

# Availability of Different Branded Generic Vildagliptin after Off-patenting: An Observation from Eastern India

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## Abstract

This cross-sectional observational study evaluated the availability and switching patterns of branded generics of Vildagliptin, an antidiabetic medication, in a real-world setting. Data from 967 prescriptions obtained from various pharmacies over a 3-month period post-patent expiration were analyzed. The study revealed a diverse range of branded generics, highlighting challenges in consistent availability. Switching patterns were observed, with a significant proportion of patients deviating from the initially prescribed branded generic. These findings emphasize the need for strategies to improve availability and promote appropriate use of branded generics, enhancing cost-effective diabetes management and patient care. Further research is warranted to investigate factors influencing brand switching behaviors and their impact on patient outcomes. This study provides valuable insights for optimizing the prescribing and availability of branded generics, ultimately enhancing the quality of care for patients requiring Vildagliptin treatment.

## Letter to Editor

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Branded generics are pharmaceutical products that are marketed under a brand name but contain the same active ingredients as their innovator counterparts. These generics offer comparable therapeutic benefits at a lower cost, making them essential in healthcare systems worldwide.<sup>[1]</sup> Vildagliptin, a widely prescribed antidiabetic medication, is available in various branded generic forms. However, limited research has been conducted to assess the availability of these branded generics, particularly in a real-world setting.

A cross-sectional observational study was conducted to evaluate the availability of branded generics of Vildagliptin over 3-month period post 6 months of off-patenting of Vildagliptin. Additionally, we investigated the switching patterns among patients prescribed branded generic Vildagliptin, shedding light on potential challenges and implications for patient care. The study included data from 967 prescriptions for branded generic Vildagliptin obtained from various pharmacies in a specified region. Demographic information, including gender and age, was recorded for each patient. The number of pharmacy visits per prescription was determined, providing insights into the availability of branded generic Vildagliptin. Furthermore, switching trends among innovator brand and branded generics were observed and the data was statistically analysed

Among the 967 prescriptions analysed, 56% were for male patients and 44% for female patients. The age distribution revealed that 34% of patients were below 50 years, 28% were aged 51-60 years, 23% were aged 61-70 years, and 15% were above 70 years. A total of 56 different branded generic names were prescribed for Vildagliptin during the study period. This wide range of branded generics reflects the diversity in the market and the potential options available to patients. Each prescription for branded generic Vildagliptin resulted in an average of 2.29 pharmacy visits (Range: 1-14). This finding indicates that patients may need to visit multiple pharmacies to obtain the prescribed medication, highlighting potential challenges in ensuring consistent availability of specific branded generics. Reflecting on switching patterns, due to the unavailability of the prescribed branded generic vildagliptin at the pharmacy store, 28% patients switched to the innovator brand, 41% switched to other branded generics, while only 31% received the prescribed branded generic. These switching patterns suggest a significant proportion of patients who deviate from the initially prescribed branded generic, potentially impacting treatment adherence and outcomes.

This study provides valuable insights into the availability of branded generics of Vildagliptin. The findings indicate a diverse range of branded generics and highlight challenges in ensuring consistent availability. There exists a definite need in generic prescribing but prescribing branded generics increases the chances of unavailability due to inability of storing multiple brands in a pharmacy store. The observed switching patterns suggest a need for further investigation into the factors influencing brand switching behaviours. Optimizing the availability and patient adherence to branded generics can significantly contribute to cost-effective diabetes management<sup>2</sup>. Further research is warranted to explore the underlying factors driving these switching patterns and their potential impact on patient outcomes. Strategies aimed at improving availability and promoting appropriate use of branded generics can enhance the overall quality of care for patients requiring vildagliptin treatment.

#### References:

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