

NEW MEDICINES

Champix

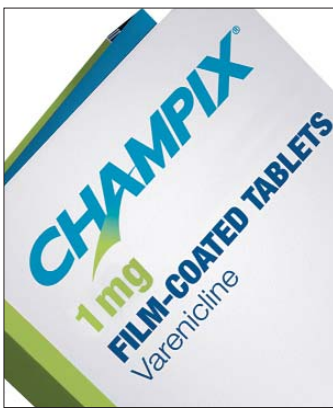
COMPOSITION: Varenicline.

PRESENTATION: Film-coated tablets.

CLASS: Nicotinic acetylcholine receptor partial agonist.

INDICATION: Smoking cessation in adults.

DOSAGE: A one-week titration (0.5mg once daily for days 1–3 and 0.5mg twice daily for days 4–7), followed by 1mg Champix twice daily. Dosing should start one or two weeks before the date patients have set to stop smoking. Patients should be treated with Champix for 12 weeks. An additional course of 12 weeks may be considered.



CONTRAINDICATIONS: Patients under 18 years of age.

PRECAUTIONS: Physiological changes resulting from smoking cessation, with or without treatment with Champix, may alter the pharmacokinetics or pharmacodynamics of some medicinal products for which dosage adjustment may be necessary. Smoking cessation may result in an increase in plasma levels of CYP1A2 substrates. At the end of treatment, discontinuation of Champix has been associated with an increase in irritability, urge to smoke, depression and insomnia. Side effects: Very common ($\geq 1/10$) abnormal dreams, insomnia, headache, nausea. Common ($\geq 1/100$, $< 1/10$) increased appetite, somnolence, dizziness, dysgeusia, vomiting, constipation, diarrhoea, abdominal distension, stomach discomfort, dyspepsia, flatulence, dry mouth, fatigue.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.

Net price: Treatment initiation pack (11 \times 0.5mg tablets and 14 \times 1mg tablets), £27.30; maintenance pack (28 \times 1mg tablets), £27.30; maintenance pack (56 \times 1mg tablets), £54.60.

CONTACT DETAILS: Pfizer, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (tel 01304 616161).

Sprycel

COMPOSITION: Dasatinib.

PRESENTATION: Film-coated tablets.

CLASS: Protein kinase inhibitor.

INDICATION: Treatment of adults with chronic, accelerated or blast phase chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy including imatinib mesilate.

Treatment of adults with Philadelphia chromosome positive (Ph+) acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) and lymphoid blast CML with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy.

DOSAGE: 70mg twice daily administered orally in the morning and in the evening.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Patients under 18 years of age.

PRECAUTIONS: Coadministration of a potent CYP3A4 inhibitor or inducer is not recommended.

Caution is warranted when Sprycel is coadministered with CYP3A4 substrates of narrow therapeutic index. H₂ blockers and proton pump inhibitors are not recommended and aluminium hydroxide or magnesium hydroxide products should be administered up to two hours before, or two hours following, the administration of dasatinib.

Caution is recommended with administering Sprycel to patients with moderate to severe hepatic impairment. Treatment with Sprycel is associated with anaemia, neutropenia and thrombocytopenia. Complete blood counts should be performed weekly for the first two months and then monthly thereafter, or as clinically indicated. Caution should be exercised if patients are required to take anticoagulants or medicinal products that inhibit platelet function. Patients who develop symptoms suggestive of pleural effusion such as dyspnoea or dry cough should be evaluated by chest X-ray. Sprycel should be administered with caution to patients who have or may develop prolongation of QTc interval. Hypokalaemia or hypomagnesaemia should be corrected before Sprycel administration. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose

intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take Sprycel.

SIDE EFFECTS: Very common ($\geq 1/10$) anorexia, haemorrhage, pleural effusion, dyspnoea, vomiting, headache, diarrhoea, nausea, skin rash, musculoskeletal pain, superficial oedema, fatigue, pyrexia, asthenia.

Common ($\geq 1/100$, $< 1/10$)

infection, dizziness, neuropathy, cough, abdominal pain, abdominal distension, mucosal inflammation, arthralgia, myalgia, pain, pruritus, alopecia.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.

NET PRICE: 56 \times 70mg tablets, £2,432.85; 56 \times 50mg tablets, £2,432.85; 56 \times 20mg tablets, £1,216.43.

CONTACT DETAILS: Bristol-Myers Squibb, Uxbridge Business Park, Sanderson Road, Uxbridge UB8 1DH (tel 01895 523000).

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Acepril

Bristol-Myers Squibb is discontinuing Acepril (captopril) tablets 25mg 84-tablet pack and 50mg 84-tablet pack. Acepril tablets 12.5mg 56-tablet pack, 25mg 56-tablet pack and 50mg 56-tablet pack will remain available.

Capoten

Bristol-Myers Squibb is discontinuing Capoten (captopril) tablets 25mg 84-tablet pack and 50mg 84-tablet pack. Capoten tablets 12.5mg 56-tablet pack, 25mg 56-tablet pack and 50mg, 56-tablet pack will remain available.

Kinidin Durules

AstraZeneca is discontinuing Kinidin Durules (quinidine bisulphate) tablets 250mg.

Zyprexa

Lilly has discontinued Zyprexa (olanzepine) tablets 56 \times 10mg packs.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Thefts

Thefts of ibuprofen in Galpharm livery and Anadin (aspirin) have been reported to *The Journal*. Two batches of ibuprofen tablets in Galpharm livery have been stolen during transit from Galpharm's manufacturing site (further information on *PJ Online*). In addition, on 31 October, a freight of Anadin was stolen on the A34

Bogus calls

A market researcher, claiming to be working for *The Journal*, has been telephoning pharmacists asking for personal details and information about the work they do. These calls are bogus. *The Journal* is not currently seeking such information.

near Bicester in Oxfordshire and on 12 November, a large freight of Anadin was stolen in Eastleigh, Hampshire (further information on *PJ Online*).

SUPPLY ISSUES

Sinequan

Sinequan (doxepin) capsules 25mg are now out of stock from Pfizer. Remaining stocks of 10mg and 75mg capsules are available directly from Pfizer on a request basis on 01304 645262. Doxepin capsules are expected to become available from Marlborough Pharmaceuticals in the near future. Further information on 01672 514187.

Ovranette

Wyeth is unable to supply Ovranette (ethinylestradiol 30µg, levonorgestrel 150µg) tablets 3 \times 21 packs due to a short-term production difficulty. Medical information on 01628 415330. Customer services on 0845 850 5544.

DRUG TARIFF UPDATE

Ketoprofen and moxonidine

The Department of Health and the National Assembly for Wales have agreed to allow NCSO (no cheaper stock obtainable) endorsements for ketoprofen capsules 100mg and moxonidine tablets 300µg for November prescriptions

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Martindale

The 35th edition of 'Martindale: the complete drug reference' (*PJ*, 25 November, p647) is available in hardback for £350, on CD-ROM for £350 (+£61.25 VAT) and as a book and CD-ROM package for £475 (+£41.56 VAT). It can be ordered from the Pharmaceutical Press, care of Turpin Distribution, on 01767 604971 (e-mail rps@turpin-distribution.com). Website www.pharmpress.com.

Contact us

Notice-board welcomes information relevant to pharmacists. There is no charge for inclusion of an item but *The Journal* is unable to guarantee a particular publication date. Information can be e-mailed to notice-board@pharmj.org.uk

Correction

The Champix (varenicline) 56-tablet maintenance pack contains 0.5mg tablets and not 1mg tablets.