

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Ezetrol tablets

COMPOSITION: Ezetimibe 10mg.

PRESENTATION: White to off-white tablets.

ACTION: Cholesterol absorption inhibitor.

Indications: Adjunctive therapy to diet in: primary (heterozygous familial and non-familial) hypercholesterolaemia (co-administered with a statin in patients not appropriately controlled with a statin alone or as monotherapy for patients in whom statin therapy is considered inappropriate or is not tolerated); homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia; homozygous sitosterolaemia.

DOSAGE: The recommended dose is 10mg once daily. No dosage adjustment required for elderly patients or for children and adolescents aged 10 years or above.

MAJOR CAUTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS/CONTRAINDICATIONS: Ezetimibe is not recommended in children under 10 years and in patients with moderate or severe liver dysfunction. Co-administration with fibrates is not recommended. When ezetimibe is co-administered with a statin, liver function tests should be performed at initiation of

therapy and according to the recommendations for the statin. Ezetimibe is contraindicated in breast feeding mothers. It should only be given to pregnant women if clearly necessary and is contraindicated in pregnancy when co-administered with a statin.

SIDE EFFECTS: The most frequently reported undesirable effects (incidence less than 10 per cent) are headache, abdominal pain and diarrhoea, and (when administered with a statin), constipation, flatulence, nausea and myalgia.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM

NET PRICE: 28 £26.31

CONTACT DETAILS: Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd, Hertford Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 9BU. See SPC for further details.

FUTURE EVENTS

YPG conference and hustings

Young Pharmacists' Group "Own a pharmacy" conference, Birmingham, 26 April, cost £30.

Followed by YPG Annual Hustings for Council, Birmingham, 27 April, free entry. Further details at the YPG website (www.ypg.info) or from Mike Embrey (tel 07808 841 240).

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Flamrase SR tablets 100mg

The following batch of Flamrase (diclofenac) SR tablets 100mg has been recalled as a precautionary measure (Clonmel Healthcare Ltd):

Batch number	Expiry date	Pack size
9159M	October 2004	28

This is because stability samples have failed to meet the specification for dissolution at three months after manufacture. Recipients of this batch are requested to quarantine any remaining stock and to return it via their suppliers. Further information can be obtained from the distributor APS Ltd (tel 0800 590 502).

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