

SPC CHANGES

Zerit

The summaries of product characteristics for Zerit (stavudine; Bristol-Myers Squibb) capsules and powder for oral solution now state that in HIV-infected patients with severe immune deficiency at the time of institution of combination antiretroviral therapy, an inflammatory reaction to asymptomatic or residual opportunistic pathogens may arise and cause serious clinical conditions or aggravation of symptoms. Asymptomatic hyperlactataemia has been added as a common adverse event. See SPC.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Humatrope 4-unit vials

Humatrope (somatropin; Eli Lilly) 4iu (1.33mg) vials will be discontinued from 1 May. The company says that it will look to replace stock or credit customers for any remaining product after August. All other Humatrope presentations remain available.

SUPPLY ISSUES

Haelan cream and ointment

Haelan cream and ointment (fludrocortide; Typharm) are now back in stock.

COUNTER PRODUCTS

Ovex Suspension

Ovex Suspension (mebendazole 100mg/5ml; McNeil) will be available from mid April. Recommended retail price, 30ml (six doses) £6.99. Legal category: P.

APPOINTMENTS

Wales Industry Group

Jennie Hammond, NHS/ Government relations adviser (Wales) at Eli Lilly and a former pharmacist, has been appointed chairwoman of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical

Industry Cymru Wales Industry Group. Ms Hammond, who is also an industry representative on the NHS Industry Forum, will succeed Peter Harsant, who is planning to retire.

EXCHANGES

German exchange

Alexander Roth, an independent pharmacist in the Palatinate region of South West Germany, is looking for a British family to accommodate his 16-year-old son for two or three weeks in the summer, or to organise an exchange with a British schoolboy. He can be contacted on +49 6346 2682 (e-mail trifels-apotheke@t-online.de).

WANTS

Osteoarthritis research

Frederick Segal, a pharmacist researching unorthodox methods of managing osteoarthritis, would like to hear from anybody who has any experience of the effects of magnetism in the management of the condition, however anecdotal. He can be contacted by e-mail at fredericksegal@chemist.com.

FUTURE EVENTS

Clinical nutrition

British Pharmaceutical Nutrition Group training course for pharmacy staff entitled "Fundamentals of clinical nutrition", Royal Pharmaceutical Society headquarters, London, 26 April. Cost members £90, non-members £120. Further details on 07817 658296 (e-mail conferenceteam@hotmail.com).

CAMRx convention

CAMRx Pharmacy Development Group annual convention entitled "Staying in the helicopter — the key to profitable growth", Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire, 25–26 June. Cost members £54.95, non-members £165. Details from Phillipa Capon on 01530 510520 (e-mail sales@camrx.co.uk).

CORRECTION

Durex recall

The letter C at the end of the batch numbers for recalled Durex condoms may appear as a "€" and not a "_" as stated last week (*PJ*, 26 March, p357).

Welcome to "The Jewel on The Nile" — FIP's 65th congress in Cairo

The International Pharmaceutical Federation will hold its 65th congress from 3 to 8 September in Cairo, Egypt. It is being hosted jointly by FIP and the Syndicate of Pharmacists of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The congress theme is "Medicines for all — a human right".

Symposia

The board of pharmaceutical sciences is running five symposia:

- Biopharmaceuticals and drug development process
- Pharmaceutical biotechnology in the post-genomic era
- Dissolution testing — a pivotal tool for development and quality of drugs
- Good chemistry, manufacturing and control practice
- Natural product research in Egypt

The board of pharmaceutical practice is also running five symposia:

- Access to medicines
- The price of medicines
- Selection, supply and distribution of medicines
- The worldwide problem of counterfeit medicines
- Thinking the unthinkable

There will also be a pre-congress satellite symposium on Friday 2 and Saturday 3 September on "Information, pharmacovigilance and patient safety — approaches to data collection, analysis, dissemination and use" (separate registration required).

Community pharmacy section

The community pharmacy section has organised a pre-congress continuing education programme on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 September (separate registration required) entitled "Compliance, adherence or concordance



— who cares?". The section will also host two symposia:

- A new era in the pharmaceutical market
- Tobacco-free pharmacies

Hospital pharmacy section

The hospital pharmacy section has symposia on:

- Supply chain management — contracting and shortages
- Human resources in hospital pharmacy
- Paying for medicines used in hospitals

Industrial pharmacy section

The industrial pharmacy section has a symposium on:

- Development of a pharmaceutical industry in Africa and the Middle East

Other sections

There will be meetings of the academic pharmacy, administrative pharmacy, clinical biology, laboratories and medicines control services, military and emergency pharmacy, and pharmacy information sections.

Congress fees

Until 1 May, registration fees are as follows:

- FIP members €500, non-members €800, students and recent graduates €200
- After 1 May and before 1 August, the fees increase: members €600, non-members €900, students and recent graduates €250
- After 1 August, registration will only be available on site, when fees will be €950 for members and non-members, and €300 for students and recent graduates

Accompanying persons (maximum of two per participant) pay €200 whatever the time of booking. In addition, day cards will be available on site at €275.

Accommodation and tours

A range of hotel accommodation in Cairo will be available. The Congress venue is the InterContinental Citystars Heliopolis Hotel. A range of pre- and post-congress tours will be available, including a four-day cruise on the River Nile.

Further information

Further information is available from FIP Congresses and Conferences, PO Box 84200, 2508 AE The Hague, The Netherlands (tel +31 70 302 1982; fax +31 70 302 1998, e-mail congress@fip.org).

Congress registration is being handled by FIP Congress Registration Office, New Brooklyn, PO Box 73, 3620 AB Breukelen, The Netherlands (tel +31 34 626 6110, fax +31 34 626 3308, e-mail registration@newbrooklyn.nl).

The FIP website at www.fip.org gives detailed, up-to-date information on the congress and other matters. Electronic registration is available at www.fip.org/cairo2005.

Correction

Jennie Hammond is still a pharmacist and not a former pharmacist as stated (Appointments).