

SPC CHANGES

Adcortyl

The summary of product characteristics for Adcortyl intra-articular/intradermal injection (triamcinolone acetonide; Bristol-Myers Squibb) now includes a contraindication for administration by intravenous, intrathecal and intraocular injection. The SPC now states that endophthalmitis, eye inflammation, increased intraocular pressure and visual disturbances, including vision loss, have been reported with intravitreal administration, and that several instances of blindness have been reported following injection of corticosteroid suspensions into the nasal turbinates and intrascleral injection about the head. In addition, the SPC now warns that Adcortyl contains 15mg/ml benzyl alcohol and must not be given to premature babies or neonates. See SPC.

Deseril

The summary of product characteristics for Deseril (methysergide maleate; Alliance) now includes additional safety information. Temporal arteritis, hemiplegic or basilar migraine and pulmonary fibrosis have been added to the list of contraindications, as has concomitant treatment with macrolide antibiotics, HIV-protease or reverse-transcriptase inhibitors, azole antifungals, vasoconstrictive agents, sumatriptan and other 5HT₁-receptor agonists. The SPC now recommends prompt withdrawal of Deseril at the first signs of impaired peripheral circulation. General malaise, backache and myocardial infarction have been added to the list of undesirable effects. See SPC.

Herceptin

The summary of product characteristics for Herceptin (trastuzumab; Roche) has been updated to include an additional indication, in combination with an aromatase inhibitor, for the treatment of postmenopausal patients with hormone-receptor positive metastatic breast cancer, not previously treated with trastuzumab. See SPC.

Kineret

The summary of product characteristics for Kineret (anakinra; Amgen) now includes information on seropositivity for antibodies capable of neutralising

the biologic effects of Kineret. See SPC.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Cardioplen

Cardioplen XL (felodipine) tablets 2.5mg are now available from Trinity Chiesi. Net price: 28 tablets, £6.03. Legal category: POM.

Clexane

Clexane (enoxaparin) multidose vials 100mg/ml are now available from sanofi-aventis. Net price: 1 x 3ml vial, £22.20. Legal category: POM.

SUPPLY ISSUES

Sonata 10mg

Wyeth is currently experiencing difficulties supplying Sonata (zaleplon) capsules 10mg. Further information available at www.wyeth.co.uk.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Betaloc

AstraZeneca has discontinued Betaloc (metoprolol tartrate) tablets 50mg and 100mg. Betaloc SA tablets 200mg will continue to be available. Medicines information on 01582 836836. Customer services on 01582 837837.

Diprivan

AstraZeneca has discontinued Diprivan (propofol) vials 1 per cent 50ml, 1 per cent 100ml and 2 per cent 50ml. Diprivan pre-filled syringes will continue to be available. Medicines information on 01582 836836. Customer services on 01582 837837.

Nebuhaler

AstraZeneca has discontinued the Nebuhaler spacer device. The Nebuhaler with mask pack will continue to be available. Medicines information on 01582 836836. Customer services on 01582 837837.

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 diamorphine injection ampoules 5mg, 100mg, and 500mg and mefenamic acid capsules 250mg for May prescriptions.

ABOUT PEOPLE

SoP fellows

Ann Lewis, secretary and registrar of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, has been awarded an honorary fellowship of the School of Pharmacy, University of London, in recognition of her distinguished service to pharmacy. Two other honorary fellowships were also granted: Linda Anderson, principal assessor to the chemistry and pharmacy sub-committee of the Committee on Safety of Medicines and principal assessor to the Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee, for services to pharmacognosy and the pharmaceutical regulation of medicines; and Stephen Neidle, director of the Cancer Research UK Biomolecular Structure Group, for his distinguished contribution to the development of cancer medicines.

AWARDS

Cardiovascular disease

The *Guidelines in Practice* Cardiovascular Disease Award is open for entries. Entrants will receive a year's subscription to *Guidelines in Practice* and the opportunity to win £2,000 to further their initiatives. The award recognises and rewards primary and shared care initiatives which implement any aspect of evidence-based cardiovascular guidance. Further information and online entry forms available from www.eguidelines.co.uk/awards. Closing date 30 June.

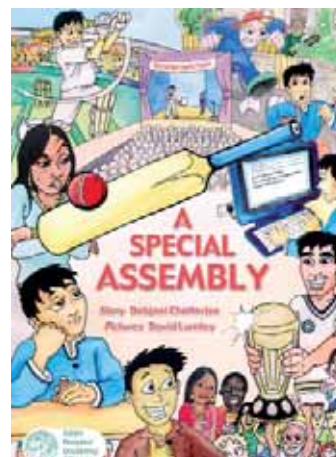
Prereg bursary

Applications are now being sought for the United Kingdom Psychiatric Pharmacy Group preregistration trainee bursary. The award is for projects undertaken in mental health by preregistration

trainees. The winner and runner-up will be sponsored to attend the UKPPG conference in the autumn, with all accommodation and travel included, and two years' membership of the group. Further information available from www.ukppg.org.uk/membership_awards_bursary.htm. Closing date 30 June.

RESOURCES

Childhood asthma



A children's book, entitled "A special assembly", has been developed by the Asian People's Disability Alliance and funded by Asthma UK to promote self-management messages to South Asian children with asthma and their parents. It is available free of charge (except for postage and packing) by contacting Icky Hasnain on 020 8902 2083 (e-mail APDMCHA@aol.com).

FUTURE EVENTS

Risk management

United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association's Quality and Risk Management Group study day, entitled "Whose role is it anyway? Medication safety for junior pharmacists", Leicester, 7 June. Cost £115 (members), £180 (non-members). Further information and bookings on 0116 2776999 (e-mail admin@ukcpa.com).

CORRECTIONS

NAWP president

Hazel Baker, MRPharmS, has been appointed president of the National Association of Women Pharmacists, not Veronica Pearson as reported (*PJ*, 5 May, p519). The *Journal* was supplied with erroneous information.

Contact us

Notice-board welcomes information relevant to pharmacists, which can be e-mailed to notice-board@pharmj.org.uk. There is no charge for inclusion but *The Journal* cannot guarantee a particular publication date or that the item will be published. An organisation wishing to guarantee inclusion can arrange an advertisement, for which there would be a charge (contact advertdept@rpsgb.org).