



Aktionsbündnis gegen AIDS

www.aids-kampagne.de
Leben ist ein Menschenrecht!

25th July 2008

Comments by Action against AIDS Germany on the reply by Abbott, June 2008.

1. Updated information about the registration status of Abbott products in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Middle Income Countries (MICs) can still not be found on their website.
2. More detailed information about new diagnostics technology that would “enhance access to diagnostics significantly in developing countries” had been promised for mid-year but is still not available.
3. Abbott reacts to our demand to withdraw the patent application in India by stating that the Indian authorities have not yet made a decision on their patent application - that was not our question! They further said that their price in Africa is cheaper than the ones by generic manufacturers. We explained time and again that generic manufacturers will not produce at large scale without the legal situation being clear, so this did not answer any of our questions.
According to the latest edition of MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES’ “Untangling the Web” (July 2008) Hetero is offering LPV/r at 447 US\$ per patient per year (pppa) which is obviously already cheaper than the special Abbott price for LDCs of 500 US\$ pppa.
4. Action against AIDS welcomes Abbott’s statement that the company recognizes the TRIPS flexibilities, which includes compulsory licensing.
5. Our demand to re-register the 7 Abbott products in Thailand was not replied to directly. Abbott only mentioned that the Thailand government is reviewing policies and that compulsory licenses remain a topic for consideration in Thailand.
By the way, Thailand wants to issue 3 compulsory licences for new products for cancer treatment.

Signed by

Pharmaceutical expert group
Action against AIDS Germany