

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Cialis tablets

COMPOSITION: Tadalafil tablets 10mg and 20mg.

PRESENTATION: Film-coated tablets.

CLASS: Phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE 5) inhibitor.

INDICATIONS: Treatment of erectile dysfunction.

DOSAGE: One 10mg tablet to be taken between 30 minutes and 12 hours before anticipated sexual activity. The effects may persist for up to 24 hours post-dose. If 10mg is ineffective, subsequently a 20mg dose may be tried. Maximum dosing frequency is once daily but daily use is strongly discouraged.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Tadalafil is not indicated for use in women or individuals below 18 years of age. Its use is contraindicated in men taking organic nitrates and those for whom sexual activity is inadvisable because of cardiac disease.

MAJOR CAUTIONS: The cardiovascular status of patients should be assessed before treatment starts. A decrease in spermatogenesis was seen in animal studies but has not been seen in human trials. Interactions may occur with other drugs that inhibit CYP3A4 enzymes including ketoconazole or itraconazole, erythromycin or clarithromycin, protease inhibitors, and with grapefruit juice.

SIDE EFFECTS: Very common (>10 per cent) adverse reactions are headache and dyspepsia. Common (1–10 per cent) are dizziness, flushing, nasal congestion, back pain and myalgia.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM. Cialis tablets are subject to Schedule 11 restrictions on National Health Service prescribing.

NET PRICE: Tablets 10mg 4 £19.34; 20mg 4 £19.34, 8 £38.67.

CONTACT DETAILS: Lilly ICOS, 25 New Street Square, London EC4A 3LN. Medical information queries to Eli Lilly on 01256 315999.



DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Sanofi-Synthelabo

The following products are being discontinued by Sanofi-Synthelabo due to ongoing production problems: Benoral granules (benorilate), Mictral (nalidixic acid, sodium citrate, anhydrous citric acid, sodium bicarbonate) and Ticlid (ticlopidine).

Tarivid 100mg infusion vial

Tarivid (ofloxacin) 100mg 50ml infusion vials are being discontinued (Aventis). The 200mg 100ml vial remains available.

Rhinolast Allergy

Rhinolast Allergy (azelastine hydrochloride) 5ml nasal spray has been discontinued (VIATRIS). Marketing authorisation for the 5ml spray as a pharmacy medicine has been transferred to Novartis Consumer Health under the Aller-eze brand. Rhinolast 20ml nasal spray continues to be available from VIATRIS as a prescription product.

SPC CHANGES

Cordarone X

The summary of product characteristics for Cordarone X (amiodarone) intravenous ampoules has been amended. The following has been added to the contraindications section: "Cordarone X intravenous ampoules contain benzyl alcohol. There have been reports of fatal 'gaspings syndrome' in neonates (hypotension, bradycardia and cardiovascular collapse) following the administration of intravenous solution containing this preservative. Cordarone X intravenous is therefore contraindicated in infants and young children up to three years old." The following has been added to the incompatibilities section: "The use of administration or devices containing plasticisers such as DEHP (di-2-ethylhexyphthalate) in the presence of amiodarone may result in leaching out of DEHP. In order to minimise patient exposure to DEHP, the final amiodarone dilution for infusion should preferably be administered through non-DEHP-containing sets. See SPC.

SUPPLY PROBLEMS

Alpha Pharma captopril

Captopril 50mg tablets, pack size 56, are out of stock due to manufacturing problems (Alpha Pharma).

Ital inhalers

Ital (sodium cromoglicate) 5mg 112-dose inhalers are now back in stock (Aventis). Back orders have been cancelled.

FUTURE EVENTS

APS conference cancelled

The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences has cancelled its protein delivery conference, which was due to have been held on 19 and 20 February.

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Erwinase (crisantaspase/asparaginase) 10,000 units/vial

Ipsen Biopharm is recalling all of the following batches of Erwinase (crisantaspase/asparaginase) 10,000 units/vial, manufactured by CAMR, Porton Down.

Batch number	Expiry date
1023B0/suffix	February 2003
1026E0/suffix	May 2003
1027G0/suffix	July 2003
1028A1/suffix	January 2004
1029F1/suffix	May 2004
1030L1/suffix	November 2004
1031L1/suffix	November 2004

The recall is a precautionary measure following a review of process revalidation results relating to product sterility assurance. All of the batches met specifications at the time of release. Stocks should be quarantined and returned to Ipsen Biopharm, Ash Road, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham LL13 9UF. Further details from John Johnson, quality assurance manager, Ipsen Biopharm, on 01978 661181.

Rationing and the NHS

*Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin* symposium on "Rationing and the National Health Service", Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London W1, 13 March. Cost £120. Details from Alex Hornby on 020 7770 7571.

ETP and robots

Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists information technology interest group seminar on "Electronic transfer of prescriptions and automation in the dispensary", Aston Villa Football Club, Birmingham, 30 April. Cost £100 for members, £125 for non-members employed by the National Health Service, £140 for others. Discounts of £35 per place are available for bookings made through the GHP website ([www.ghp.org.uk](http://www.ghp.org.uk)). Details from Raj Gokani on 01865 228483.

Aseptic dispensing

University of Leeds school of continuing education residential course on "Aseptic preparation and dis-

persing of medicines", Trinity and All Saints College, University of Leeds, 7–10 April. Course fee £355. Accommodation is available at additional cost. The course will be repeated on 30 June to 3 July. Details from Sophie Harker, School of Continuing Education, Springfield Mount, Leeds LS2 9NG (tel 0113 343 3241).

ABOUT PEOPLE

University of Nottingham

Dr Nicola Gray, MRPharmS, has been appointed lecturer in pharmacy practice at the school of pharmacy, University of Nottingham. Dr Gray is a member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council.

Peterborough Hospitals

Martin Hindle, MRPharmS, was appointed a non-executive director of Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust on 1 December 2002. He is also a non-executive director of the National Blood Authority.

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