

The Forced Switch: Implications for the Biotech and Pharma Industries

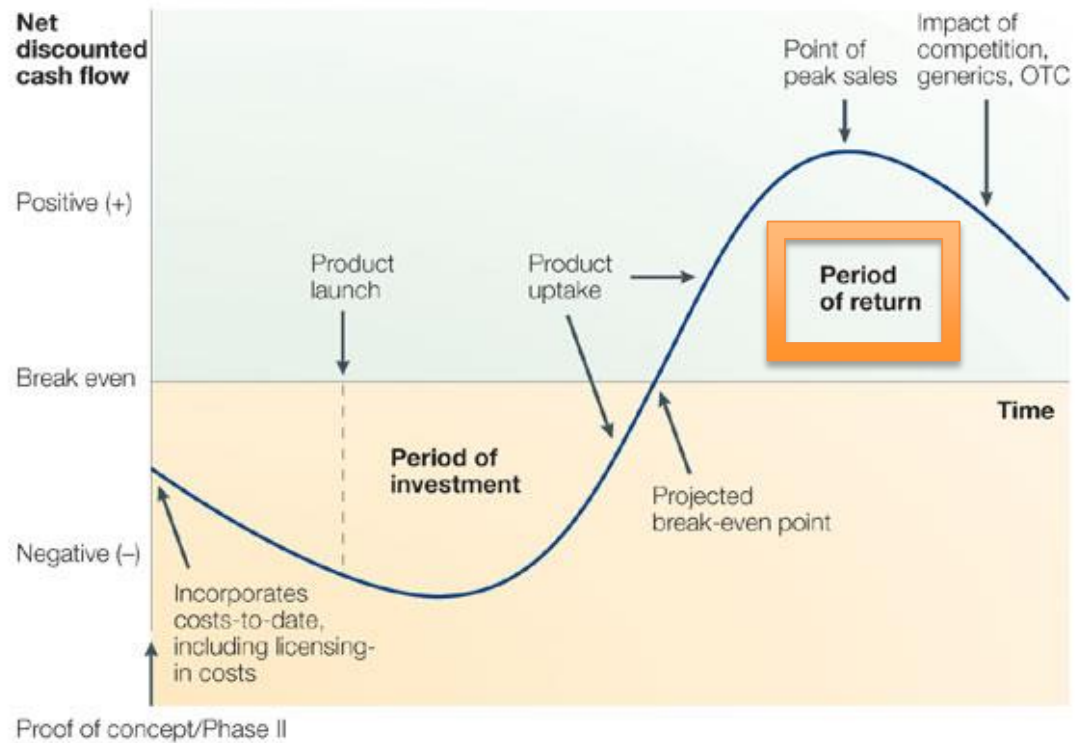
Alex Simon

Biotech Journal Club

February 17th, 2015

How do Biotech and Pharma Make Their Profits?

- **Odds:**
1/5000-10000 drugs make it to market
- **Cost:**
~\$4-11B including failed candidates
- **Time:**
10-15 years from drug discovery to sale



Regulatory Determinants of Period of Return

- **Patents**
 - Expire 20 years from filing
- Typically >20 years from patent to FDA approval
 - Impetus for Hatch-Waxman Act (1984)
- **Data Exclusivity:** Companies cannot apply for market approval using the competitor's data.
- **Market Exclusivity:** If a New Molecular Entity (NME) is approved, a generic version cannot be approved for five years.
- The former, de facto, means the latter.
 - In USA, usually D.E. time = M.E. time
 - This can vary by country or future legislation

Periods of Marketing Exclusivity Vary by Drug Type

	Years of Exclusivity
New Molecular Entity	5
New Indication/Dosage	3
Orphan Drug	7
Biologics*	12

*Any medicinal product manufactured in or extracted from biological sources. (e.g.: vaccines, blood or blood components, allergenics, somatic cells, gene therapies, tissues, recombinant therapeutic protein and living cells.)

