

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Risperdal Consta injection
Risperdal Consta (risperidone) injection has been launched (Janssen-Cilag); net price, 25mg 1 £82.92, 37.5mg 1 £115.84 and 50mg 1 £148.55. The product should be administered every two weeks by deep intramuscular gluteal injection. The maximum dose should not exceed 50mg every two weeks.

SPC CHANGES

Zomig preparations
The summaries of product characteristics for Zomig (zolmitriptan) tablets and Zomig Rapimelt orodispersible tablets have been updated. Both products are contraindicated in patients with a history of cerebrovascular accident or transient ischaemic attack. The following statement has been added to the special warnings and precautions for use section: "Migraneurs may be at risk of certain cerebrovascular events. Cerebral haemorrhage, subarachnoid haemorrhage, stroke, and other cerebrovascular events have been reported in patients treated with 5HT_{1B/1D} agonists." In very rare cases angina pectoris has been reported in patients taking zolmitriptan. The following rare adverse reactions (>0.01 per cent, <0.1 per cent) have been added to the undesirable effects section: hypersensitivity reactions including urticaria and angioedema, head-

ache, tachycardia and palpitations. See SPC.

Zometa infusion
The licensed indications for Zometa (zoledronic acid) infusion have been extended (Novartis Pharmaceuticals). Zometa infusion is now additionally licensed for the prevention of skeletal related events (pathological fractures, spinal compression, radiation or surgery to bone, or tumour-induced hypercalcaemia) in patients with advanced malignancies involving bone. The recommended dose is 4mg given as an infusion every 3-4 weeks. The posology and method of administration section states that renal function should be monitored in all patients receiving Zometa and possible deterioration in renal function should be assessed before retreatment. The special warnings and precautions for use section states that patients must be assessed before administration of Zometa to assure that they are adequately hydrated. It also states that if hypocalcaemia, hypophosphataemia or hypomagnesaemia occur, short-term supplemental therapy may be necessary. The following common (1 per cent, <10 per cent) undesirable effects have been added: anaemia, bone pain, myalgia, renal impairment, influenza-like syndrome, increased blood creatinine and blood urea. See SPC for uncommon and rare adverse effects. The instructions for use section has been updated and states that reconstituted solution should be further diluted

RECALLED PRODUCTS

BCG vaccines recall

All batches of the following BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin) vaccines have been recalled as a precautionary measure (Evans Vaccines, part of PowderJect Pharmaceuticals) (see p203):

- BCG vaccine intradermal
- BCG vaccine percutaneous
- BCG vaccine intradermal isoniazid resistant

During stability testing, a number of batches of these products were found not to comply with the requirements of their registered specifications for potency throughout their shelf-lives. Recipients are required to quarantine stock of these products and contact their suppliers to arrange for return. Further information can be obtained from the company (tel 08457 451500).

with 100ml of 0.9 per cent w/v sodium chloride solution or 5 per cent w/v glucose solution instead of 50ml. See SPC.

Xenical capsules

The summary of product characteristics for Xenical (orlistat) capsules has been updated (Roche). Additional data on the use of Xenical capsules have been added to the pharmacodynamic properties section. See SPC.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Losec MUPS tablets

AstraZeneca has informed us that only 7-tablet packs of Losec MUPS 10mg, 20mg and 40mg tablets for use in hospitals have been discontinued. A 7-day community pack of Losec MUPS 40mg tablets remains available (P7, 10 August, p189).

SUPPLY PROBLEMS

Aspav tablets

Aspav (aspirin 500mg, papaveretum 7.71mg) tablets, pack size 30, are currently out of stock (Alpharma). New stock is expected to be available by the end of the year.

Norethisterone tablets

Alpharma's norethisterone 5mg tablets, pack size 30, are now back in stock.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Glutafin range

The name of the Glutafin range of breads, rolls and mixes is being changed to Glutafin Select and the name of the Glutafin Multigrain range of breads, rolls and mixes is being changed to Glutafin Gluten-free Wheat-free (Nutricia).

Nan Hypoallergenic infant formula

Nan Hypoallergenic 1 starter formula, for babies from birth to six months of age, and Nan Hypoallergenic 2 follow-on formula, for babies from six months of age, are being launched (Nestlé); retail price, each available in 400g tins £4.69.

Nutriprem 2 infant formula

Nutriprem 2, an infant formula for preterm babies, is now reimbursable on the NHS, as of August 1 (Cow & Gate); net price, 900g £8.80.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Commonwealth Games

Penny Buckingham, MRPharmS, represented Guernsey at the XVII Commonwealth Games in Manchester. She finished 12th out of 15 runners the women's marathon in a time of 2h 58min 40sec, a personal best and a new island record. Miss Buckingham is a community pharmacist with Stonelake Ltd.

Chelsea 1956-59 reunion



Pharmacists who attended the Chelsea school of pharmacy from 1956 to 1959 recently held their third biennial reunion. A party of 40, including 28 former students, visited the botanical gardens at Kew. This was followed by lunch at the London Welsh Rugby Club, Richmond. The photograph shows (left to right): back row, David Nunn, Mike Harvey, Bryn Hughes, Ted Trickey, George Tétley, Pip Leaver, Bernard Pottle, Janet Pottle (née Osbourne), Richard Hall; middle row, Anne Savage, Mike Frizzell, Angela Samuels (Ziege), Trevor Waller, Bob Woodward, Len Davies, Heather Elliston, Pat Hall (Gentry), Dr Geoffrey Jolliffe (former lecturer in pharmaceuticals); front row, Valerie Baynes, Jackie Marsh (Brown), Mary Burdett, Ruby Dunn, Pam Richer (Skillicorn), Lucille Crowhurst (Park), Dr Georgina Jolliffe (former lecturer in pharmacognosy).

