

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Arcoxia tablets

A 28-tablet pack of Arcoxia (etoricoxib) 120mg has been launched (Merck Sharp & Dohme). Net price, £22.96. The seven-tablet pack remains available.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Aserbine cream

Aserbine cream for wound desloughing (benzoic acid, malic acid, propylene glycol and salicylic acid), pack size 100g, has been discontinued (Goldshield).

SPC CHANGES

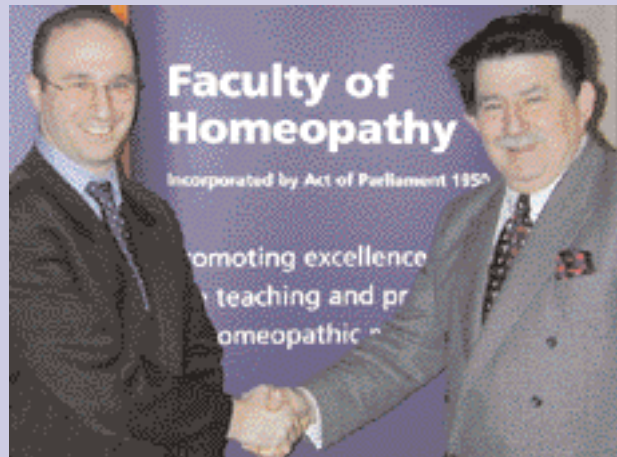
Prostap SR injection

The summary of product characteristics for Prostap (leuprorelin) SR injection has been updated (Wyeth). Hypersensitivity to synthetic gonadotrophin releasing hormone (Gn-RH) or Gn-RH derivatives has been added to the contraindications section. Under special warnings, the words "Spinal fracture, paralysis, hypotension and worsening of depression have been reported" have been added. On use in pregnancy, the SPC now states that studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity and there have been reports of fetal malformation when Prostap has been given during pregnancy. Patients' ability to drive or use machinery may be impaired by visual disturbances and dizziness. Pulmonary embolism and hot flushes have been added to the list of undesirable effects that have been reported infrequently. See SPC.

Enbrel injection

The summary of product characteristics for Enbrel (etanercept) has been updated (Wyeth). The treatment of active and progressive psoriatic arthritis in adults when the response to previous disease-modifying antirheumatic drug therapy has been inadequate has been added to the therapeutic indications section. The SPC notes that for this indication doses other than 25mg administered twice weekly have not been studied. A neurological assessment is now recommended for patients with pre-existing or recent onset of central nervous system demyelinating disease and for those considered to have an increased risk of developing the disease. In the adverse effects section, chest pain, syncope and kidney calculus have been added. No patients in clinical trials for psoriatic arthritis developed malignancies in studies up to six month's duration. See SPC.

Faculty of Homeopathy dean of pharmacy



Dr Steven Kayne, FRPharmS (right), congratulates his son Dr Lee Kayne, MRPharmS, who was recently appointed to succeed him as pharmacy dean to the Faculty of Homeopathy. Both are community pharmacists in Glasgow. The faculty was established in 1950 as a body for health care professionals practising homeopathy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Proctosedyl suppositories

Aventis Pharma says that in order to ensure long-term quality Proctosedyl (hydrocortisone and cinchocaine) suppositories should be refrigerated (2–8C) instead of being stored at room temperature. The product will become zero discount (ZD) rated.

December retail sales figures

The value of retail sales for December 2002 under the classification of pharmaceutical sales, was up one point at 182. The figure for the fourth quarter of 2002 was up three points at 153.

The classification of the retail sale of pharmaceutical, medical, cosmetic and toilet goods excludes National Health Service receipts. The figures are based on returns made by a number of large retail pharmacy chains, but exclude Boots The Chemists Ltd, which is classified under non-specialised retail stores. The figures are compiled by the Office for National Statistics.

Carers charity fundraising

Moss Pharmacy recently presented the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, with a cheque for £44,000 raised through fundraising activities in its branches during 2002. During a reception at the Moss Pharmacy head office at Feltham, the Princess Royal, president of the trust, presented Janette Robertson and Maureen Rolfe from the Craigshill, Livingston, branch with the Moss Pharmacy charity shield for raising more money than any other branch. A target of raising £100,000 has been set for this year.

FUTURE EVENTS

Paediatrics

Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust paediatric symposium on "Partnerships in care", Alder Hey Conference and Education Centre, Liverpool, 11–13 March. Cost £300. Details from Lesley Jackson, Postgraduate and Education Centre Manager, Alder Hey Education Centre, Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust, Eaton Road, Liverpool L12 2AP (tel 0151 252 5962, e-mail Lesley.Jackson@rlch-tr.nwest.nhs.uk)

Women pharmacists

National Association of Women Pharmacists conference on "Mental health: the times they are a-changing", Catalis Centre, Derby, 25–27 April. Topics to be covered include antidepressants, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and drugs of

abuse. There will also be a visit to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's convalescent home, Birdsgrove House, and the Hope House treatment centre. Cost £195 for members, £220 for non-members. Details from Veronica Pearson, 41 Tynedale Road, Loughborough, LE11 3TA (tel 01509 230463)

Cerebral palsy fundraising

Cerebral Palsy Children's Charity fundraising rose ball, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, 7 June, 6.45 for 7pm. Places are £65 each. Guest speaker, the President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Details from David and Joyce Kearney, 11 Spinners Hollow, Ripponden, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax HX6 4HY (tel 01422 825152).

WANTS LIST

Pharmacy computers

Victor Hammond wants to obtain copies of instruction booklets, specifications and illustrations of computer hardware or software being used in pharmacies before 1980. Materials can be returned on request. Products of Soroc, Altos, Micronic or other microcomputers sold by independent pharmacists are particularly sought. Mr Hammond can be contacted at Apartment 10, Wentworth, 27 Westcliffe Road, Birkdale, Southport PR8 2BL (e-mail vicpharm@premiumuk.com).

CORRECTIONS

Homeopathic arnica dose

The doses of homeopathic arnica used in a study to test its effects on pain and bruising were 30C and 6C, and not 30C and 60C as reported in *The Journal* last month (8 February, p180).

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