

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Tritace tablets

Aventis has launched Tritace tablets which will be replacing all Tritace capsule packs except the Tritace titration pack. Net price, 1.25mg 28 £5.30, 2.5mg 28 £7.51, 5mg 28 £10.46, 10mg 28 £14.24. The tablets are bioequivalent to the capsules. The capsules will be completely phased out by the end of November.

ACWY Vax

ACWY Vax (meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine, groups A, C, W₁₃₅ and Y polysaccharides) now comes with a pre-filled syringe of diluent rather than an ampoule (GlaxoSmithKline).

SPC CHANGES

Deseril tablets

The summary of product characteristics for Deseril (methysergide) 1mg tablets has been amended (Alliance Pharmaceuticals). The SPC now states that concomitant use of Deseril and cytochrome P450 3A (CYP3A) inhibitors such as macrolide antibiotics, HIV protease or reverse transcriptase inhibitors, azole antifungals or cimetidine must be avoided since this can result in an elevated exposure to methysergide and ergot toxicity. See SPC.

Naseptin nasal cream

The summary of product characteristics for Naseptin (chlorhexidine hydrochloride 0.1 per cent and neomycin sulphate 0.5 per cent) nasal cream has been amended (Alliance Pharmaceuticals). It now states that Naseptin contains arachis oil (peanut oil) and should not be taken or applied by patients known to be allergic to peanuts. As there is a possible relationship between allergy to peanut and allergy to soya, patients with soya allergy should also avoid Naseptin. See SPC.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Viraferon injection pen

Viraferon (interferon alfa-2b) multidose injection pen, 25 million units/ml, 1.5ml cartridge is being discontinued at the end of December (Schering-Plough). Other presentations of Viraferon and ViraferonPeg remain available.

Salbutamol Inhaler

Salbutamol CFC-free 200-dose inhaler 100 µg/metered inhalation has been discontinued from the Alpha range.

Celance tablets

Celance (pergolide) 14-day starter packs (75 x 50µg and 6 x 250µg) are being discontinued after 31 October (Eli Lilly). Other Celance packs remain available.

Boehringer respiratory range

The following products are being discontinued by Boehringer Ingelheim: Oxivent inhaler (oxitropium bromide), Oxivent Autohaler (oxitropium bromide), Atrovent Forte (ipratropium bromide), Atrovent Autohaler (ipratropium bromide), Alupent (orciprenaline sulphate) tablets. The company expects these products to be unavailable after May 2004.

COUNTER MEDICINES

Panadol Compack

GlaxoSmithKline has launched Panadol Compack, a crush-resistant wallet pack which opens out to reveal tablets and patient information. The new metallic-finish packs will apply to Panadol tablets (paracetamol), recommended retail price, 16 £1.99, Panadol Extra (paracetamol and caffeine), 16 £2.29 and Panadol Acifast (paracetamol and sodium bicarbonate), 14 £2.49. Legal category: general sale list medicine.



APPOINTMENTS

AIMp chief executive

Roy Carrington, MRPharmS, has been appointed the first chief executive of the Association of Independent Multiple pharmacies (AIMp).

Mr Carrington recently retired as chief executive and superintendent pharmacist of National Co-operative Chemists. He was a member of the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and chairman of the Co-operative Pharmacy Technical Panel for 17 years.

SUPPLY PROBLEMS

Psorin ointment and gel

Psorin ointment (dithranol 0.11 per cent, crude coal tar 1 per cent and salicylic acid 1.6 per cent) and Psorin scalp gel (dithranol 0.25 per cent and salicylic acid 1.6 per cent) 50g tubes are back in stock (LPC Medical).

DRUG TARIFF UPDATES

NCSO endorsements

The Department of Health and the National Assembly for Wales have agreed to allow "No cheaper stock obtainable" (NCSO) endorsements for the following items for October prescriptions: oxybutynin hydrochloride 2.5mg tablets, nitrofurantoin 25mg/5ml oral suspension, ketoprofen 50mg capsules.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CPP charity

The College of Pharmacy Practice has raised over £600 for Macmillan Cancer Relief by organising an open day to coincide with the Macmillan world's biggest coffee morning on 26 September.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Linnean Society

Dr Joanne Barnes, MRPharmS, lecturer in phytopharmacy at the London School of Pharmacy, has been admitted as a fellow of the Linnean Society of London. Named after the 18th century biologist Carl Linnaeus, who created the binomial system of nomenclature for plants and animals, the Linnean Society is the oldest society devoted to the life sciences.

FUTURE EVENTS

Cystic fibrosis

Cystic Fibrosis Pharmacists Group winter study day, Jury's Hotel, Bristol, 6 November. Details from Jan Redfern on 0161 291 2015 (e-mail Jan.Redfern@smuht.nwest.nhs.uk).

Psychiatry and industry

Mental health charity Mind and the Critical Psychiatry Network conference entitled "Is psychiatry for sale?", investigating the relationship between psychiatry and the pharmaceutical industry. Royal Institute of British Architects, Portland Place, London, 17 November. Cost £323.13, reductions for NHS staff and individuals. Details from Pavilion Publishing customer services on 0870 161 3505, (e-mail info@pavpub.com).

Dr Mo Aslam memorial

A memorial evening for Dr Mo Aslam will be held at the University of Nottingham on 22 November. Tributes will be made by Professor Bob Davis, school of pharmacy, Dr Michael Healy, school of chemistry, University of Nottingham, and Ann Lewis, Secretary and Registrar, Royal Pharmaceutical Society. There will be a dedication of an aromatic garden planted in Dr Aslam's honour. Those wishing to attend should contact the school of pharmacy on 0115 951 5051.

Protein delivery

Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences symposium on "Protein delivery", Royal Pharmaceutical Society's headquarters, London, 25-26 November. Cost £350 for members, £425 for non-members. Details from the secretariat on 0116 269 2299 (e-mail apsgb@associationhq.org.uk) or see website www.apsgb.org.

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.



Correction

Dr Mo Aslam memorial

The memorial evening for Dr Mo Aslam will be held at the University of Nottingham on 22 October, not as *The Journal* was informed.