FUTURE EVENTS

Contractor services

Harrogate Management Centre conference on "Local contractor services in the National Health Service", London, 18 October. Cost £381.88 for public sector organisations, £499.38 for private sector. Details from Ivan Lester, Harrogate Management Centre, Freepost LS6534, Progress House, 87 Skipton Road, Harrogate HG1 4LF (tel 01423 506611).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bro Taf group list

Bro Taf Local Pharmaceutical Committee has established an e-mail group list for contractors in its area. Those wishing to join should send a blank e-mail to btipc-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Green Consultants move

Green Pharmacy Consultants, and its operating company Nupharmco, has moved to Stonecroft, Lower Station Road, Newick, Lewis, East Sussex BN8 4HU (tel 01825 722066, e-mail grepharm@globalnet.co.uk).

North Dales walk

A team including staff from the dispatch department at APS/Berk in Morley, Leeds, recently raised £1,378 for the National Autistic Society's Robert Ogden school for autistic children, Rotherham, by completing the North Dales three peaks walk in just under 12 hours.

APPOINTMENTS

Phytopharmacy

Dr Jo Barnes, MRPharmS, has been appointed lecturer in phytopharmacy at the School of Pharmacy, University of London. Dr Barnes recently completed a three-year research and teaching fellowship at the school's centre for pharmacognosy and phytotherapy.

Primary care assessment

The Royal College of General Practitioners has appointed the following pharmacists as assessors for its primary care research team assessment scheme (*PJ*, 27 July, p131): Stephen Bennett, John Hampson, Dr Dai John, Dr Janet Krska, Portosam Leal, Dr Ian Wong.

The Journal

Graeme Smith, MRPharmS, has been promoted to the position of managing editor — *PJ* Publications. Mr Smith joined the Society's staff in 1985 as an editorial assistant on the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharma-*

National Development Scheme for Senior Pharmacists



The National Development Scheme for Senior Pharmacists recently held a residential school for its latest intake. The photograph shows (left to right): standing, Albert Hart (tutor), Paul O'Brien, Nigel Watson, Neil Fletcher, Tracey Foss, Julie Watters, James Rennison, Anne Watson, Tom Gray, Karen Bennett, Nicola Stringer, Julia Alsop, Bill Gould (course leader); seated, Shazia Ali, Helen Burn, Lorna Clark, E.Y. Cheung, Mary Craddock, Azeem Ahmad, Paul Harris, Rachel Cox; front row, Ros Prior, Nicola Wake, Kathryn Phillips, Marc Mitchell.

colony. He joined The *PJ* staff in 1988 as a senior sub-editor, and was appointed assistant editor in 1993. He is principally responsible for the contributed sections in the *PJ*.

ABPI Scotland

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry has appointed Jim Eadie as director of ABPI Scotland. Mr Eadie is currently head of parliamentary affairs for the ABPI in London. He succeeds Kim Fellows who recently left the ABPI to join the Scottish Executive.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

The following candidates have been successful in this summer's pharmacy final degree examinations

University of Nottingham
MPHarm Honours Class I: L. A.

Andrews; R. K. Bassett; K. J. Black; R. E. Cooper; A. S. Duffin; D. A. Elliott; K. S. J. Ho; C. J. Holt; E. C. Houghton; D. C. Hughes; F. A. Issaji; M. C. Khaw; H. S. S. Lui; S. M. Longbottom; P. S. Maycock; J. A. Palmer; S. Patel; L. R. Pople; M. C. Richards; D. M. Swainson; C. M. Wan; A. R. Webster; P. Williams; J. Wood; A. M. Young; K. Y. Yuen. *Honours Class II, Division I:* D. Abbott; C. Acuda; L. Bahadur; S. L. Birch; R. V. Blackie; R. P. Bowers; M. H. Bradley; E. J. Brown; G. L. Bruce; C. S. Bustard; J. Chan; K. Chung; A. M. Clarkson; E. R. Constantinidi; M. L. Court; S.

L. Coverdale; S. J. Cran; M. N. Cringle; P. R. Dadswell; I. R. Davis; S. R. Davis; E. Doran; H. C. Edmonds; S. M. Egan; C. K. Elvin; J. D. England; A. L. J. Fletcher; M. P. Fletcher; A. Garton; F. E. Gilchrist; R. Y. Harness; J. E. Hawkes; R. E. Henley; L. J. C. Hodges; L. F. Hughes; S. J. Jenkinson; N. Johnson; S. A. Jones; N. J. K. Joyce; L. A. Keith; M. C. Y. L. Law Min; C. Y. L. Leiw; D. T. C. Lu; A. Manchha; H. J. March; G. S. Matharu; L. J. McAuley; A. J. McKenna; B. Mistry; K. R. Mole; K. Mower; X. L. Ng; H. Nguyen; R. J. Nona; R. Ofori-Attah; S. Padidar; A. L. Patel; H. P. Patel; V. A. Price; K. A. Rhodes; C. M. Robinson; W. S. Tang; C. S. Tate; H. P. Teoh; N.

Tickner; I. Y. K. Tong; J. D. Watson; R. L. Weston; B. Whelband; L. C. Whitney; A. R. Wignell; B. G. Williams. *Honours Class II, Division 2:* D. Alldrige; K. Butt; M. J. H. Chong; A. P. Clarke; N. J. Harper; C. Matthews; A. B. Murray; P. G. Schi-azza; Priya P. Shah; Pritesh Shah; S. A. Sharma; K. R. Sheth; P. M. Vasani.

RESOURCES

Living with ADHD packs
Patients information packs, "Living with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder", are now available free of charge from Janssen-Cilag (tel 01494 567567).

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