

PRODUCT ALERT

Herbal warning — *Coleus forskohlii*

Two herbal products contaminated with atropine-containing ingredients may be available in the UK, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has warned.

The two products — *Coleus forskohlii* 20 per cent and 10 per cent — have been associated with acute atropine-like poisoning in Italy. It is thought that they have been contaminated or adulterated with a member of the Solanaceae family, which includes *Atropa belladonna*. The MHRA has asked that all stocks of the two products be quarantined. Full details available via *PJ Online* (www.pjonline.com/links/pj).

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Diva

Diva (co-cyprindiol 2000/35) tablets are now available from Zeroderma; net price 3 × 21 £6.98. Legal category: POM.

Gabapentin

Gabapentin capsules 300mg are now available from Sandoz; net price, 100 £53. Legal category: POM.

Lamotrigine

Lamotrigine tablets are now available from Alpharma; net price, 25mg 56 £17.35, 50mg 56 £29.50, 100mg 56 £50.88, 200mg 30 £46.34, 200mg 56 £86.50. Legal category: POM.



Rectogesic

Rectogesic (glyceryl trinitrate 0.4 per cent w/w) rectal ointment has been launched by ProStraken; net price, 30g £32.80. Legal category: POM.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Melleril

Novartis has issued a reminder that Melleril (thioridazine) tablets will be discontinued by 30 June. Health professionals are advised to ensure that patients are no longer routinely prescribed these tablets because of the need for gradual withdrawal.

Perative 237ml

Perative nutritional supplement 237ml cans have been discontinued (Abbott

Laboratories). Perative 500ml and 1 litre ready-to-hang presentations remain available.

SUPPLY ISSUES

Chlorphenamine injection

Chlorphenamine injection 10mg in 1ml (Link Pharmaceuticals) is now back in stock and available from UDG (telephone 01773 510123).

Goldshield products

Goldshield Pharmaceuticals says there are currently supply problems with the following products; thiotepa injection 15mg, calcium leucovorin injection 30mg, calcium leucovorin tablets 15mg, methotrexate tablets 2.5mg × 28 and methotrexate injection 200mg/8ml, 50mg/2ml, 1gm/40ml, 500mg/20ml and 5g/200ml. Further details from Goldshield on 020 8410 2134.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Schering award

Clive Jackson, chief executive of the National Prescribing Centre, is to be awarded the 2004 Schering award in recognition of his role in the development and implementation of strategies to promote safe and effective prescribing in primary care, and for his leadership as the first chairman of the Faculty of Prescribing and Medicines Management. Mr Jackson will be presented with his award at a ceremony later this year.

AWARDS

Pharmacy technicians

Community pharmacy technicians are invited to enter the UniChem community pharmacy technician award 2005. Entrants must hold a S/NVQ level 3 pharmacy services or equivalent and must submit no more than 1,500 words detailing a

Signposting guide for Knowsley pharmacists



Pharmacists in Knowsley recently received their “pharmacy signposting guide”, containing information and contact details about health and social care organisations in the area to help them meet the requirements of the new pharmacy contract. Pictured with the guide are (left to right) Rosemary Hawley, Knowsley Primary Care Trust chairman, Andrew Kerr, regional manager for Lloydspharmacy, Helen Smith, area manager for Lloydspharmacy, Mark Pilling, Knowsley Primary Care Trust community pharmacy development manager, and Clare Dutton, head of medicines management at Knowsley PCT.

recent project they have been involved in which demonstrates innovative patient care. The winner will receive a year's membership to the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK, attendance at the APTUK annual conference in 2006 and £250 towards their training. Further details on 020 8974 4040. Closing date 29 July.

RESOURCES

Neonatal formulary

The 8th edition of the Neonatal Formulary, used on the neonatal unit at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, is now available, price £15. Ordering enquiries should be e-mailed to Gill Bullock at gbullock@hhnt.nhs.uk.

FUTURE EVENTS

CPP annual college day

College of Pharmacy Practice annual college day, the Methodist International Centre, London, 23 June. Comprising a seminar on pharmaceutical public health entitled “Pharmacy — the gateway to choosing health”, followed by the annual general meetings of the college and the Faculty of Prescribing and Medicines Management, and presentation of certificates to new members. Cost members £65, non-members £90. Details on 024 7622 1359 (website www.collpharm.org.uk).

Public health

PharmacyHealthLink, Primary Care Pharmacists' Association and Royal Pharmaceutical Society conference entitled “Supporting

PCT pharmacists — what does ‘choosing health’ mean for you?”, Royal Pharmaceutical Society headquarters, London, 5 July. Cost £50. Details and applications at www.pharmacyhealthlink.org.uk

Acute pain

South Thames acute pain conference, organised by the acute pain service at Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust on behalf of the South Thames Acute Pain Group. Runnymede Hotel, Egham, Surrey, 10–11 November. Cost (if booked before October) £175. Details from Angela Pratt on 01932 722337 (e-mail angela.pratt@asph.nhs.uk).

CORRECTIONS

Alan Nathan

Alan Nathan, pharmacy writer and consultant, is a visiting lecturer at King's College London and not as stated last week (*PJ*, 28 May, p652).

Duac Once Daily gel

The price of Duac Once Daily gel (Stiefel) 50g is £19.90, not £19.95 as *The Journal* was previously informed (*PJ*, 7 May, p541).

Hibiscrub

Hibiscrub is a Regent Medical product, not an SSL product as stated previously (*PJ*, 16 April 2003, p449).

Hycosan eye drops

Hycosan (hyaluronic acid) eye drops 0.1 per cent (Bausch & Lomb UK) are classified as a medical device, not a GSL product as *The Journal* was previously informed (*PJ*, 21 May, p609).