

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Terazosin tablets

Alpharma has launched terazosin tablets; net price, 2mg 28 £7.95, 5mg 28 £12.87, 10mg 28 £26.19.



Colomycin 2 million units

Colomycin (colistimethate sodium) is now available in 2 million unit vials; net price, 10 vials £33 (Forest Laboratories).

SPC CHANGES

Celebrex dosing in African-Caribbean patients

The summary of product characteristics for Celebrex (celecoxib) has been updated (Pfizer). The following statements regarding dosing in different ethnic groups, have been removed from the posology and method of administration section and the pharmacokinetic properties section, respectively: "Ethnic differences: In black patients, the lower dose (200mg per day) should be used initially. The dose may, if needed, later be increased to 400mg per day (see 5.2)" and "The exposure of celecoxib has been observed to be higher in the black population than in Caucasians. The ethnic difference in exposure may be more marked in elderly." In their place, the following statement has been added to the pharmacokinetic properties section: "No clinically significant differences were found in PK parameters of celecoxib between elderly African-Americans and Caucasians." See SPC.

Efexor safety information

The summaries of product characteristics for Efexor and Efexor XL (venlafaxine) have been updated (Wyeth). Gastrointestinal bleeding has been added to the undesirable effects section (rare). In addition, the following statement has been added to the special warnings and special precautions for use section: "There have been reports of cutaneous bleeding abnormalities, such as ecchymosis and purpura, with serotonin-reuptake inhibitors. Other bleeding manifestations (eg, gastrointestinal bleeding and mucous membrane bleeding) have been reported. Caution is advised in patients predisposed to bleeding due to factors such as age, underly-

ing medical conditions or concomitant medications." See SPC.

Eloxatin undesirable effects

The summary of product characteristics for Eloxatin (oxaliplatin) has been updated (Sanofi-Synthelabo). The following statement has been added to the special warnings and precautions for use section: "In case of oxaliplatin extravasation, the infusion must be stopped immediately and usual local symptomatic treatment initiated." The undesirable effects section has also been amended to include rare cases of colitis, anaphylactic reactions (uncommon as single agent, common when given in combination with 5-fluorouracil/folinic acid), allergic reactions (common), and other effects including extravasation. This section also states that extravasation may result in severe local pain and inflammation and lead to complications, especially when oxaliplatin is infused through a peripheral vein. See SPC.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Gadsby's gluten-free range

A new range of gluten-free foods is available from Gadsby's Bakery, Southwell, Nottinghamshire (tel 01636 815214). Gadsby's Gluten-Free White Sliced Bread 400g £2.50; Gadsby's Gluten-Free White Unsliced Bread 400g £2.50; Gadsby's Gluten-Free White Bread Rolls 4 x 75g £2.00; Gadsby's Gluten-Free White Bread Flour 1kg £4.99.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Codis 500

Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare (UK) is discontinuing the 24 pack size of Codis 500 (aspirin and codeine). Codis 500, pack size 32, remains available.

Haemacel

Haemacel (polygeline) intravenous infusion 500ml (Beacon Pharmaceuticals) will be discontinued as soon as existing stocks are exhausted. Any outstanding orders with Distriphar will be cancelled at that time. For further queries contact Distriphar customer services on 0870 513 3347.

SUPPLY PROBLEMS

Fungizone Intravenous

There continue to be supply problems for Fungizone (amphotericin B) Intravenous (Bristol-Myers Squibb). Supplies are not expected to be available until the end of July.

50th anniversary celebration dinner



The inaugural meeting of the Blackpool and District branch of the National Association of Women Pharmacists was held on 19 June 1953. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of this event the current branch members recently held a celebration dinner at the North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood. Among the guests were founder members of the branch and the national president of the National Association of Women Pharmacists. The photograph shows (left to right) Joan Alderson, founder member, Monica Rose, national president of NAWP, and Joan Limb, founder member.

For further information call Bristol-Myers Squibb Customer Services (tel 01244 586250).

APPOINTMENTS

Moss Pharmacy

Terry Scicluna has been appointed operations director at Moss Pharmacy. Mr Scicluna was formerly chief executive of the Digital Radio Development Bureau and managing director of Radio Rentals. He succeeds Simon Hulme, who has been appointed human resources director.

Numark Trading

Numark Trading Ltd has appointed Lee Glennon as marketing manager. He formerly worked in marketing and buying for AAH Pharmaceuticals.

UniChem

David Coles has been appointed managing director of UniChem, Alliance UniChem's UK pharmaceutical wholesaling business. Mr Coles has been UK managing director for DHL International for the past five years.

WANTS LIST

Four peaks

Peter Deeks wants to hear from anyone who can sponsor him to climb the four English peaks over 3,000 feet in one day on 23 June. He is raising money for Cancer Research UK following the deaths last year of his father Philip Deeks, MRPharmS, and mother Christine Deeks. Peter can be contacted at peter.deeks@sercoassurance.co.uk or tel 01925 254160.

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