

# Newly Registered Products

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## alfuzosin

selective post synaptic alpha-1-receptor blocking agent

Xatral®: Synthelabo, France  
tablet 2.5 mg

*Indications:* symptomatic treatment of benign prostatic enlargement.

*Contraindications:* hypersensitivity, history of orthostatic hypotension with other alpha-blocking agents.

## amisulpride

neuroleptic

Solian®: Delagrang, France  
tablet 200 mg

*Indications:* treatment of psychotic disease, particularly schizophrenia

*Precaution:* for hospital use only.

## benperidol

tranquillizer

Anquil®: Janssen, Ireland  
tablet 0.25 mg

*Indications:* control of deviant and antisocial sexual behaviour.

*Contraindications:* not to be used during pregnancy unless considered essential.

*Precautions and warnings:* to be used with caution in patients with confirmed or suspected basal ganglia lesions, or thyrotoxicosis. Ability to drive or operate machinery may be impaired. Antiparkinsonism drugs may also be needed particularly at high dosage.

*Adverse effects:* tardive dyskinesia has been reported, which in some cases has been persistent, particularly in elderly patients receiving high dosages.

## enoxaparin

low molecular weight heparin

Clexan®: Rhone-Poulenc, Luxembourg  
solution for intravenous injection  
20, 40 mg/ampoule

*Indications:* venous thrombo-embolic disease, particularly following orthopaedic or general surgery; prevention of extracorporeal coagulation during haemodialysis.

*Contraindications:* hypersensitivity, acute bacterial endocarditis, major haemostatic anomalies, thrombocytopenia, gastrointestinal ulceration, cerebrovascular accident.

*Caution:* patients with hepatic insufficiency. **Not** to be administered intramuscularly. Safety during pregnancy and lactation not established.

## erythropoietin

human recombinant erythropoietin

Eprex®: Cilag, Switzerland  
injection fluid 33.6 microgram  
(4000 unit) per ml

*Indications:* anaemia in chronic renal insufficiency in patients undergoing haemodialysis.

## exametazime

radiodiagnostic agent

Ceretic®: Amersham, Ireland  
powder for injection 0.5 mg/ampoule

*Indications:* carrier for technetium-99 used in scintigraphic demonstration of cerebral blood flow.

## felodipine

calcium channel blocking agent

Munobal®: Hoechst, Switzerland  
controlled-release tablet 5, 10 mg

*Indications:* arterial hypertension.

## fenticonazole

antimycotic

Lomexin®: May & Baker, Ireland  
spray 20 mg/ml;  
powder for topical use 1%, 2%  
lotion 20 mg/ml; gel 20 mg/ml  
cream, 20 mg/ml

*Indications:* superficial infections due to dermatophytes or *Candida albicans*, control of pityriasis versicolor, onychomycosis and erythrasma.

*Contraindication:* hypersensitivity.

*Caution:* use in pregnancy and lactation should be avoided since embryotoxic effects have been demonstrated.

## octenidine

disinfectant

Octeniderm®: Schulcke & Mayer, Federal Republic of Germany

solution 1 mg/ml

*Indications:* skin disinfection prior to surgery, catheterization, dressing of wounds and stitches.

## pinacidil

vasodilator

Pindac®: Leo, Ireland

capsule 12.5, 25, 37.5 mg

*Indications:* hypertension, generally in combination with a thiazide diuretic and/or beta adrenoreceptor blocking agent.

*Contraindications:* decompensated congestive heart failure, pregnancy, lactation.

*Precautions:* beta-adrenergic blockade should first be induced in patients with symptomatic ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease or tachy-dysrhythmias.

*Caution:* use should be avoided in the elderly and in patients with significant renal or hepatic insufficiency.

*Adverse effects:* orthostatic hypertension, oedema, sodium retention, tachycardia, headache, nasal congestion, rash, hypertrichosis, dizziness, gastrointestinal disturbances.

## sultamicillin tosilate

broad spectrum antibiotic

Unasyn®: Pfizer, United Kingdom

tablet 500 mg

*Indications:* infections due to susceptible micro-organisms.

## thiamazole

an inhibitor of iodine uptake by the thyroid gland

Strumazol®: Christiaens, Netherlands

tablet 10, 30 mg

*Indications:* hyperthyroidism.

