

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Irivanz infusion

COMPOSITION: Ertapenem 1g.
PRESENTATION: Powder for solution for infusion.

CLASS: Carbapenem, beta-lactam antibiotic.

INDICATIONS: Treatment of intra-abdominal infections, community acquired pneumonia and acute gynaecological infections in adults when caused by bacteria known or very likely to be susceptible to ertapenem and when parenteral therapy is required.

DOSAGE: 1g daily given by intravenous infusion over 30 minutes. Usual duration of therapy is three to 14 days.

MAJOR CAUTIONS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS: Severe hypersensitivity to any other type of beta-lactam antibacterial agent. Monitoring of serum valproic acid should be considered if ertapenem is to be co-administered with valproic acid. Ertapenem should not be used during pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the possible risk to the foetus. Mothers should not breast-feed their infants while taking ertapenem. Use in children under 18 years of age is not recommended.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.

NET PRICE: 1g vial £31.65.

CONTACT DETAILS: Merck Sharp & Dohme, Hertfordshire Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 9BU. Tel 01992 457272, fax 01992 451075.

See SPC for further details.

Zomig nasal spray

Zomig (zolmitriptan) 50mg/ml nasal spray has been launched (AstraZeneca). The spray delivers a dose of 5mg and one unit dose should be sprayed into one nostril only. If a second dose is required, it should not be administered within 2 hours of the initial dose.



Trileptal syrup

Trileptal (oxcarbazepine) 60mg/ml oral suspension has been launched (Novartis Pharmaceuticals); net price, 250ml £40.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Ovranette tablets

The following products are being discontinued with immediate effect (Wyeth Pharmaceuticals):

- Ovranette (levonorgestrel with ethinylestradiol) tablets, pack size 50 x 21
- Microval (levonorgestrel) 30µg tablets, pack size 50

Nuvelle TS patches

Nuvelle TS (estradiol patches and estradiol with levonorgestrel patches) will no longer be available from 1 January 2003 (Schering Health Care).

Intron A lyophilised powder plus diluent

Intron A (interferon alfa-2b) lyophilised powder plus diluent, 1 million iu vials, 3 million iu vials and 5 million iu vials have been discontinued (Schering-Plough).

SUPPLY PROBLEMS

Eldepryl syrup

Temporary supply problems are being experienced with Eldepryl (selegiline hydrochloride) 10mg/5ml syrup (Orion Pharmaceuticals). No emergency stock is available. Supply is expected to resume mid-November.

Feospan Spansule

Feospan Spansules (ferrous sulphate) are now available (Intrapharm Laboratories).

Anturan tablets

Anturan (sulfipyrazone) 100mg and 200mg tablets, pack size 84, are back in stock (Novartis Pharmaceuticals). The product is now in the livery of Sovereign Medical.

Betnesol eye ointment

Betnesol (betamethasone sodium phosphate) 0.1 per cent eye ointment is now back in stock (Celltech Pharmaceuticals).

Pentacarinat solution

Pentacarinat (pentamidine isetionate) ready-to-use solution is out of stock (JHC Healthcare). New stock is expected to be available at the beginning of next year.

FUTURE EVENTS

Genetics and law

Evensis two-day conference on "Genetics and law", Commonwealth Conference and Events Centre, London, 19-20 November. Cost £381.87 for public sector, £1,286.62 for private sector. Details

from Evensis, Columbus Quay, Riverside Drive, Liverpool L3 4DB (tel 0151 726 9002, website www.geneticsandlaw.com).

Brand profitability

Pharmaceutical Marketing Society meeting on "Extending the profitability of your brand", Novartis Pharmaceuticals (UK), Frimley, 20 November, 6.30pm. Details from Vivien Bennett on 01403 264898 (e-mail vivien@pmsociety.org.uk).

Drug delivery

Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences conference on "Biopharmaceuticals and drug delivery", Royal Pharmaceutical Society, London, December 3-4. Cost £176.25 for academic members, £235 for academic non-members, £411.25 for members, £470 for non-members. Details from Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 840 Melton Road, Thurmanston, Leicester LE4 8BN (tel 0116 269 2299, e-mail apsgb@associationhq.org.uk).

ABOUT PEOPLE

APS medal

Dr John Clements, MRPharmS, Science Secretary at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, has been awarded the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences medal for his services to the group.

FIP academics

Dr Claire Anderson, MRPharmS, has been appointed president-elect of the steering group of the International Pharmaceutical Federation's academic section. Dr Anderson is director of pharmacy practice and social pharmacy at the school of pharmacy, University of Nottingham.

WANTS LIST

Diabetes model scheme

Anna marie McGregor, director of the Scottish pharmaceutical care model scheme development team, wants to hear from pharmacists in Scotland who would like to be involved in developing the model scheme for diabetes and the associated training pack. She can be contacted through the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Scottish office at 36 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3HU (e-mail annamarie@rpsis.com putting "PCMS for diabetes" in the subject line).

1945 pocket book

E. E. Pratt, MRPharmS, of Hunter's Moon, 9 Brighton Road, Southampton SO15 2JJ, wants to obtain a copy of "The Pharmaceutical Pocket Book" from around 1945.

JPP editors

Professor Duncan Craig, MRPharmS, and Professor David Jones of the school of pharmacy, Queen's University of Belfast, have been reappointed co-editors of the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* until December 2004. They have edited the journal since January 2000. The *JPP* is the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's journal of pharmaceutical sciences.

CORRECTIONS

Broad Spectrum

In last week's Broad Spectrum article (p604) the authors referred to the number of pharmacy undergraduate students rising by 164 per cent per year. In fact the number rose by 164 per cent over the 20-year period referred to.

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