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Message From SIR President: Report on Ethiodol Shortage, Manufacturing May Resume Soon

SIR President James F. Benenati, MD, FSIR

Guerbet LLC, a U.S. subsidiary located in Bloomington, Ind., has acquired the Ethiodol NDA (new drug application) from Nycomed US Inc., effective May 7, 2010. Guerbet is working with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to resume manufacturing of Ethiodol in the near future to ensure continued availability for U.S. patients.

Savage Laboratories®, a division of Nycomed and the sole U.S. supplier of Ethiodol (“Lipiodol,” the French trade name), stopped production in February 2010. Ethiodol (Lipiodol) is a product of Guerbet, whose headquarters is located in Villepinte, France. The FDA has been working to seek a resolution to the problem, and a representative of the Society has been in regular contact with an FDA representative regarding this topic. The FDA understands the critical importance of this product to our patients.

More information about this issue can be found here: [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Current Drug Shortages](#). Members may contact the [FDA drug shortage unit](#) to express their immediate need for this product to treat patients.

The Society of Interventional Radiology and/or its members have been in active discussion with Guerbet USA, FDA and Congress to find a reliable permanent new source of Ethiodol. The SIR effort continues to be coordinated by SIR member David Eschelmann, M.D., FSIR, at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pa. We will provide members with more information as it becomes available. If you have questions or comments, please contact Tricia McClenny, SIR interim executive director, via email at comm@SIRweb.org.

SIR leadership thanks Dr. Eschelmann for all his work. This is a great example of how members can make a difference when they get involved. We need all members to be active volunteers. We may see this type of situation arise more often with economic changes. Active participation by members can make a difference.