

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Singulair granules

Singulair (montelukast) paediatric granules have been launched, containing 4mg montelukast per sachet (Merck, Sharp & Dohme). Recommended dose for children 6 months to five years is one sachet in the evening. See SPC. Net price, 28 £25.69. Legal category: POM.

Gentamicin Redibags

Gentamicin Redibags, ready-to-use gentamicin for once daily dosing, have been launched (Baxter Healthcare); net price, 80mg/50ml £1.63, 240mg/100ml £3, 360mg/100ml £4. Legal category: POM.

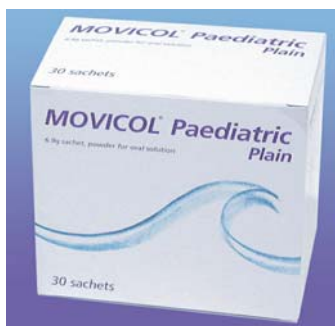


Busilvex

Busilvex (busulfan) 6mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion is now available from Pierre Fabre; net price, 8 x 10ml ampoules £1,610.

Movicol Paediatric Plain

Movicol (macrogol 3350 and electrolytes) Paediatric Plain has been launched (Norgine). It is licensed for the treatment of faecal impaction in children from the age of two years. See SPC. Net price; 30 sachets £4.98. Legal category: POM.



SPC CHANGES

Viramune

The summary of product characteristics for Viramune (nevirapine) has been revised (Boehringer Ingelheim). It now states that close monitoring for life-threatening skin reactions or serious hepatitis/hepatic failure is critical in the first 18 weeks of treatment. The greatest risk of these events occurs in the first six weeks of therapy. Women and patients with higher CD4 counts are at increased risk of hepatic adverse events. Liver function tests should be performed if patients present with a suspected nevirapine associated rash, and the drug should be permanently discontinued in patients with moderate to severe LFT elevations. Patients with chronic hepatitis B or C treated with combination antiretroviral therapy are at an increased risk of potentially fatal hepatic adverse events. Patients should be advised if they develop a rash or symptoms of hepatitis, and nevirapine treatment should be discontinued in these patients. See SPC.

Neoclarityn

The summary of product characteristics for Neoclarityn (desloratadine) tablets and syrup now states that very rarely some people may experience drowsiness, which may affect their ability to drive or use machines (Schering-Plough). Dizziness and somnolence have been added to the list of undesirable effects. See SPC.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Spasmonal Fibre

Spasmonal Fibre (sterculia 62 per cent and alverine citrate 0.5 per cent) has been discontinued. Other products in the Spasmonal range remain available.

Razoxane tablets

Razoxane tablets are being discontinued (Cambridge Laboratories).

SUPPLY ISSUES

Zovirax ointment

There is currently a shortage of Zovirax (aciclovir) ophthalmic ointment 3 per cent (GlaxoSmithKline). The UK distribution centre is holding a small amount of stock for urgent orders only. Further details from the company's customer care centre on 0800 221441.

COUNTER PRODUCTS

Canesten Duo

Canesten Duo has been launched (Bayer), consisting of Canesten Oral (fluconazole 150mg) and Canesten double strength thrush cream (clotrimazole 2 per cent) 10g. Recommended sales price £12.50. Legal category: pharmacy medicine.



Imodium Plus

Imodium Plus (loperamide 2mg and simethicone 125mg) caplets are now available in packs of six (Johnson & Johnson/MSD), recommended sales price £3.75. Legal category: general sale list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ultiva responsibility

GlaxoSmithKline has assumed responsibility for the distribution and ordering of Ultiva (remifentanyl hydrochloride). Future orders should continue to be placed with Unidrug Distribution Group (tel 01773 510123). Packs in GlaxoSmithKline livery should be available in May.

Xenical packs

Xenical (orlistat) packs will now display the telephone number of the free patient support line (Roche) (*PJ*, 18 October 2003, p538).

APPOINTMENTS

Moss strategy manager

Jonathan Buisson, MRPharmS, senior staff editor at *The Pharmaceutical Journal* for nearly nine years, has left to take up the position of NHS strategy manager at Moss Pharmacy. His responsibilities will include assessing the impact of government initiatives on the company.

Moss marketing

Steve Hill has been appointed pharmacy marketing manager at Moss Pharmacy. Mr Hill was previously pharmacy marketing manager at Lloydspharmacy.

FUTURE EVENTS

Women pharmacists

National Association of Women Pharmacists evening meeting entitled "Life at the top", Village Hotel, Cardiff, 9 March. Details from Hazel Baker on 029 2041 1841 (e-mail hazel.baker@ntlworld.com).

Continuing professional development

National Association of Women Pharmacists conference entitled "CPD — No fear", Soroptimist Club, London, 3 April. Cost members £40, non-members £60. Details from Veronica Pearson on 01509 230463.

Respiratory conference

College of Pharmacy Practice faculty of neonatal and paediatric pharmacy respiratory conference, Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital (Alder Hey), 20 April. Cost college members £60, college and faculty members £50, non-members £75. Details on 024 7622 1359, or at www.collpharm.org.uk.

Pharmacy management

Institute of Pharmacy Management International spring conference entitled "Ruby wine? 40 years of IPMI", Menzies Waterside Hotel, Bath, 23–25 April. Cost for full delegate package, members £325, non-members £395. Details from the IPMI conference administrator, College of Pharmacy Practice, 28 Warwick Row, Coventry CV1 1EY. Tel 024 7622 1359.

CORRECTIONS

Roadshow information

The telephone number for information about the primary care roadshows in Manchester and London is 0118 984 4977, not as *The Journal* was previously informed (*PJ*, 28 February, p259).

Handwritten prescriptions

We have been informed that the results originally presented to *The Journal* by the authors of the paper "A survey of prescription errors in general practice" (*PJ*, 15 December 2001, p860) were incorrect. The results should have read: "140 errors were found on 140 of the 1,373 handwritten items presented during the study period (10.2 per cent) compared with 2,676 errors on 2,527 of the 36,448 computer-generated items (7.34 per cent) ($\chi^2=21.5$, $df=1$, $P<0.0001$)."