**Patent Term Extensions for Pharmaceutical Patents in Israel**

**(Twenty Years to Patents Law (Amendment No. 3) – Trends and Evaluation)**

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Beginning in 1998, Israeli patents law enables owners of pharmaceutical patents to apply for patent term extensions (PTEs). This legal arrangement is designed to compensate patent owners in this field for the time consumed in obtaining regulatory approval for the patented drug. The PTEs provisions of the Israeli law have been amended several times since their enactment in 1998, including due to international pressure, and various legal questions related to this arrangement have been discussed in case law and rulings of the Commissioner of Patents. The option of obtaining a PTE exists in certain other legal systems, but there are many differences in the fine details of the legal arrangement and in the way it is applied. Extending the patent term could have a significant implication on incentives of different players and on competition in the market for drugs. This Article presents and analyzes data accumulated in the last twenty years regarding the way the PTEs regime has been implemented in Israel, in order to advance the ability to evaluate its impact on drug markets.