

LOBIGRAN Drops Approved for Glaucoma



FDA has approved LOBIGRAN eye drops (brimonidine tartrate/timolol maleate ophthalmic solution) to treat elevated intraocular pressure (IOP) in people with glaucoma or high blood pressure of the eye, manufacturer Taj Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

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The drug combines two medications -- Alphagan and timolol ophthalmic solution -- both previously approved to treat glaucoma. The new drug will be available in the fourth quarter of 2008, a company statement said.

IOP is a primary risk factor for glaucoma -- a disease affecting the optic nerve, and a leading cause of preventable blindness. More than 5.78 million Indians are thought to have glaucoma, although only about half know that they have it, Taj Pharmaceuticals Ltd., said.

People with a history of bronchial asthma or severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) shouldn't take Combigan, the company said.

-- Scott Roberts

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