

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

**InductOs**

COMPOSITION: Diboterminalfa.  
PRESENTATION: Kit for implantation consisting of 12mg diboterminalfa powder for solution with the accompanying solvent (water for injections) for reconstitution of the powder and a matrix.

CLASS: Recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein-2.

INDICATIONS: The treatment of acute tibia fractures in adults, as an adjunct to standard care using open fracture reduction and intramedullary nail fixation.

DOSAGE: The volume of InductOs to be implanted is determined by the fracture anatomy. Maximum dosage of InductOs is two kits.

MAJOR CAUTIONS: InductOs should only be used by an appropriately qualified surgeon.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.

NET PRICE: One kit £2,264.

CONTACT DETAILS: Wyeth Pharmaceuticals (tel 01628 604377).

See SPC for full details.

**Methadone solution**

Thornton & Ross has launched methadone 1mg/ml sugar free oral solution; net price, 500ml £6. Legal category: Controlled Drug.

**Citalopram tablets**

Niche Generics has launched citalopram tablets; net price, 10mg 28 £8.19, 20mg 28 £13.63, 40mg 28 £23.04.

**Loperamide capsules**

Almus Pharmaceuticals has launched loperamide capsules; net price, 2mg 30 £1.98.

SPC CHANGES

**Somatuline LA**

The summary of product characteristics for Somatuline LA (lanreotide) has been updated (Ipsen). It is now additionally indicated for treatment of thyrotrophic adenomas when the circulating level of thyroid stimulating hormone remains inappropriately high after surgery or radiotherapy. Treatment should only be initiated by physicians experienced in the management of thyroid tumours. One intramuscular injection should be given every 14 days, or every 10 days if there is insufficient response. The SPC now states that patients treated with Somatuline LA may experience hypoglycaemia or hyperglycaemia and treatment of diabetes patients should be adjusted accordingly. The undesirable effects and pharmacodynamic properties sections have also been updated. See SPC.

**Fasturtec**

The summary of product characteristics of Fasturtec (rasburicase) has been updated (Sanofi-Synthelabo). The special warnings and precautions for use section now states that Fasturtec should be immediately and permanently discontinued in patients who develop severe hypersensitivity reactions, methaemoglobinemia, or haemolysis. It states that a strict sample handling procedure must be followed to ensure accurate measurement of uric acid plasma level during treatment. Both the 1.5mg and 7.5mg presentations now have a shelf life of three years, and the undesirable effects section has also been expanded. See SPC.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

**Indocid**

Indocid (indometacin) capsules 25mg and 50mg, Indocid-R capsules 75mg and Indocid suppositories 100mg are being discontinued by Merck Sharp & Dohme. MSD expects supplies to remain available until 2004.

**Humalog 1.5ml cartridges**

Humalog (insulin lispro) 1.5ml cartridges are being discontinued (Lilly). Other Humalog lines remain available. Patients using the 1.5ml cartridge will need to be reviewed and have their treatment adjusted accordingly.

**Rotahaler devices**

Rotahaler devices (for the Becotide, Ventolin and Ventide ranges) and all Rotacap and Ventide medicines have been discontinued (Allen & Hanbury's). The company expects stocks to be exhausted during October.

**Ervevax**

Ervevax (single rubella vaccine) has been discontinued (GlaxoSmith-Kline). The company expects stocks to be exhausted by the end of September.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Aventis vaccines**

Aventis Pasteur MSD is introducing many of its vaccines in syringes without needles over the next few months to allow health care professionals to choose their preferred needle. This change affects Avaxim (inactivated hepatitis A vaccine), Typhim Vi (Vi capsular polysaccharide typhoid vaccine), Stamaril (live yellow fever vaccine), Rabies vaccine (human diploid cell rabies vaccine) and Mengivac A+C (meningococcal polysaccharide vac-

cine). Aventis Pasteur MSD's influenza vaccines will continue to be supplied with attached needles.

FUTURE EVENTS

**Wound care**

United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association Care of the Elderly Group study day on "wound care", Edinburgh First Conference Centre, Edinburgh University, 2 October. Cost £95 for members, £150 for non-members. Details from Pat Kennedy on 0116 277 6999 (e-mail admin@ukcpa.com).

**Compounding**

Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists Compounding Interest Group seminar, Stoke Rochford Hall, near Grantham, 14 October, after the national NHS quality assurance symposium. Cost £35 or included in symposium fee. Details from Jeanette Brown on 029 2074 8121 (e-mail Jeanette.Brown@Cardiffand Vale.wales.nhs.uk).

**Essex LPC**

Essex Local Pharmaceutical Committee conference entitled "Community pharmacy empowered to change", Furze Hill Banqueting and Conference Centre, Margareting, Essex, 19 October. Details from Essex LPC on 01279 508587 (e-mail essexlpc@beeb.net).

**Pharmaceutical marketing**

The Pharmaceutical Marketing Society meeting on "Effective utilisation of ABPI resources", Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, 12 Whitehall, London, 28 October. Cost £47 for members, £94 for non-members. Further details from Vivien Bennett on 01403 264898 (e-mail vivien@pmsociety.org.uk).

**Thames Valley pharmacists**

David Thomas would like to hear from those interested in attending a Thames Valley Pharmacists Association centenary dinner at Apothecaries Hall, Blackfriars, London, on 3 December. Please contact David Thomas by 17 October on 020 8890 8233 (e-mail djthomas@b2f-hosting.co.uk).

JEANS FOR GENES DAY

This year's "Jeans for genes" day is Friday 3 October. It aims to raise funds for research into serious genetic disorders. People are asked to donate £1 in exchange for wearing jeans. Further information available at [www.jeansforgenes.com](http://www.jeansforgenes.com).

HOSPITAL PHARMACIST

The *Hospital Pharmacist* conference on "Pharmacist prescribing" has now been accredited by the College of Pharmacy Practice and entitles participants to a credit of five hours towards their CPP continuing professional development requirements. The conference takes place on 30 October at the Society's headquarters in London.

CORRECTIONS

**Marcus Longley**

Marcus Longley, who wrote the report on the consultation on the draft new Royal Charter (*Pf*, 13 September, p349), has acted as the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's facilitator for Council modernisation discussions.

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