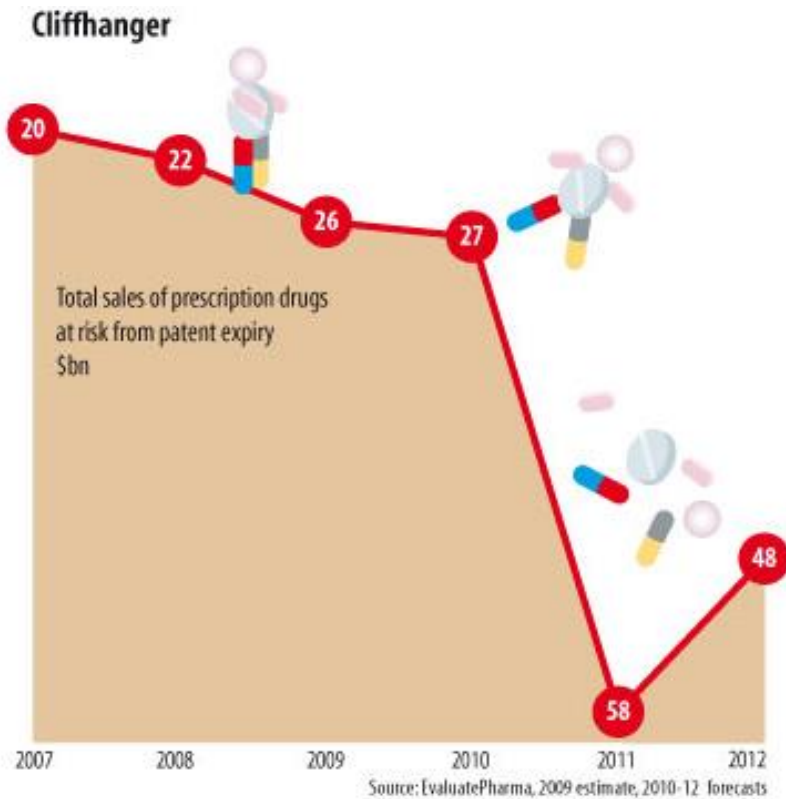
What Happens After Exclusivity Ends?



