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Mr. Ira M. Langer  
1266 Ocean Parkway  
Brooklyn, New York 11230

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Re: Robitussin/animal derivative content

Dear Mr. Langer:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting information on our products, Robitussin and Robitussin-DM.

As with most liquid cough preparations, all of our Robitussin liquid products, including Robitussin and Robitussin-DM, contain glycerin. Our Quality Assurance Section tells me that glycerin may be supplied as a synthetic or natural product. The natural product is produced through the hydrolysis of animal fat. As long as the glycerin meets United States Pharmacopeia (U.S.P.) specifications, it is acceptable for use in pharmaceutical preparations regardless of its source. I should perhaps mention that glycerin is an inactive ingredient, not to be confused with glyceryl guaiacolate, which is the active ingredient in Robitussin and is also contained in all of the other Robitussin products.

In this connection, it may be helpful for you to know that Robitussin-DM is supplied in a lozenge dose form called Robitussin-DM Cough Calmers. Each Cough Calmer contains the same amount of active ingredients as one-half teaspoon of Robitussin-DM syrup; however, Cough Calmers do not contain glycerin or any other substance that may be derived from animal fat.

We also have a product called Dimacol containing the same two ingredients as Robitussin-DM and Cough Calmers, plus a decongestant (pseudoephedrine). Dimacol comes in both liquid and capsule dosage forms, and again, the liquid form contains glycerin while the capsule contains no glycerin or other animal derivative. You may wish to check with your doctor to see whether he feels the addition of a third active ingredient is advisable in your case.