

NEW MEDICINE

Thelin

COMPOSITION: Sitaxentan sodium.
PRESENTATION: Film-coated tablet
100mg.

CLASS: Endothelin A receptor
antagonist.

INDICATIONS: Treatment of
patients with pulmonary arterial
hypertension classified as WHO
functional class III, to improve
exercise capacity.

DOSAGE: 100mg once daily.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Mild to
severe hepatic impairment;
elevated aminotransferases prior to
initiation of treatment;
concomitant administration with
cyclosporin A; lactation.

PRECAUTIONS: Alternative
therapies should be considered if
clinical deterioration occurs
despite at least 12 weeks'
treatment; an additional 12 weeks'
treatment may be considered.
Caution is recommended with co-
administration of Thelin with
other treatments for pulmonary
arterial hypertension. If signs of
pulmonary oedema occur with
Thelin treatment, the possibility of
associated pulmonary veno-
occlusive disease should be
considered. Liver aminotransferase
levels must be measured prior to
treatment initiation and
subsequently at monthly intervals.
Thelin has been associated with
dose-related decreases in
haemoglobin; haemoglobin
concentrations should be checked
before beginning treatment, after
one month, after three months and
every three months thereafter.
Thelin increases the plasma levels
of vitamin K antagonists such as
warfarin. *In vitro* data indicate that
sitaxentan sodium inhibits
CYP2C9 and, to a lesser extent,
CYP2C19, CYP3A4/5 and
CYP2C8; plasma concentrations
of drugs metabolised primarily by
these isoenzymes, particularly
CYP2C9, may increase during co-
administration with Thelin.

SIDE EFFECTS: Very common
($\geq 1/10$) headache. Common
($\geq 1/100$, $< 1/10$) peripheral
oedema, insomnia, dizziness, nasal
congestion, epistaxis, nausea,

Early press for Easter

The 7 April issue of *The Journal* will
close for press on Monday 2 April
to accommodate the Easter bank
holidays.

constipation, upper abdominal
pain, vomiting, dyspepsia,
diarrhoea, flushing, muscle cramp,
fatigue, increased INR, prolonged
prothrombin time.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.

NET PRICE: 28, £1,540.

CONTACT DETAILS: Encysive (UK)
Ltd, Regus House, Highbridge,
Oxford Road, Uxbridge UB8
1HR (tel 0800 0121241).

SUPPLY ISSUES

Dalivit

Dalivit (LPC Pharmaceuticals)
multivitamin drops 25ml are
temporarily unavailable due to
manufacturing problems and are
expected to become available
again by 16 April.

Welldorm Elixir

Alphashow has announced that
Welldorm Elixir (chloral hydrate)
is now available following a long-
term supply problem.

DRUG TARIFF UPDATES

NCSO endorsements

The Department of Health and the
National Assembly for Wales have
agreed to allow "no cheaper stock
obtainable" (NCSO) endorsements
for bisacodyl gastro-resistant
tablets 5mg, diamorphine injection
ampoules 5mg, 100mg and 500mg,
ketoprofen capsules 100mg and
mefenamic acid capsules 250mg
for March prescriptions.

Renagel container status

The Department of Health has
confirmed the removal of Renagel
(sevelamer; Genzyme) tablets
800mg from the Drug Tariff's
special container list from March.

FUTURE EVENTS

BPSA conference

British Pharmaceutical Students
Association annual conference and
ball, Manchester, 31 March to
7 April. Cost £175 (pharmacy
students), £190 (preregistration
trainees). All BPSA members can
attend "BPSA day" on 5 April for
£5. Further details from Victoria
Heald and Rebecca Haxell at
conference@manchester.ac.uk.

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Clearview Simplify D-dimer

Unipath Ltd is recalling Clearview Simplify D-dimer coagulation test
kit, lot numbers PT030A and PT031A (containing 10 devices with
batch number 682-024), because a decrease in sensitivity has been
identified which could result in false negative results. Recipients are
asked to stop using the affected product, quarantine any remaining
stock and contact Debbie Petersen (tel 01234 835141) or Nicola
Emerton (tel 01234 835148) to arrange product returns and credit.
Unipath is recommending that patients who previously tested negative
with the affected lots/batch should be considered for follow-up. Further
details are provided in notices from the manufacturer, available from
the "Safety warnings, alerts and recalls" section of the Medicines and
Healthcare products Regulatory Agency website (www.mhra.gov.uk).

Unistik 3

Owen Mumford has identified a manufacturing fault affecting the
following batches of Unistik 3 single-use capillary blood sampling
device, distributed between 6 September 2006 and 7 November 2006.
The fault can result in failure of the needle to retract fully after firing,
leading to the risk of a needlestick injury to users or damage to a
patient's sampling site.

Product	Pack size	Batch number
Unistik 3 Normal	100	A4494 A4495
Unistik 3 Comfort	100	A4432 A4568
Unistik 3 Neonatal & Laboratory	100	A4457

Recipients are asked to quarantine all stock from the affected batches
and contact Owen Mumford (tel 01993 812021) to arrange the return
and replacement of devices.

Advertisement

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