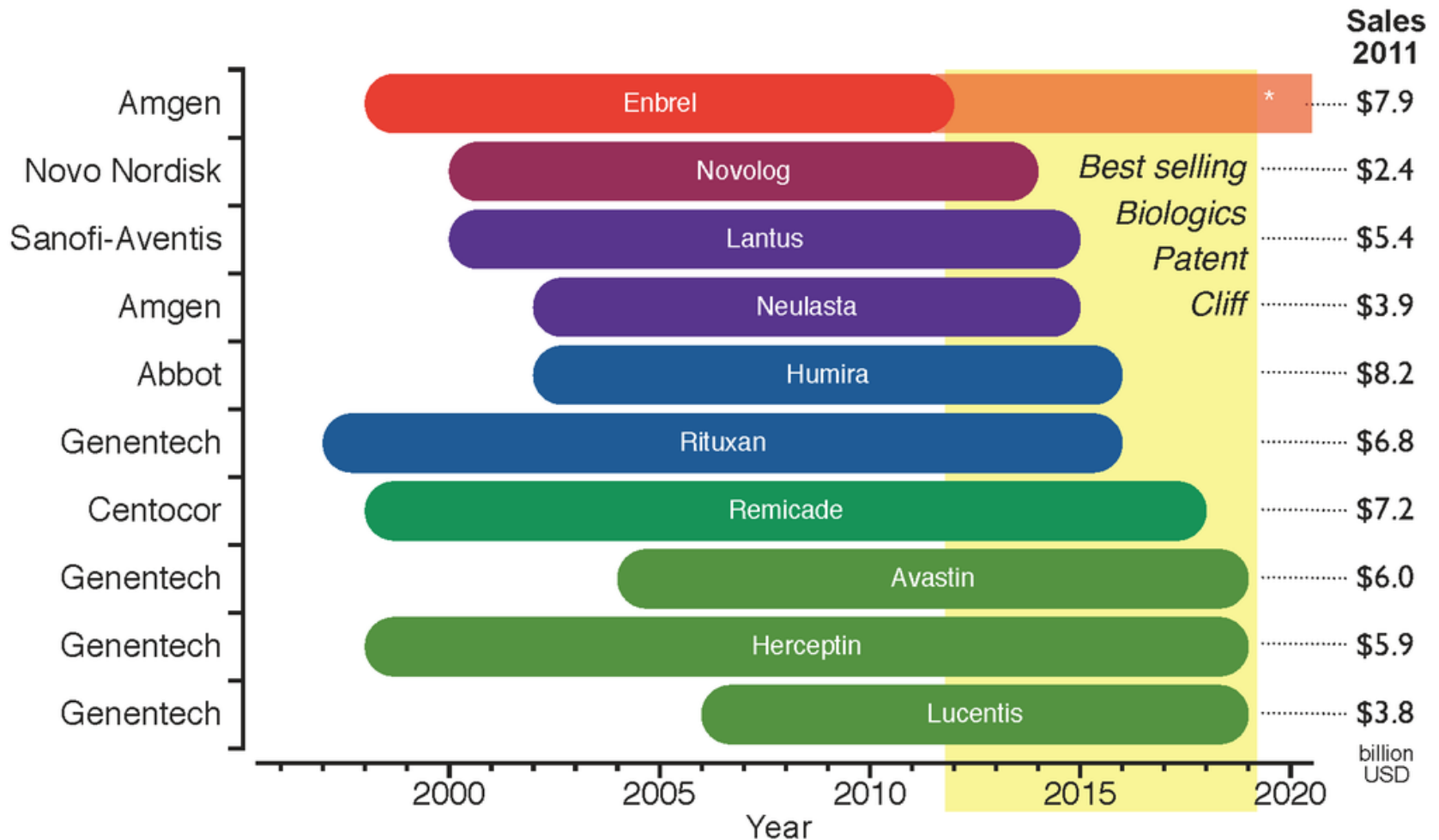
The Patent Cliff

- Generics enter the market and revenues of 'pioneer' version tumble
- Mainly affects 'blockbuster' products (>\$1B in revenue/year)

The 2011 Patent Cliff (Small Molecules)



2012-2019 Patent Cliff (Biologics)

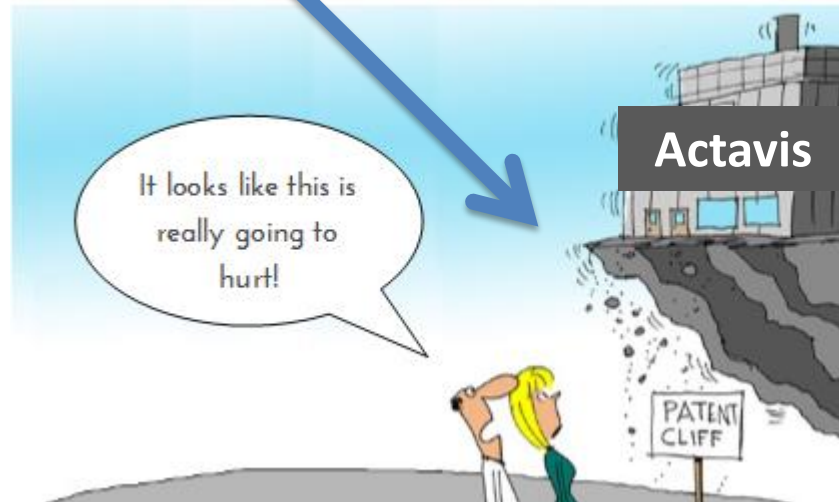


Patent Cliffs Are Inevitable

How Can Biotech/Pharma Add Value
To Their Preexisting Drugs?

Case: Actavis' Namenda (Memantine)

