



January 22, 1985

Perry A. Chapdelaine, Sr.  
Executive Director  
The Rheumatoid Disease Foundation  
Rt. 4 Box 137  
Franklin, TN 37064

Dear Mr. Chapdelaine:

I received two yellow tablets from you; one said to be authentic tinidazole from South Africa and the other from Mexico. Both were crushed and extracted with 5ml of acetone. The extract was first spotted on a silica gel TLC plate and developed with acetone. There was only one UV absorbing spot from each product and both had the same Rf. To confirm their identity, I also spotted them on a reverse phase C18 TLC plate and developed it with a solution of water, acetonitrile, acetic acid, and triethylamine. Again the single spot from each product had the same Rf and therefore I have a very high degree of confidence that the drug in the two tablets is the same. The spots also were the same size so the amount of drug in each is approximately the same.

I have enclosed two papers on the reduction of metronidazole and its effect on activity. They show that it is a metabolite formed by intestinal bacteria which is active and probably also toxic.

Sincerely,

Jack Uetrecht, M.D., Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of  
Pharmacology and Medicine

JU/acr

Enclosures

See "Relationship Between Metronidazole Metabolism and Bactericidal Activity," Chrystal, Koch, McLafferty, Goldman, Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, Oct. 1980, p. 566-573