

NOTICE-BOARD

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Migard tablets

COMPOSITION: Frovatriptan (as succinate monohydrate) 2.5mg.

Presentation: Film-coated tablets.

CLASS: Selective 5-HT₁ receptor agonist.

INDICATIONS: Acute treatment of the headache phase of migraine attacks with or without aura.

DOSAGE: The recommended dose is 2.5mg and should be taken as early as possible after the onset of a migraine attack. If the migraine recurs after initial relief, a second dose may be taken provided there is an interval of at least two hours between doses. If there is no response to the first dose, a second dose should not be taken for the same attack. The total daily dose should not exceed 5mg.

MAJOR CAUTIONS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS: Frovatriptan is contraindicated in: patients with a history of myocardial infarction, ischaemic heart disease, coronary vasospasm, peripheral vascular disease; moderately severe or severe hypertension, uncontrolled mild hypertension; previous cerebrovascular accident or transient ischaemic attack; severe hepatic impairment. Concomitant use of frovatriptan with ergotamine, ergotamine derivatives or other 5-HT₁ agonists is contraindicated. Use of frovatriptan with monoamine oxidase inhibitors or *Hypericum perforatum* is not recommended and with the following agents requires caution: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, methylergometrine, fluvoxamine and oral contraceptives. Use in children and adolescents under the age of 18 years, those over 65 years, during pregnancy or in women who are breastfeeding is not recommended.

SIDE EFFECTS: The most common side effects (<10 per cent) include dizziness, fatigue, paraesthesia, headache and vascular flushing.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.

NET PRICE: 6 tablets £17.70.

CONTACT DETAILS: A. Menarini UK, Menarini House, Park Lane, Wooburn Green, Buckinghamshire HP10 0HH. Tel 01628 856400, fax 01628 856402.

See SPC for further details.

Neulasta injection

COMPOSITION: Pegfilgrastim 6mg 0.6ml.

PRESENTATION: Solution for injection.

CLASS: Human granulocyte colony stimulating factor.

INDICATIONS: Reduction in the duration of neutropenia and the incidence of febrile neutropenia in patients treated with cytotoxic

chemotherapy for malignancy (with the exception of chronic myeloid leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndromes).

DOSAGE: One 6mg dose is recommended for each chemotherapy cycle, administered as subcutaneous injection approximately 24 hours following cytotoxic chemotherapy.

MAJOR CAUTIONS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS: Pegfilgrastim should not be used in patients with acute leukaemia receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy. Pegfilgrastim should be discontinued in cases of preliminary signs of adult respiratory distress syndrome. Regular monitoring of platelet count and haematocrit is recommended. Caution should be exercised in patients with sickle cell disease. Pegfilgrastim should be administered 24 hours after cytotoxic chemotherapy. Pegfilgrastim should not be used during pregnancy or women who are breast-feeding.

SIDE EFFECTS: Very common undesirable effect (>10 per cent) is skeletal pain. Common (>1 per cent, <10 per cent) are injection site pain, chest pain (non-cardiac), pain, headache arthralgia, myalgia and back, limb, musculo-skeletal and neck pain.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.

NET PRICE: One syringe £768.

CONTACT DETAILS: Amgen, 240 Cambridge Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WD. Tel 01223 420305, fax 01223 423049. See SPC for further details.



Rapamune tablets

Rapamune (sirolimus) 2mg tablets have been launched (Wyeth Pharmaceuticals); net price, 30 £180, 100 £600.

Nicam gel

Nicam (nicotinamide) 4 per cent gel been launched (Dermal Laboratories); net price, 60g £7.98.

Fluconazole capsules

PLIVA Pharma has launched fluconazole capsules; net price, 50mg 7 £16.60, 150mg 1 £7.11, 200mg 7 £66.41. The 150mg strength is available in both prescription only medicine and pharmacy medicine packs.

Fluconazole capsules

Fluconazole capsules have been launched in Alpha Pharma livery; net

price, 50mg 7 £16.61, 150mg 1 £7.12, 200mg 7 £66.42.

SPC CHANGES

Exelon capsules and solution

The summary of product characteristics for Exelon (rivastigmine) capsules and oral solution has been updated (Novartis Pharmaceuticals). The following statement regarding dose titration has been added to the special warnings and precautions for use section: "Adverse effects (eg, hypertension, hallucinations) have been observed shortly after dose increase. They may respond to a dose reduction. In other cases, Exelon has been discontinued." The undesirable effects section has been rewritten and updated and frequency estimates for each undesirable effect have been added. Hypertension and hallucinations have been added to the overdose section as symptoms of overdose. See SPC.

