

WHO Drug Information

Contents

General Policy Topics

- Control of cholesterol: uncertainties yet to be resolved 1

Reports on Individual Drugs

- Lamivudine: impressive benefits in combination with zidovudine 5
 Lamivudine: encouraging experience in chronic hepatitis B infection 7
 Pyronaridine: yet another promising antimalarial substance from China 9
 Acellular pertussis vaccines: more persuasive evidence of efficacy 10
 Childhood morbidity, immunity and micronutrients 12
 Bismuth salts in diarrhoea: modest benefit at substantial cost 16
 Oral rehydration: variations on a traditional theme 18
 Parkinsonism: an under-recognized complication of metoclopramide use 20
 Selegiline in Parkinsonism: a need for radical reappraisal 21
 Rheumatoid arthritis: corticosteroids reassessed 24
 Sumatriptan: does it have a place in the routine treatment of migraine? 26

General Information

- Ischaemic heart disease: the epidemiological basis for public health policy 28
 Drugs as risk factors in severe cutaneous diseases 33
 Pain: under-recognized and undertreated 36
 Ovarian cancer: encouraging progress in chemotherapy 38
 Modest advances in the management of lung cancer 40

Regulatory Matters

- Measles/rubella vaccine: a favourable balance or risk and benefit 43
 Pancreatic enzyme supplements and fibrosing colonopathy 43
 Paracetamol overdosage 44
 Chlorzoxazone: strengthened warning on hepatotoxicity 45
 Information for institutional review boards and clinical investigators 45
 FDA on the Internet 45
 WHO Certification Scheme on the quality of products moving in international commerce 45