*Contraindications:* hypersensitivity, pregnancy, previous granulocytopenia attributed to thiamazole, carbimazole or propylthiouracil.

## tolrestat

an inhibitor of aldol reductase

[an enzyme that, in diabetics, promotes conversion of excess glucose to sorbitol which tends to accumulate in renal, kidney and vascular tissue.]

Alredase®, Wyeth, Ireland

capsule 200 mg

*Indications:* diabetic peripheral polyneuropathy.

*Contraindications:* shock, significant hepatic or renal insufficiency. Not suitable for use during pregnancy, lactation, or in children.

*Precautions and warnings:* ability to drive or operate machinery may be impaired. To be used under specialist supervision only.

*Caution:* patients with evidence of renal or hepatic impairment. Treatment must not exceed 6 months. Good control of diabetic hyperglycaemia must be maintained.

*Adverse effects:* rash, dizziness, headache, drowsiness, gastrointestinal disturbances, including diarrhoea, increased serum transaminase concentrations.

# Recent Publications

## USP Drug Information : 9th edition

**United States of America** — This edition of the USP DI marks a decade of endeavour within the United States Pharmacopeial Convention to provide a comprehensive information service on medicines not only to doctors and pharmacists, but also to patients. At the heart of the system is a data base providing the material for four large volumes. Two are directed to dispensers and prescribers of medicines, another — also sold separately as "United States Pharmacopeia Drug Information for the Consumer" — is aimed at patients and the last is concerned essentially with regulations controlling the manufacture, sale and use of medicinal products. Peripheral to this main enterprise is a shorter handbook for patients which describes the proper use and unwanted effects of over 2000 products and which is also available as a series of separate drug leaflets.

Although a considerable amount of excellent general therapeutic information is incorporated into the text, the aim is to provide an overview of the products that are available on the US market rather than to offer guidance on product selection. In particular, the inclusion of monographs on large numbers of notionally equivalent over-the-counter combination products inevitably generates texts that are either repetitive or replete with cross-indexing — and not always entirely consistent in points of detail.

**Reference:** USPI 1989 Ninth edition. Drug Information for the Health Care Professional. USPC, 12601 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville MD 20852. ISBN: 0-913595-33-0.

## Martindale: 29th edition

Few medical works of reference can claim to have been in existence for more than one hundred years. Martindale's Extra Pharmacopoeia is an outstanding exception. The new 29th edition maintains — through exemplary selection of material — the aim of providing the practising pharmacist and physician with concise cameos on the actions and uses of most of the substances used in orthodox medicine. The long-established format is undisturbed and,

because references to the classical literature are never lightly discarded, the reader obtains a more satisfying insight into many aspects of drug use and development than is offered in several more pretentiously-academic texts.

There is also much that is entirely new in this edition. Almost 900 new monographs are included and a similar number have been either deleted or assimilated into descriptions of related substances. More referenced reviews of important or contentious topics are included and a remarkably contemporary account is provided of the many important developments in therapeutics that have marked the 1980s as a singularly innovative period.

One endearing foible remains unscathed. The 105 chapters of the last edition have been reduced in number and reorganized to "more accurately reflect current therapeutic practice and the needs of today's reader". But don't expect to find the opiates included with the analgesics, and be prepared to discover drugs for tuberculosis and leprosy over 500 pages away from other antibacterials. Total reliance has to be vested in the index: with 62 000 entries it is admirably comprehensive.

**Reference:** Martindale: The Extra Pharmacopoeia. 29th edition. The Pharmaceutical Press, London, 1989. ISBN: 0 85369 210 6. ISSN: 0263-5364.

## AIDS: a scientific bibliography

**United States of America** — The National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health publishes a quarterly bibliography containing citations of all papers dealing with preclinical, clinical, epidemiological, diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of AIDS as they are added to the library's MEDLINE, CATLINE and AVLINE data bases. Original contributions to journals are arranged under eleven broad subjects and listed alphabetically by author within these headings.

**Reference:** E.J. Adams, Ed. AIDS Bibliography. Vol 1, Number 2 (1988). Department of Health, Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health National Library, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894.