FDA APPROVES LONG-AWAITED
UVA sunscreen

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National report — Americans will finally have direct market access to products offering long-lasting and complete broad-spectrum UV protection following the long-awaited federal approval of the sun filter Mexoryl, dermatologists say.

On July 21, La Roche-Posay, a division of L’Oréal, received approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market a broad-spectrum sunscreen formula that contains Mexoryl SX (ecamsule) plus L’Oréal’s patented association of avobenzone (Parsol 1789) and octocrylene.

Mexoryl SX was first patented in Europe by L’Oréal in 1982 and has been available for years in sunscreen and moisturizer products sold outside of the United States. Mexoryl SX is a unique organic sun filter because it is highly photostable and provides potent protection against short-wavelength UVA rays (320 nm to 340 nm), thereby filling a gap left by existing UVA sunscreens.

“This is a milestone event. Mexoryl SX is the first new active sunscreen ingredient that the FDA has approved in almost 20 years and, importantly, it addresses our need for products providing better UVA protection,” says James M. Spencer, M.D., M.S., clinical professor of dermatology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York.

“The La Roche-Posay formulations containing Mexoryl SX will certainly be welcome additions to the U.S. marketplace.”

“Mexoryl SX is the first of the new generation of photostable UVA sunscreens that is now available in the U.S. It will give

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