

May 1, 1970

Dear Dr. Roten:

On the advice of Professor Daniel Efron of the National Institute of Mental Health, I am addressing this letter to ask whether your laboratories can produce clinical quantities of Naloxone, a narcotic antagonist, for our studies.

Naloxone (1-n-allyl-7,8-dihydro-14-hydroxynormorphinone hydrochloride) is useful in treating opiate dependence, but the clinical trials have been few, limited by an inadequate supply. As I understand the problem, naloxone is produced from thebaine, and it is the proscription of this compound which curtails production.

We have found that 3.0 Gms oral naloxone a day are needed to sustain antagonism to opiates, and would like to verify this observation in a clinical trial. We need 2-4 kilograms naloxone, and I am writing to inquire whether Makor Chemical can produce this compound in this quantity; and if so, at what cost and in what time. We are capable of writing a contract within 60 days, and would hope to do so as soon as a bid is received. While naloxone is on the narcotic lists of this country, we have been assured of the necessary import licenses; and as this supply will not be sold, are assured of the cooperation of the licensee.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kp

cc: Dr. A. M. Freedman  
Dr. D. Efron

AIR LETTER: Dr. Z. Roten  
Director  
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