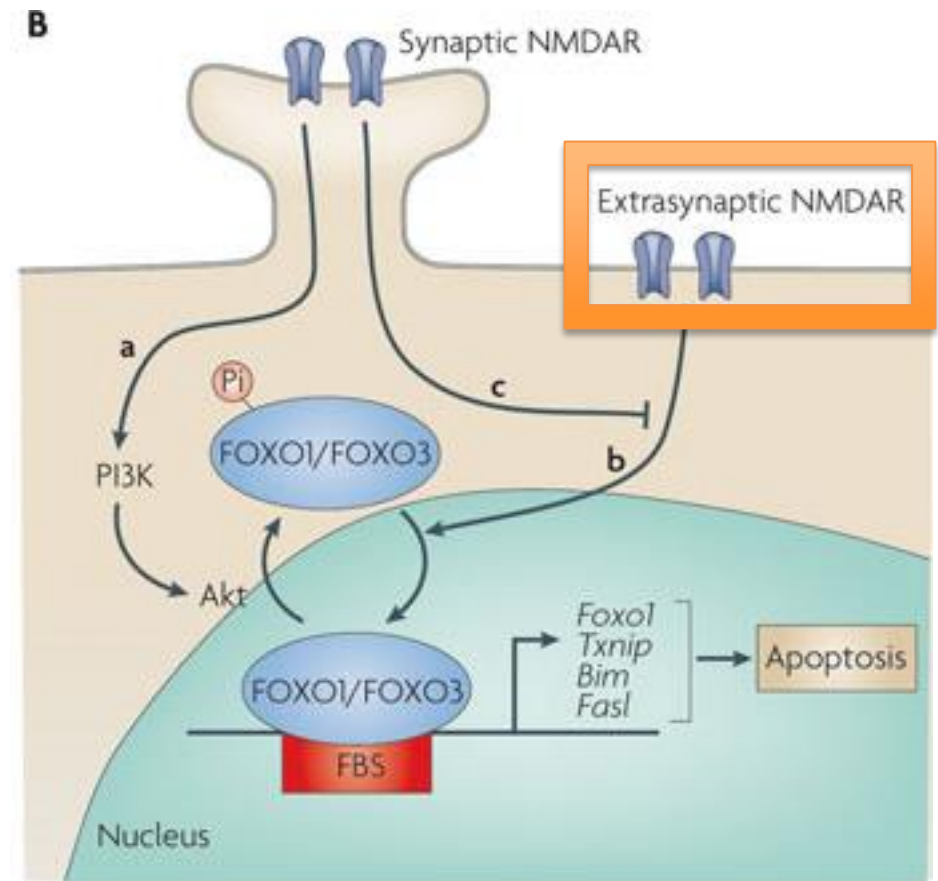
July, 2015



Market Cap:
\$75B

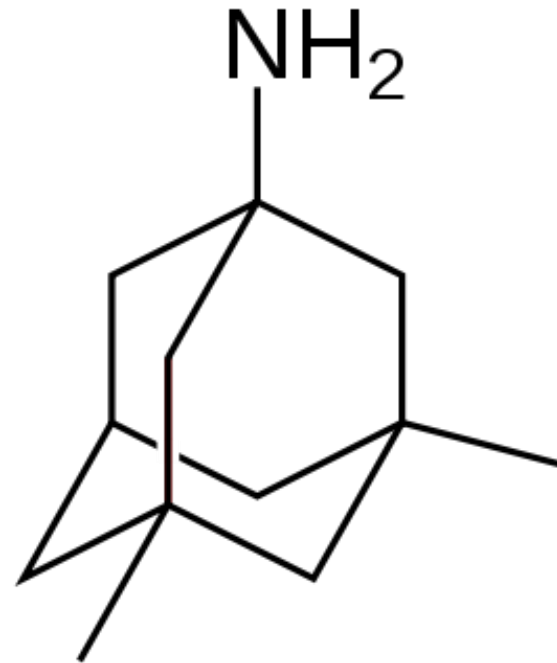
Namenda is Prescribed for Alzheimer's

- Developed by Forest Labs
 - Acquired by Actavis in Feb. 2014 for \$25B
- Counteracts hyperactive glutamatergic transmission, which results in **neuronal excitotoxicity** via activation of **extrasynaptic NMDA receptors**



Namenda (Memantine) is an Uncompetitive NMDAR antagonist

- Preferentially targets extrasynaptic NMDARs
- Low affinity & high on/off rate
 - Preserves physiological response to glutamate from pre-synaptic neuron
- Mild and infrequent side effects



Namenda Has Two Indications

- **Alzheimer's Disease**
 - Limited to moderate and severe cases
- **Dementia with Lewy Bodies**
 - Alpha-synuclein and ubiquitin clumps in neurons
 - Shared characteristics with AD and PD
 - Affects 1.3M people in US

In USA, Dementia Drugs Target a Big Market

- Total cost of dementia in US: **\$200B**
- Prevalence in US will **double by 2040**
- 15% of people >71 have dementia (**~5M**)
- **1 in 3 seniors** dies with AD or another dementia

How Can Actavis Maintain Revenue?



One Answer: The Forced Switch

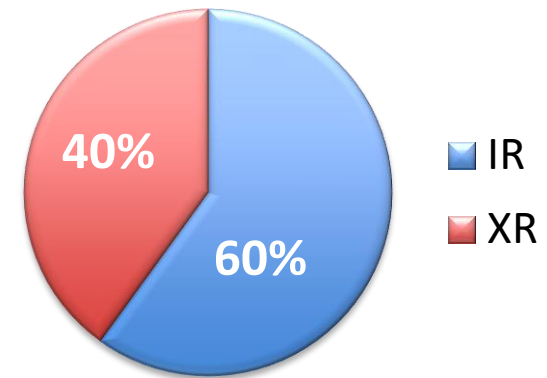
Definition: Patients are switched to a 'new' drug before the generic arrives. These patients are more likely to remain on the newer medicine even after a lower-cost generic becomes available, at which point, the original drug is no longer for sale.

