

NEW MEDICINES



Procoralan

COMPOSITION: Ivabradine.
PRESENTATION: Film-coated tablets 5mg and 7.5mg.
ACTION: Selective sinus node I_f current inhibitor.
INDICATION: Symptomatic treatment of chronic stable angina pectoris in patients with normal sinus rhythm, who have a contraindication or intolerance to beta-blockers.
DOSAGE: 5mg twice daily, which can be increased after three or four weeks to 7.5mg twice daily. If the heart rate decreases persistently below 50 beats per minute at rest, or if symptoms related to bradycardia occur, dose should be titrated down to 2.5mg twice daily and stopped if necessary. For elderly patients a starting dose of 2.5mg twice daily should be considered.
PRECAUTIONS: Atrial fibrillation or other cardiac arrhythmias that interfere with sinus node function, second degree AV block, concomitant use with verapamil and diltiazem, use in patients with asymptomatic left ventricular function, heart failure patients with NYHA class II and patients with hepatic and renal insufficiency.
CONTRAINDICATIONS: Resting heart rate below 60 beats per minute, cardiogenic shock, acute myocardial infarction, severe hypotension, severe hepatic insufficiency, sick sinus syndrome, sino-atrial block, heart failure patients with NYHA class III-IV, patients dependent on a pacemaker, unstable angina, third degree AV block, concomitant use of QT prolonging medicines and cytochrome P450 3A4 inhibitors.
SIDE EFFECTS: Very common (>1/10) luminous phenomena (transient enhanced brightness in a limited area of the visual field). Common (>1/100; <1/10) bradycardia, first degree AV block, ventricular extrasystoles, headache, dizziness, blurred vision.
LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.
NET PRICE: 56 x 5mg £39, 56 x 7.5mg £39.
CONTACT DETAILS: Servier Laboratories, Gallions, Wexham Springs, Framewood Road, Wexham SL3 6RL. Telephone 01753 662744.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Cyclizine

Cyclizine injection 50mg/ml is now available from Cardinal Health Martindale Products. Net Price, 10 x 1ml ampoules £6.80. Legal category: POM.

Sertraline

Sertraline tablets are now available from Wockhardt. Net price, 28 x 50mg £17.82, 28 x 100mg £29.16. Legal category: POM.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Sandoglobulin

Sandoglobulin (normal immunoglobulin for intravenous use; ZLB Behring) lyophilised powder formulation is being discontinued, to be replaced by Sandoglobulin NF intravenous liquid. The transition is to be completed by the end of February.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Noseeze

Noseeze nasal spray containing sesame seed oil and antioxidant unipherol U-14 is now available from Goldshield. The spray is a moisturiser for inflamed or dry nasal tissue. Net price, 15ml pack £9. Legal category: CE devices.

Zydol

Zydol (tramadol hydrochloride; Grünenthal) capsules 50mg are now available in a 30-capsule pack. Net price, £3.35. Legal category: POM.

DRUG TARIFF UPDATES

Scottish tariff shortages

The Scottish Executive Health Department has agreed that endorsements will be accepted for carbamazepine tablets 200mg, all strengths of diamorphine injection, diclofenac tablets 50mg, all strengths of doxazosin tablets, all strengths of fenbufen tablets, hydrocortisone cream 1 per cent and 2.5 per cent, lormetazepam tablets 0.5mg and 1mg, and sodium valproate sugar-free liquid 200mg/5ml.

SUPPLY ISSUES

Efexor

Wyeth is currently having difficulty guaranteeing supply of Efexor (venlafaxine). Medical information enquiries on 01628 415330. Order enquiries on 0845 3300509.

PRODUCT THEFT

Imodium

McNeil Ltd has announced the theft of a large quantity of Imodium 6-capsule packs. The stolen packs carry the following batch numbers: BN 05KV023 (2,565 packs), BN 05KV033 (23,749 packs). The theft occurred before UK regulatory procedures so these packs are not cleared for wholesale or retail sale. No other Imodium product with these batch numbers will be in circulation in the UK until April 2006. Anyone who may have information is asked to contact Detective Constable Dominic Graham on 01268 244009. Wholesalers and pharmacists can contact McNeil Ltd on 0800 0328258.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Orion Pharma

Orion Pharma has moved offices. The new address is Oaklea Court, 22 Park Street, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 1EA (telephone 01635 520300).

Fournier Pharmaceuticals

Fournier Pharmaceuticals is now part of the Solvay group. Supralip and Lipantil Micro will now be supplied by Solvay, but the Fournier livery for these products will continue for some time.

Independent multiple pharmacies

At the recent annual general meeting of the Association of Independent Multiple Pharmacies, it was agreed to allow full membership (with support and representation) to all groups of between five and 200 pharmacies.

RESOURCES

COPD guide

A guide to help clarify the key points in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guideline has been produced by the General Practice Airways Group. The booklet is free to all primary health care professionals and can be downloaded from www.gpiag.org or by sending a stamped addressed envelope (64p postage) to GPIAG Publications, Smithy House, Waterbeck, Lockerbie DG11 3EY.

Enhanced services

UniChem has published a third guide in its "Solutions" series, entitled "A guide to setting up a healthcare service". It will be distributed to UniChem customers from this month.

ABOUT PEOPLE

SSPPH

Scottish Specialists in Pharmaceutical Public Health have

elected new officers for 2006-07: Christine Bond, FRPharmS (chairman), William Malcolm, MRPharmS (vice-chairman) and Elizabeth McGovern, MRPharmS (secretary).

FUTURE EVENTS

Aston University

Aston Pharmacy Association annual pharmacy ball, International Convention Centre, Birmingham, 11 February. All former Aston students and staff welcome to celebrate 40 years of pharmacy teaching at the university. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Dav or Sonia on 07866 362063 or 07967 662694 (e-mail ball@apaonline.org.uk).

BPSA

Part II of the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association preregistration graduate conference, "Finishing first", Birmingham International Conference Centre, 26 February. Register at www.conferenceevent.com or by telephoning Emma Holden on 0121 6946890. Further information from Lamia Samrin (e-mail gradofficer@bpsa.com).

Nanotechnology

The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Great Britain is holding a seminar entitled "Nanoscale toxicology: lessons from drug delivery", 27 February, Thistle Hotel, Buckingham Palace Road, London. Further information on 0116 2692299. Cost and registration via www.apsgb.org.

CORRECTIONS

Jill Robinson

The founder of Animals Asia, Jill Robinson MBE, was mistakenly referred to as Jill Johnson in the letter from Malcolm Easley last week (*PJ*, 28 January, p107).