

## PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

### Terbinafine

Terbinafine tablets 250mg are now available from Alpharma, PLIVA and TEVA UK. Net price, Alpharma 14 £11.58, 28 £22.23, PLIVA 14 £23.15, 28 £44.65 and TEVA UK 28 £42.43. Legal category: POM.

### Flomaxtra

Flomaxtra XL (tamsulosin) prolonged release tablets 400µg have been launched by Yamanouchi (trading as Astellas). Net price, 30 £17.55. Legal category: POM.



## SPC CHANGES

### Arcoxia

The summary of product characteristics for Arcoxia (etoricoxib; Merck Sharp & Dohme) has been updated. The SPC now includes warnings regarding additional pharmacodynamic interactions with diuretics, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin II antagonists. It also states that the combination of these agents and etoricoxib should be administered with caution, especially in the elderly, that patients should be adequately hydrated and that consideration should be given to monitoring of renal function after initiation of concomitant therapy and periodically thereafter. A warning about pharmacodynamic interactions with hormone replacement therapy and a statement regarding an increased risk of cardiorenal events have also been added. See SPC.

### Botox

The summary of product characteristics for Botox (*Clostridium botulinum* type A neurotoxin complex; Allergan) now states that Botox is contraindicated in the presence of infection at the proposed injection site. Facial oedema has been added as a common undesirable effect. In addition, there have been rare reports of seizures or convulsions, mostly in patients who are predisposed to these events.

Needle-related pain or anxiety may result in vasovagal responses. See SPC.

### Ezetrol

The summary of product characteristics for Ezetrol (ezetimibe; Merck Sharpe & Dohme) now states that cases of myopathy and rhabdomyolysis have been reported. Most patients who developed rhabdomyolysis were also taking a statin. However, it has been reported very rarely in patients taking ezetimibe alone or with other agents known to be associated with increased risk of rhabdomyolysis. Ezetimibe, any statin and any of these other agents should be immediately discontinued if myopathy is suspected. All patients should be advised of the risk and told to report promptly any unexplained muscle pain, tenderness or weakness. Hepatitis and increased creatine phosphokinase values have been added as rare side effects. Thrombocytopenia, cholelithiasis and cholecystitis have been added as very rare side effects. The interactions section has also been updated to include reports of increased international normalised ratio in patients who have ezetimibe added to warfarin and the need for routine monitoring of ciclosporin levels. See SPC.

### Protium

A new indication has been added to the summary of product characteristics for Protium (pantoprazole; Altana). Protium can now be used for "on demand" relief of reoccurring symptoms in patients with healed reflux disease. The dose for this indication is 20mg once daily, when required. See SPC.

### Simulect

The summary of product characteristics for Simulect (basiliximab; Novartis) has been updated. A warning has been added that caution should be exercised when patients previously given Simulect are re-exposed to a subsequent course of therapy with this medicine. It states that there is accumulating evidence that a subgroup of patients is at an increased risk of developing hypersensitivity reactions. These are patients in whom, following the initial administration of Simulect, the concomitant immunosuppression was discontinued prematurely due, for example, to abandoned transplantation or early loss of the graft. In addition, the SPC now states that rare individual cases of suspected cytokine release

syndrome have been reported. See SPC.

### Sinthrome

The summary of product characteristics for Sinthrome (acenocoumarol; Alliance) now contains a warning that says cranberry juice and other cranberry products should be avoided due to a theoretical risk of enhanced coagulation. See SPC.

### Zispin

The summary of product characteristics for Zispin Soltab (mirtazapine; Organon Laboratories) has been updated. It now states that in a small group of people antidepressants may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and self-harm. Patients with a history of suicidal ideation before treatment and young adults should receive careful monitoring during treatment. Patients and caregivers should be alerted about the need to monitor and seek medical advice if symptoms present. Psychomotor restlessness has also been added as a side effect. In addition, the SPC now states that withdrawal symptoms are common and abrupt discontinuation should be avoided. See SPC.

## DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

### Bricanyl

AstraZeneca will be discontinuing Bricanyl (terbutaline) SA tablets 7.5mg and Bricanyl Respirator solution 10mg x 20ml in September and Bricanyl inhaler 0.25mg (100 dose and 400 dose) in December. Bricanyl injection 0.5mg, infusion ampoules, Respules 20 x 2ml, tablets 5mg, Turbohaler 0.5mg (100 dose) and syrup 300ml will continue to be available. Further information available on 01582 836836 (e-mail medical.information@astrazeneca.com) or for orders contact 01582 837837 (e-mail customer.service@astrazeneca.com).

### Narcan

Narcan (naloxone hydrochloride; Bristol-Myers Squibb) has been discontinued. The company estimates that stocks will be exhausted within six months. Further information available on 0800 731 1736 or for orders contact 01244 586250.

### Sodium bicarbonate

IVAX has discontinued sodium bicarbonate tablets 600mg x 100. Sodium bicarbonate capsules

## Control to Goal



Tom Moberly, news and feature writer at *The Journal*, has won the specialist health care category of the "Control to Goal" journalist awards for his article "Taking medicines review into a mosque" (*PJ*, 14 May, p585). The awards are made on behalf of the Global Partnership for Effective Diabetes Management, sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, and recognise journalists who increase awareness of the importance of appropriate diabetes management.

500mg x 56 will continue to be available and will shortly also be available in a 100 pack size. Further information on 0800 697311.

## PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

### Ultra thin lancets

MPD ultra thin lancets 0.46mm/26 gauge are now available from Medical Plastic Devices. Net price, 100 £3.30, 200 £3.50.

## RESOURCES

### Influenza campaign

Resources for the influenza immunisation campaign, which starts on 3 October, are available via the NHS Immunisation Information website. The resources can be accessed via *PJ Online* ([pjonline.com/links/pj](http://pjonline.com/links/pj)).

## FUTURE EVENTS

### Commissioning

Pharmaceutical Marketing Society evening marketing module on "Practice based commissioning: the implications for pharma", 22 September, Sanofi-Aventis, Guildford. Cost £58.75 (members), £117.50 (non-members). Tickets and further information available from Vivien Bennett on 01403 264898 (e-mail [vivien@pmsociety.org.uk](mailto:vivien@pmsociety.org.uk)). Website [www.pmsociety.org.uk](http://www.pmsociety.org.uk).

## Correction

The SPC change for Sinthrome (acenocoumarol) tablets was incorrect. Alliance subsequently said that cranberry juice should be avoided in patients taking Sinthrome due to a theoretical risk of enhanced anti-coagulation, not coagulation.