

Company profile



Company profile of bene-Arzneimittel GmbH

bene-Arzneimittel GmbH is an independent, medium-sized family company. At its headquarters in Munich bene's workforce of some 80 employees manufactures pharmaceuticals and distributes the company's **innovative preparations to over 35 countries** via its worldwide network of distribution partners. Today the company is run by the brothers, Dr. Harald Benend and Dr. Helmut Benend, the second generation of the Benend family.

The company was established in 1949 by Dr Wilhelm Benend under the name Dr W. Benend KG. Then followed his synthesis in 1947 of **pentosan polysulphate sodium** (PPS), a drug which is produced semisynthetically from vegetable material via an extremely difficult and laborious synthesis process and is chemically related to Heparin. Due to its wide variety of therapeutic applications, for instance in thrombosis prophylaxis, the treatment of phlebitis, reducing blood fat levels, treating urological disorders, etc., PPS quickly became popular with doctors and pharmacists.

Because of the versatility of PPS it is also widely used in research, especially in the clinical fields of cancer, joint disorders and urological ailments, and today it is employed in a wide range of medications in over 30 different countries. To this day bene-Arzneimittel GmbH remains the **world's sole manufacturer of pentosan polysulphate sodium** and can look back on over 50 years of production experience. Not least because of this know-how, in 1992 bene was granted an FDA license for the existing production facilities. This represented a vital first step towards the later licensing in the United States of the PPS-containing drug **Elmiron**[®], which has been used since 1996 with great success in the USA and Canada in the treatment of severe and painful cystitis.

The intensive research into pentosan polysulphate and the wide experience bene-Arzneimittel GmbH has gained in this field have led to the development of a range of preparations based on it: **Fibrezym**[®], **pentosan polysulphate SP 54** and **Thrombocid**[®].

A further core area of expertise for bene-Arzneimittel GmbH is in the field of analgesics. **ben-u-ron**[®] is a pure **paracetamol medication** marketed by bene since 1959 and which has proven itself in all age groups for the treatment of mild to moderate pain and fever. Particularly among paediatricians, **ben-u-ron**[®] is a preparation of choice for children under 12 since it comes in suitable doses and is available in suppository form. The introduction of **talvosilen**[®] in 1982 represented a logical broadening of our base in the analgesic sector. Combining paracetamol and codeine meant that bene complemented its repertoire with a pharmaceutical drug for combating more severe pain.

For many years bene-Arzneimittel GmbH has maintained contacts with **scientists** and **research institutes of international repute** in order to test potential new applications for drugs and to keep our licensed pharmaceuticals up to the latest level of scientific requirements. Furthermore, our cooperations with our worldwide distribution partners include wide-ranging scientific research projects as well as the development and clinical testing of new pharmaceuticals. bene also enjoys a good reputation as a contract manufacturer and pharmaceutical analysis service provider, not least because of our many years of experience in the field of suppository production.

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1917: Birth of Dr Wilhelm Benend, founder and co-owner of Dr W. Benend KG (later renamed bene-Chemie GmbH).

1942: On 22 May Dr Wilhelm Benend is awarded his doctorate in natural science at Munich University with an overall grade of 'summa cum laude'.

1949: Dr Benend registers the name Thrombocid as a trademark at the German Patent Office. After its entry in the Trademarks Register Thrombocid becomes a legally-protected trademark.

On 22 June 1949 Dr Wilhelm Benend and his brother establish the company Dr Wilhelm Benend KG.

Distribution of pentosan polysulphate sodium (PPS) begins in Germany.

1951: Lack of space and the company's expansion force Dr Wilhelm Benend KG to build its own factory in Munich's Memlingstraße.

1952: First contacts are made with foreign partners. Over the following years distribution partnerships spring up in the Netherlands, Austria, Argentina, Spain, Italy, and Switzerland to name just a few..

1955: Thrombocid, the company now also markets depot Thrombocid®, Stypturon®, Angifin®, Telepaque® and the hand disinfectant pHisoHex®.

1956: Market launch of Tacholiquin.

1959: The long success story of ben-u-ron® begins as it is launched in tablet form.

1960: ben-u-ron® in suppository form is introduced for children and infants.

1961: The new product launches boost turnover to over two million Deutschmarks, of which around 15 per cent is generated by exports.

1961 also sees the start of distribution of the drug sodium pentosan polysulphate both as the medication Thrombocid® and as a generic substance.

1962: Official opening of Building I in Munich's Herterichstrasse, launch of Thrombocid® pointment and of pentosan polysulphate SP 54 as a coated tablet.

1963: Establishment of the company bene-Chemie GmbH, set up as an independent family company responsible for the production and distribution of Dr Benend KG's pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical substances. Until 1995 the company's sole shareholders remain Sigrund Benend and Dr Wilhelm Benend.

1972: After the sustained success of the ben-u-ron® suppository for infants and children this dosage form is also launched for young people and adults, so that bene-Chemie GmbH now offers a complete range of the analgesic for all ages.

1974: bene-Chemie GmbH celebrates its 25th anniversary. The year also sees record turnover of over ten million marks. For the first time, exports exceed domestic sales.

1976: One of bene's most successful drugs, ben-u-ron®, becomes available in liquid form.

1982: 1982 talvosilen®, a combination of paracetamol and codeine designed to combat more severe pain, is added to the bene range.

1983-1986: ben-u-ron is the clear winner in tests conducted by the German consumer organisation Stiftung Warentest (= Product Testing Foundation) and is later classified as 'recommended' by consumer watchdog magazine Öko-Test (2003).

1985: bene-Chemie GmbH is renamed bene-Arzneimittel GmbH.

1995: Dr Harald Benend and Dr Helmut Benend, the two sons of company founder Dr Wilhelm Benend, take over the helm. bene has been run successfully by them ever since. Under their leadership the firm has grown to become a medium-sized operation while retaining the character of a large family business.

1996: The product Elmiron, containing PPS, is licensed for distribution in the USA, since then it has been used with great success in the treatment of severe and painful cystitis.

2002: ben-u-ron® 75 mg suppository is launched onto the German market.

2004: Establishment of bene-pharmaChem GmbH & Co. KG. This affiliated company is responsible for the active ingredient synthesis in the production of pentosan polysulphate sodium (PPS).

2006: The range is broadened through the introduction of talvosilen® forte tablets.

2007: ben-u-ron® syrup and suppositories (250 mg) are yet again rated as 'very good' by Öko-Test.