Nexium tablets

The summary of product characteristics for Nexium (esomeprazole) tablets has been updated (AstraZeneca). The posology and method of administration section now states that for patients who cannot swallow, the tablets can be dispersed in non-carbonated water and administered through a gastric tube. For preparation and administration instructions see SPC.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Trinordiol tablets

The 54-strip packs of Trinordiol (ethinylestradiol with levonorgestrel) tablets x 21, have been discontinued (Wyeth Pharmaceuticals). The 3 x 21-tablet packs remain available.

Alpha Pharma ketoprofen

Alpha Pharma has discontinued ketoprofen 200mg capsules, pack size 28.

Monotrim tablets and injection

Monotrim (trimethoprim) tablets and injection will no longer be available from 30 April (Solvay Healthcare). Monotrim suspension remains available.

COUNTER MEDICINES

Zantac 75 Dissolve tablets

Zantac (ranitidine) 75 Dissolve tablets are being launched (GlaxoSmithKline); retail price, 24 £7.89 (pharmacy medicine). Zantac 75 Relief Dissolve tablets are also being launched; retail price, 12 £4.29 (general sale list).

Advertisement

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pavacol-D syrup

Manufacture and supply of Pavacol-D (pholcodine) syrup has been transferred from Boehringer Ingelheim to William Ransom & Son. Technical and commercial enquiries should be directed to William Ransom & Son (tel 01462 437615).

CORRECTIONS

John Goulding

We erroneously attributed the designation "MRPharmS" to John Goulding last week (*P7*, 5 April, p478). Mr Goulding has asked us to point out that he is not a pharmacist.

Photograph credit

The photograph on p469 of last week's *Journal* should have been credited to PA Photos.

AWARDS

GHP/NPA joint award

The Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists and the National Pharmaceutical Association are inviting applications for their joint pharmacy practice award, given in associa-

tion with Merck Sharp & Dohme. The award of £5,000 is open to pharmacists from any branch of the profession, but must reflect a joint project between community or primary care pharmacy and hospital pharmacy. Application packs are available on the websites of the GHP (www.ghp.org.uk) and the NPA (www.npa.co.uk) or from MSD on 01992 452370. The closing date is 31 July.

Honorary membership

Bharat Shah, MRPharmS, has been awarded honorary life membership of the South African Institute for the History of Pharmacy. Mr Shah is managing director of Sigma Pharmaceuticals.

FUTURE EVENTS

Shared decision making

University of Wales Swansea international conference on "Shared decision making: new conversations with patients", Swansea Clinical School, Swansea, 2-4 September. Cost £375. Details from Gwennan Thomas (e-mail gwennan.thomas@swansea.ac.uk), booking enquiries to Conference Services, Fulton House, University of Wales

Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP (tel 01792 295675, e-mail conferences@swansea.ac.uk).

Ophthalmology

United Kingdom Ophthalmic Pharmacists Group meeting, Kingston Hospital, Kingston-upon-Thames, 19 May. Details from Catherine Tan (e-mail ctan@kingstonhospital.nhs.uk, fax 020 8541 5856).

REUNIONS

London 1997

A reunion for pharmacists who graduated from the London School of Pharmacy in 1997, and their friends in other years, is to be held at the school on 6 June. Details from the school's website (www.ulscop.ac.uk/alumni/alumni.htm) which includes an application form for tickets.

The Pharmaceutical Journal is the official journal of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Founded in 1841, it has been published weekly since 1870.

• **Editorial** Correspondence concerning editorial contents should be addressed to: The Editor, *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2420 or 020 7735 9141, fax 020 7572 2504, e-mail editor@pharmj.org.uk).

• **Advertising** Correspondence concerning *Journal* advertisements should be addressed to: The Advertisement Manager, *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7735 9141, fax 020 7572 2505, e-mail advertdept@rpsgb.org.uk).

• **Members** Members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society should notify changes of address to the Registration Section, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN. Members resident overseas may have their copies sent on a priority basis on payment of an additional annual charge of £85.

• **Subscriptions** Annual subscription rates for non-members (2003): UK £140; overseas £190 (£275 with priority surcharge). Reduced rates are available for students in pharmaceutical disciplines resident in Great Britain (£45) and for members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (£95). Single copy, UK and overseas, £6, inclusive of postage. Correspondence concerning subscriptions should be addressed to: The Pharmaceutical Press, PO Box 151, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8QU, UK (tel 01491 829272, fax 01491 829292, e-mail rpsgb@cabi.org).

• Copyright © 2003 by *The Pharmaceutical Journal*. All reproduction, including photocopying, rights reserved. Average circulation, January to December 2001, 47,900; UK 42,752, overseas 5,148. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

• Published by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Printed in Great Britain by Polestar Colchester Ltd, a member of the Polestar Group. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

