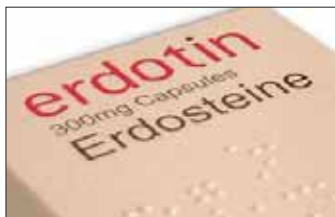


NEW MEDICINES

Erdotin

COMPOSITION: Erdosteine.
PRESENTATION: Capsule.
CLASS: Mucolytic agent.
INDICATION: As an expectorant for the symptomatic treatment of acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis in adults.
DOSAGE: The recommended dose for the elderly and adults over 18 years of age is one 300mg capsule swallowed whole with a glass of water twice a day for a maximum of 10 days.
CONTRAINDICATIONS: Erdotin is not recommended for patients with creatinine clearance <25ml/min or for those with severe liver failure. Erdotin is contraindicated for patients with active peptic ulcer.
PRECAUTIONS: The dose for patients with mild liver failure should not exceed 300mg per day.
LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.
NET PRICE: 20 x 300mg, £5.
CONTACT DETAILS: Galen Ltd, Seagoe Industrial Estate, Craigavon, County Armagh BT63 5UA (tel 02838 334974).



SPC CHANGES

Avastin

The summary of product characteristics for Avastin (bevacizumab; Roche) has been updated. The special warnings and the undesirable effects sections now include new information on reversible posterior leukoencephalopathy syndrome, hypertensive encephalopathy and gastrointestinal perforations. See SPC.

Bondronat and Bonviva

The summaries of product characteristics for Bondronat

Department of Health calendar of events

A "Health events calendar" is available from the Department of Health website (www.dh.gov.uk) and via *PJ Online* (www.pjonline.com/links/pj), providing a list of health promotion events and awareness days and weeks.

(ibandronic acid; Roche) and Bonviva (ibandronic acid; Roche) have been updated and now include warnings about osteonecrosis of the jaw. See SPCs.

Invirase

The summaries of product characteristics for Invirase (saquinavir; Roche) now include a special warning about increased risk of liver toxicity with Invirase/ritonavir used in combination with efavirenz. The interactions sections of the SPCs now contain information about an interaction between Invirase/ritonavir and omeprazole. See SPCs.

Loron

The summary of product characteristics for Loron (disodium clodronate; Roche) has been updated to include warnings about osteonecrosis of the jaw. See SPC.

Rebetol

The summary of product characteristics for Rebetol (ribavirin; Schering-Plough) has been updated. It now states that pure red cell aplasia has been reported in patients taking Rebetol. See SPC.

Remicade

The summary of product characteristics for Remicade (infliximab; Schering-Plough) has been updated. Hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma (in adolescent and young adult patients with Crohn's disease) and lymphoma (including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Hodgkin's disease) have been added as rare undesirable effects reported in post-marketing studies. See SPC.

ViraferonPeg

The summary of product characteristics for ViraferonPeg (peginterferon alfa-2b; Schering-Plough) has been updated. It now states that, very rarely, ViraferonPeg used alone or in combination with ribavirin may be associated with aplastic anaemia and that pure red cell aplasia has been reported. See SPC.

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Tri-iodothyronine injection

Goldshield Pharmaceuticals is recalling the following batches of tri-iodothyronine injection 20µg because the expiry date is incorrectly stated as a three-year period. The product is licensed with a one-year expiry.

Batch number	Expiry date	Pack size	First distributed
4201	30 April 2007	5 vials	26 July 2004
4351	31 July 2007	5 vials	26 October 2004
5051	31 December 2007	5 vials	12 April 2005
5231	31 May 2008	5 vials	10 August 2005
5421	1 September 2008	5 vials	5 December 2005

Recipients are requested to quarantine any remaining stock and return it to their supplier for credit. Medical information on 020 8588 9131.

Xenical

The summary of product characteristics for Xenical (orlistat; Roche) has been updated and now includes additional warnings about the possible failure of contraception in cases of severe diarrhoea when taking Xenical. The special warnings and the undesirable effects sections of the SPC now include rare reports of rectal bleeding. See SPC.

Williams, Sherrie Williamson, See Mun Wong. Satvinder Khaira has been awarded a postgraduate certificate in clinical pharmacy practice, secondary care. The following pharmacists have been awarded postgraduate certificates in supplementary prescribing: Jane Coleborn (with distinction), Helen Pettitt, Lucille Terry.

Tuberculin PPD in BNF and BNFC

The strength of Tuberculin Purified Protein Derivative 100 units/ml is incorrect in the product details on p622 of BNF 52 and p680 of BNFC 2006. The statement should read: "Injection, heat-treated products of growth and lysis of appropriate *Mycobacterium* spp. 20 units/mL (2 units/0.1-mL dose) (for routine use), 1.5-mL vial; 100 units/mL (10 units/0.1-mL dose), 1.5-mL vial." The error will be corrected in BNF 53 (March 2007) and BNFC 2007.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Etopan XL

Etopan XL (etodolac) tablets 600mg are now available from Winthrop. Net price: 30, £15.50. Legal category: POM.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Zamadol Melt

Meda Pharma has discontinued Zamadol Melt (tramadol) 100 x 50mg packs. Zamadol Melt remains available in 60 x 50mg packs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

University of Bath

The following pharmacists have been awarded postgraduate diplomas in clinical pharmacy practice, secondary care, by the department of pharmacy and pharmacology at the University of Bath: Catherine Arscott, Smita Bhikha, Sally Brock, Hazel Brown, Yee-Kee Cheung, Susie Cran, David Donaldson, Alice Haskins (with distinction), Marcus Jones, Sarah Jones (with distinction), Nicola Joyce, Kareena Lewis, Kirsty Newton (with distinction), Lucy Pople, Emma Puckey (with distinction), Stan Roberts, Ruth Shephard, Amy Trewern, Georgina Watson, Ruth Webster, Bethan

WANTS

Crisis Open Christmas

Pharmacists are wanted to help homeless people by volunteering to work at Crisis Open Christmas venues across London between 23 and 30 December. Further details on 020 7426 3872 (e-mail volunteering@crisis.org.uk). Website www.crisis.org.uk/volunteering.

CORRECTIONS

Lung cancer CPD

The left lung has two lobes and not three as stated in a recent **Continuing professional development** article on lung cancer (*PJ*, 28 October, p523). The right lung has three lobes. This can be important when viewing chest X-rays.