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**( DJ ) 02/08 12:34PM =DJ UPDATE: FDA Conducting Safety Review of Allergan's Botox > AGN**

(Adds FDA comments starting in third paragraph, Allergan comments in seventh paragraph and updated stock price.)

By Jennifer Corbett Dooren

Of DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

WASHINGTON (Dow Jones)--The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Friday it was conducting a safety review of Allergan Inc.'s (AGN) Botox and a similar product, Myobloc, after receiving reports of deaths and breathing problems in some patients.

The agency said, in a posting to its Web site, most of the deaths occurred in children being treated for cerebral palsy-associated limb spasticity.

Neither product is approved for such use in the U.S.

The agency said there were no reports of deaths in adults, and said some of the adverse reactions may have been related to an overdose of the products.

"There is no evidence that these reactions are related to any defect in the products," the FDA said.

The agency didn't immediately say how many reports of deaths or serious side effects it had received. Myobloc is made by Solstice Neurosciences Inc., a private firm based in Malvern, Pa.

Allergan shares recently fell 5.1%, or \$3.42, to \$63.90 on volume of 8.6 million compared with average daily volume of 2.1 million.

Caroline Van Hove, an Allergan spokeswoman, said the company supported FDA's safety review. She said Botox is approved in many countries outside the U.S. to treat limb spasticity in children with cerebral palsy and the typical dose of active ingredient in the injection is significantly larger than used for cosmetic use. She said Allergan is aware that doctors use Botox in children with cerebral palsy but the firm doesn't promote the product for such use.

Botox and Myobloc are designed to block nerve impulses to certain muscles, causing them to relax. The products are both approved to treat cervical dystonia, or uncontrolled muscle contractions of the neck and shoulder muscles. Botox is also approved for cosmetic use to treat wrinkles between the eyebrows and to help control excessive underarm sweating.

In some cases the toxic, active ingredient in Botox and Myobloc can spread to other parts of the body and can impact respiratory muscles and cause

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difficulty swallowing, a condition known as dysphagia. Both products already warn doctors and consumers of that side-effect.

Last month, the consumer group Public Citizen said it found 16 deaths reported with Botox or Myobloc's use from Nov. 1997 through 2006. The group has asked the FDA to toughen warnings on the two products.

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