

NEW MEDICINES

Telzir

COMPOSITION: Fosamprenavir calcium.

PRESENTATION: Film-coated tablets.

ACTION: Protease inhibitor.

INDICATIONS: In combination with low dose ritonavir for the treatment of HIV-1 infected adults in combination with other antiretrovirals.

DOSAGE: 700mg fosamprenavir twice daily with 100mg ritonavir twice daily, in combination with other antiretroviral agents. See SPC.

PRECAUTIONS: Fosamprenavir must only be given with low dose ritonavir as a pharmacokinetic enhancer of amprenavir and in combination with other antiretroviral agents. The SPC for ritonavir must be consulted before initiation of therapy. Must not be administered concomitantly with other products containing amprenavir. Patients should be advised that they may still develop opportunistic infections and other complications.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Co-administration with rifampicin or preparations containing St John's wort. Severe hepatic impairment. Co-administration with drugs with narrow therapeutic windows that are substrates of cytochrome CYP3A4 or those highly dependent on CYP2D6 metabolism.

SIDE EFFECTS: Include headache, dizziness, diarrhoea, rash, fatigue.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM

NET PRICE: 700mg 60 £295.61

CONTACT DETAILS:

GlaxoSmithKline, Stockley Park West, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB11 1BT (tel 020 8990 9000).

Vaniqua

COMPOSITION: Eflornithine hydrochloride 11.5 per cent w/w.

PRESENTATION: Cream.

ACTION: Inhibitor of ornithine decarboxylase.

INDICATIONS: Treatment of facial hirsutism in women.

DOSAGE: Twice daily application of a thin layer of cream, at least eight hours between applications.

PRECAUTIONS: Underlying disorders or medicines that may cause excessive hair growth should be considered. Avoid contact with eyes or mucous membranes.

SIDE EFFECTS: Acne.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.

NET PRICE: 30g £26.04

CONTACT DETAILS: Shire Pharmaceuticals, Hampshire International Business Park, Chineham, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8EP (tel 01256 894000).

Quinapril tablets

Quinapril tablets are now available from Genus Pharmaceuticals, net price, 5mg 28 £7.99, 10mg 28 £7.99, 20mg 28 £9.99.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Algicon

Algicon (compound alginate) tablets will be discontinued when stocks are exhausted (Aventis). The company expects this to be at the end of September. Any outstanding orders will be cancelled at that time. Queries should be directed to customer services on 0870 5133347.

Farlutal tablets

Farlutal (medroxyprogesterone acetate) tablets will be unavailable after 1 October (Pharmacia). Farlutal injection will remain available.

SUPPLY ISSUES

Eldepryl syrup

Eldepryl (selegiline hydrochloride) syrup is currently out of stock (Orion). The company expects stock to become available again during September. Eldepryl tablets remain available.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Pro-Epanutin livery

Pro-Epanutin (fosphenytoin sodium) ampoules, currently packaged under Parke-Davis livery, will change to standard Pfizer livery from 26 August (Pfizer). All orders received for shipment up to this date will continue to be fulfilled with existing Parke-Davis stock. The price is unaffected by this change. Details on 01304 645262.

Sotacor appearance

Sotacor (sotalol hydrochloride) tablets 80mg and 160mg have changed in appearance owing to a new formulation (Bristol-Myers Squibb). The tablets are now round and biconvex, scored on one side and engraved on the other side with "80" or "160". The 80mg tablet is now smaller than the old formulation and the 160mg tablet is larger. See SPC.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Wolverhampton University

Ray Fitzpatrick, MRPharmS, has been appointed visiting professor

of pharmacy at Wolverhampton University. Professor Fitzpatrick, clinical director of pharmacy at the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, will undertake research and teaching in the university's faculty of applied sciences, and will assist in the development of a new school of pharmacy at the university.

Travel health

Larry Goodyer, MRPharmS, head of Leicester school of pharmacy, has been appointed to the British Travel Health Association's executive committee. One of his remits is to increase the involvement of pharmacists in travel medicine and promote their membership to the BTHA.

RESOURCES

Peak flow meters

Clement Clarke, manufacturer of the Mini-Wright peak flow meter has launched a website informing pharmacists and patients about the change in peak flow meter scales that will occur on 1 September (*PJ*, 19 June, p757). The website can be accessed at www.peakflow.com.

FUTURE EVENTS

Clinical research projects

Management Forum meeting on "Successful clinical research project management", Rembrandt Hotel, London, 13-15 September. Cost £1,645. Details at www.management-forum.co.uk (e-mail registrations@management-forum.co.uk).

CORRECTIONS

Cetuximab clarification

Premedication with an antihistamine is mandatory before the first infusion of cetuximab, and is then recommended before all subsequent infusions (*PJ*, 10 July, p46). Merck has requested that orders for this product are not placed on the number for AAH hospital service that was provided to *The Journal* (ibid, p49) but that customers contact their local branches.

UniChem award

The photograph on p145 of last week's *Journal* featured Richard Baker, chief executive of Boots The Chemist, and not Steve Hill as *The Journal* was informed.

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