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Reliance Life Sciences appeals marketing restrictions on breast cancer drug

After Biocon and Mylan, Reliance Life Sciences has approached the Delhi High Court to appeal against an earlier order that imposed marketing restrictions to its copy of Swiss biotech giant Roche's breast cancer drug, Herclon (trastuzumab).

After Reliance was prevented from launching its product, TrastuRel, in November, an April 25 court judgement finally allowed the company to introduce its product along with restrictions similar to the ones imposed on Biocon's CANMAb and Mylan's He ..

The judgement, given by Justice Manmohan Singh, directed that Reliance could manufacture, market and advertise TrastuRel without calling it a "bio similar" or in any way ascribing biosimilarity to inventor, Roche's products—Herceptin, Herclon and Biceltis.

The company's appeal will be heard along with Biocon and Mylan's by Justices Badar Durrez Ahmed and Sanjeev Sachdeva on July 21, 2016. The judges have called on Roche's subsidiary, Genentech, for a response in the meantime

Reliance's appeal is distinct from Biocon and Mylan's, argued Reliance Life Sciences counsel Pratibha Singh at court on June 3. Reliance was given an injunction before it had launched TrastuRel, whereas CANMAb and Hertraz were already in the market when Roche sued them, she told judges.

he counsel is appealing conditions including restrictions placed on TrastuRel labelling as well as those on using Roche's data, according to Singh.

The April 25 judgement stated that Reliance could also manufacture and market the drug by qualifying the International Non-proprietary Name (INN) Trastuzumab, but couldn't use the name stand alone.