

US FDA approves Cipla's Lopinavir/Ritonavir to treat AIDS in infants

The pharma giant has introduced an innovative formulation of Lopinavir and Ritonavir to treat AIDS in Infants. The formulation includes Lopinavir/ritonavir (LPV/r) 40mg/10 mg oral pellets for paediatric specific treatment. The pellets are to be sprinkled on sweetened porridge for infants and administered to them. The pellets are produced by melt-extrusion technology and are enclosed in capsules.

Cipla has collaborated with Diana Gibb, Professor of Epidemiology, Senior Programme Leader and Honorary Consultant Paediatrician at Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit at UCL (University College London) in developing this novel child-friendly formulation under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program.

Jaideep Gogtay, Chief Medical Officer Cipla said "Lopinavir/Ritonavir is a preferred anti-retroviral in paediatric patients and this unique drug delivery system is a breakthrough in paediatric specific treatment. The traditionally available antiretroviral liquid formulations and tablets have their own challenges when it comes to treating infants. LPV/r oral pellets 40 mg/ 10 mg should be used in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV-I infection in paediatric patients weighing 5 kg and above and who can have semi-solid food."