Namenda XR is the 'New Drug'

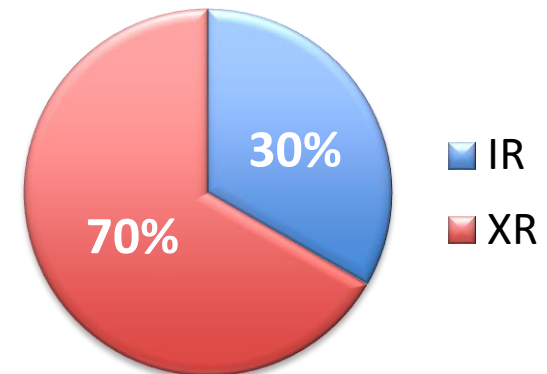
XR vs. IR Improvements

1. Taken once a day vs. twice
2. Can be 'sprinkled' on food for patients with trouble swallowing

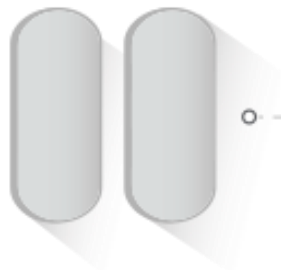
Present % of Rx's



Goal % of Rx's



NAMENDA
2 tablets a day
Today



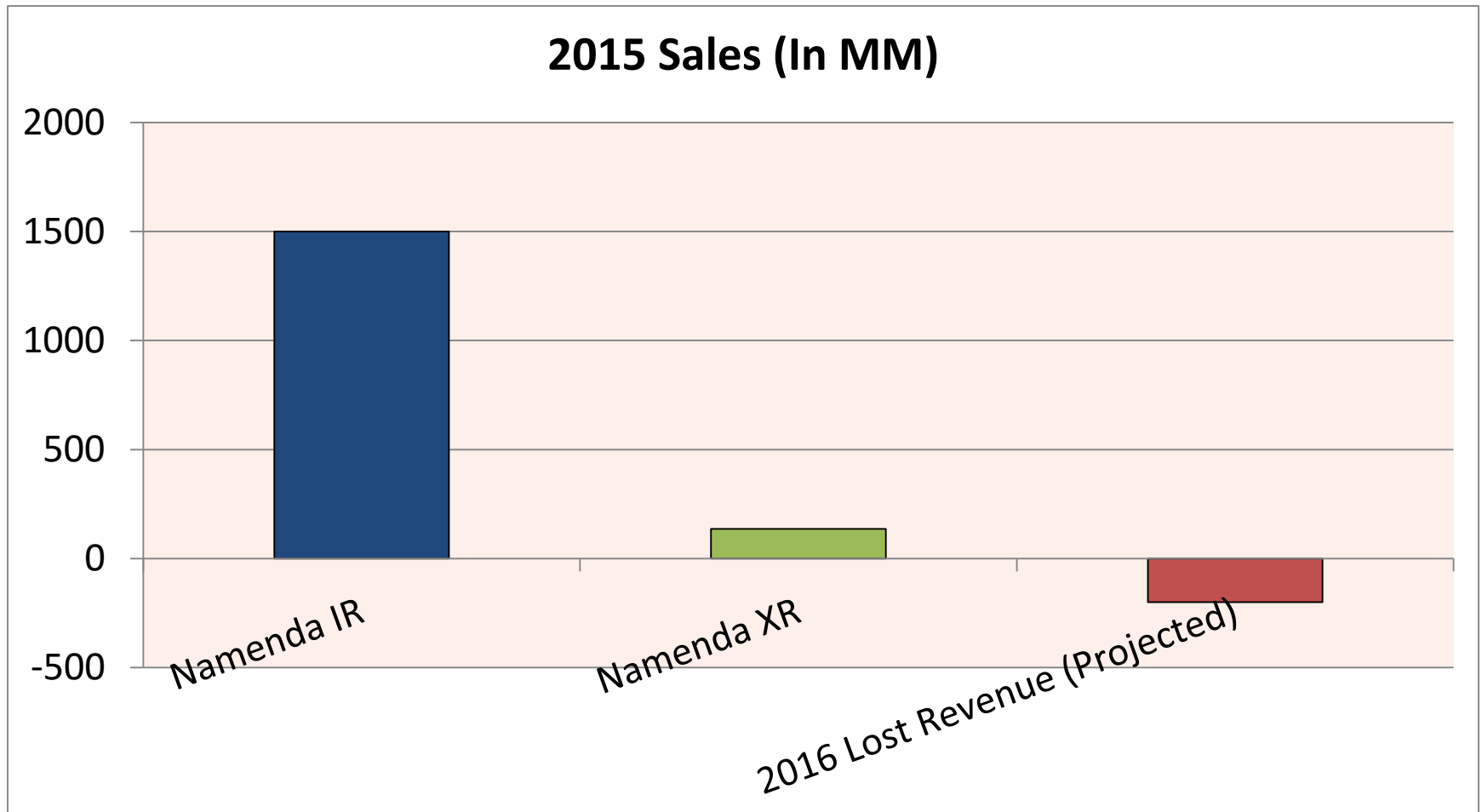
Generic
Available
July 2015

NAMENDA XR
1 capsule a day
Tomorrow



Off Patent
in 2025

Current and Forecasted Namenda Revenue Streams

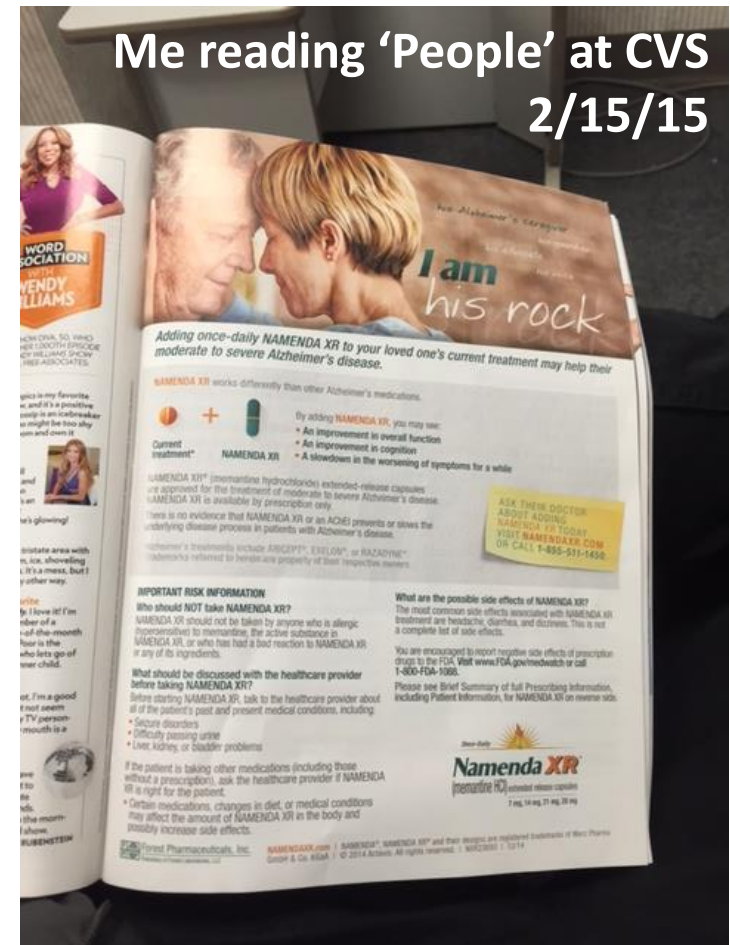


NY State Attorney General Finds This Suspect (Sep. 2014)



Actavis Responds to Threats Against Namenda XR

- Jan. '15 – Direct to Consumer Ad Campaign
- Wholesale discounts on XR (5% less than IR)
- Differential pricing and specialized contracts with Medicare
 - 70% of Namenda Rx's are under Part D plans



From the Antitrust Law Journal...

Antitrust Scrutiny of Pharmaceutical “Product Hopping”

BY M. SEAN ROYALL, ASHLEY E. JOHNSON,
AND JASON C. MCKENNEY

“... [a] relatively recent phenomenon, and the law remains very much in flux.”

Namenda Lawsuit Timeline

- **Sep. '14:** NY state Attorney General files lawsuit
- **Dec. '14:** Federal court issues injunction preventing Actavis from pulling Namenda from shelves
- **Feb. '15:** Response comes from Appeals Court
 - *This ruling will determine industry sales strategies for the foreseeable future*

Ok, Let's Discuss

- What is 'anti-competitive' vs. savvy business practices?
 - Should a company be forced to sell a product?
 - Will companies have to argue that their product lacked demand?
 - Should 'the market' choose the better product?
 - What about compromised patient populations?
- Obligations to shareholders vs. patients
- Ethical – Pharmacoeconomic Disservice
 - Higher health care costs vs. profitability