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TrendsRx® Drug Pipeline & News

A bi-weekly publication highlighting recent events in the pharmaceutical industry

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News Highlights from February 28 – March 11, 2005

PIPELINE

Recent NDA Approvals[1]

Drug Name	Indication(s)	Drug Class	Approval Date	Route of Administration	Comments
CLARINEX-D® 24 HOUR (desloratadine 5mg and pseudoephedrine sulfate USP 240mg); manufactured by Schering-Plough	The relief of the nasal and non-nasal symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis (outdoor allergies), including nasal congestion, in patients 12 years of age and older	Non-sedating antihistamine/Decongestant	03/04/2005	Oral Extended-release tablets	New formulation of an already approved product. The manufacturer is anticipating an April 2005 launch.
Pegasys® (peginterferon alfa-2a) and Copegus® (ribavirin); manufactured by Roche	The treatment of chronic hepatitis C in patients coinfected with hepatitis C and HIV	Interferon/Synthetic nucleoside analog	02/25/2005	Injection-Subcutaneous and Oral Combination	New formulation of an already approved product.

Recent NDA Submissions[1]

Drug Name	Indication(s)	Drug Class	Launch Date	Route of Administration	Comments
Increlex™ (mecasermin [rDNA origin] injection); manufactured by Tercica	The long-term treatment of growth failure in children with a severe form of primary IGF-1 deficiency (Primary IGFD)	Recombinant human Insulin-like Growth Factor-1 (rhIGF-1)	02/28/2005	Injection	

Recent Product Launches[1]

Drug Name	Indication(s)	Drug Class	Launch Date	Route of Administration	Comments
Menactra™ (Meningococcal [Groups A, C, Y, and W-125] Polysaccharide Diphtheria Toxoid Conjugate) manufactured by Sanofi-Pasteur	Protection against meningococcal disease in adolescents and adults aged 11 to 55 years of age	Quadrivalent conjugate vaccine	March 2005	Injection-Intramuscular	In the first 12 months following launch, approximately five million doses of the vaccine will be available.

First Generic Approvals/Launches[1]

Generic Drug Name	Reference Brand	Dosage Form/Strength(s)	Approval Date	Launch Date
dantrolene sodium	Dantrium®	Capsules 25mg, 50mg and 100mg	March 1, 2005	March 1, 2005
miconazole nitrate	Monistat® 3	Vaginal cream, 4%	March 2, 2005	To be determined
dexrazoxane	Zinecard®	Injection, 250mg single-dose vials	September 28, 2004	March 4, 2005
griseofulvin, microcrystalline	Grifluvin® V	Oral suspension, 125mg/5ml	March 3, 2005	To be determined

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DRUG SAFETY

Tysabri® (natalizumab) Marketing Suspended[2] On February 28, 2005, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a Public Health Advisory to inform healthcare professionals and patients about the suspended marketing of Tysabri due to two reports of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) in persons receiving Tysabri for the treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS). Both reports involved persons enrolled in a long-term clinical trial who had been on Tysabri therapy for more than two years; both patients also received concomitant Avonex® (interferon beta-1a) therapy. The use of interferons, including Avonex, has not been associated with PML. Biogen Idec, the manufacturer of Tysabri, is voluntarily suspending the marketing and the dosing of Tysabri in clinical trials. They are also notifying patients and investigators of the potential association between Tysabri and PML.

Crestor® (rosuvastatin) Labeling Changes[3] On March 2, 2005, the FDA issued a Public Health Advisory regarding the revised product labeling for Crestor. Rhabdomyolysis is a side effect that has been reported in persons on Crestor therapy, as well as in those taking other "statins". To date, it does not appear that the risk of rhabdomyolysis is greater with Crestor than with other statins currently marketed in the United States. However, the Crestor labeling is being revised to include information regarding a Phase 4 pharmacokinetic study involving Asian-Americans and on the safe use of Crestor in order to reduce the risk for serious muscle toxicity (myopathy/rhabodomyolysis), especially with Crestor 40 mg (the highest approved dose). Kidney failure has been reported in persons on statin therapy, including Crestor. Those who may be candidates for statin therapy (e.g., patients with diabetes, hypertension, etc.) may also be at higher risk for kidney failure, even when they are not on statin therapy. At this time, the FDA cannot conclude that recommended doses of Crestor can exacerbate or cause renal failure, but will continue to carefully monitor the data.

FDA Releases Statement on Lift of Chiron Suspension[4] On March 2, 2005, the British Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) lifted their October 5, 2004 suspension of the license of Chiron to manufacture the influenza vaccine. According to the FDA statement released on March 2, 2005, the FDA will conduct a comprehensive inspection of Chiron's Liverpool facility once all critical stages of manufacturing have begun in order to evaluate needed corrective actions. The FDA and MHRA will monitor Chiron's advancement as manufacturing continues.

FDA Seizes Lots of Paxil CR® (paroxetine controlled release) and Avandamet® (rosiglitazone and metformin) Due to Good Manufacturing Practice Violations[5] On March 4, 2005, the FDA initiated seizures of Avandamet and Paxil CR tablets, which are manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline, Inc (GSK). FDA inspections revealed that the manufacture of some lots of Avandamet tablets did not have an accurate dose of rosiglitazone (one of the two active ingredients in Avandamet). The FDA also determined that some lots of Paxil CR tablets could split apart; persons may receive a portion of a tablet that lacks any active ingredient or a portion that contains

the active ingredient, but does not have the controlled-release effect. The seizure of Avandamet and Paxil CR by the FDA may result in a lack of availability of both drugs until GSK is able to correct the manufacturing problems. This is not a patient-level recall.

FDA Issues Public Health Advisory Regarding Potential Cancer Risk with Elidel® (pimecrolimus) and Protopic® (tacrolimus)[6] On March 10, 2005, the FDA issued a Public Health Advisory via a MedWatch Alert to inform healthcare professionals and patients of the potential cancer risk from topical use of Elidel or Protopic. This concern is based on data from animal studies, a small number of human case reports, and the mechanism of action of these drugs. The potential cancer risk with Elidel and Protopic is uncertain; the FDA advises that Elidel and Protopic should only be used as labeled, for patients who have failed treatment with other therapies.

New/Updated Clinical Guidelines

Treatment Guidelines for Children and Adolescents With Bipolar Disorder[7] Consensus guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of children and adolescents with bipolar disorder have been developed by a working group sponsored by the Child and Adolescent Bipolar Foundation (CABF). These guidelines are published in the March 2005 issue of the *Journal of American Academy Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*.

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