SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 8-K

Current Report

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

December 20, 2006

Date of Report

(Date of earliest event reported)

DURECT CORPORATION

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of

000-31615 (Commission File Number) 94-3297098 (I.R.S. Employer

Identification No.)

incorporation or organization)

2 Results Way

Cupertino, CA 95014

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

(408) 777-1417

(Registrant s telephone number, including area code)

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- " Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- " Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- " Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- " Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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Item 1.01 Entry Into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On December 20, 2006, DURECT Corporation (the Company) entered into a license agreement with EpiCept Corporation (EpiCept) that will provide the Company with the exclusive, worldwide rights to certain of EpiCept s intellectual property for a transdermal patch containing bupivacaine for the treatment of back pain. Under the terms of the agreement, the Company will pay EpiCept \$1 million upfront and up to \$9 million license fee and milestone payments as well as an undisclosed royalty on net sales of any product covered by the license.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

DURECT Corporation

Date: December 26, 2006 By: /s/ James E. Brown

James E. Brown

President and Chief Executive Officer