

WHO Drug Information

Contents

General Policy Issues

WHO roundtable with industry	1
Global partnerships for health	1
Public health and the pharmaceutical industry	2

Personal Perspectives

International harmonization of safety information: a CIOMS initiative	4
---	---

Reports on Individual Drugs

Short-course zidovudine in perinatal HIV transmission	6
Vitamin D supplements in adults	6
Tacrine and Alzheimer disease	7
Anti-ulcer drugs may mask early gastric cancer	8

Current Topics

WHO develops artesunate for emergency treatment of malaria	9
Vitamin A supplementation strategies	11
The microbial threat: Copenhagen recommendations	12
The <i>International Pharmacopoeia</i> : 50 years on	13
Artemisinin: guidelines for use	14

Regulatory Matters

Tolcapone and fatal liver injury	17
Entacapone labelling strengthened	17
Rituximab: new recommendations	17
Montelukast and eosinophilia	18
Amineptine and dependence	18
Cosmetic contains pharmaceutical substances	18
Jurisdiction over cloning technology	19
Contaminated hydrocortisone	19
Intravenous immune globulin and acute renal failure	19
Sertindole suspended pending evaluation	19

Labelling information for paediatric use	20
Tryptophan prescribing warning	20
Impurities in dietary tryptophan products	20
Chlormezanone withdrawn	20
New home screening test for abuse drugs	21
High-dose terfenadine withdrawn	21
Liquid ecstasy (GHB) trading investigated	21
Metamizole sodium withdrawn	21
Medication guides	21
Streptokinase: severe back pain	22
Sildenafil: revised labelling	22
Chlorzoxazone and hepatotoxicity	22
Mislabelling of glucose	22
Internet sale of gamma butyrolactone (GBL)	22

ATC/DDD Classification

Temporary list	23
Final list	26

Essential Drugs

WHO Model Formulary:

Diuretics	29
Amiloride	30
Furosemide	30
Hydrochlorothiazide	31
Mannitol	31
Spirolactone	32

Recent Publications and Documents

The New Emergency Health Kit 98	33
Tuberculosis and air travel	33
Effects of antimicrobials used in food-producing animals	33
Quality control methods for medicinal plant materials	34
Basic tests for drugs	34
Information data base for dietary supplements	34

Recommended International Nonproprietary Names: List 41 35