility, the role of generic drugs becomes even more critical. Continued efforts to streamline the generic drug approval process, address legal barriers, and maintain robust quality control measures will be essential in shaping the future of generic medications. Generic drugs represent a key element in the foundation of accessible and affordable healthcare. By providing cost-effective alternatives to brand-name medications, generic drugs ensure that individuals from treatments are available to people from a range of life.

Correspondence to: Gonna Thoti, Department of Pharmacy Practice, University of Auburn, Auburn, USA, E-mail: thonna444455@gmail.com

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