One of the great medicines of the world

Zovirax
acyclovir

Presentation: Blue, shield-shaped tablet containing 200mg acyclovir, impressed with "ZOVIRAX" on one side and a triangle on the obverse.

Uses, Dosage and Administration: Treatment of herpes simplex (HSV) infections of the skin and mucous membranes. Adults and children over 2 yrs: one 200mg tablet 5 times daily, 4-hourly for 5 days, omitting the right-time dose. Children under 2 yrs: formulation not applicable. Suppression of recurrent HSV infections in immunocompetent patients who cannot be satisfactorily managed by intermittent treatment: Adults: one 200mg tablet, 4 times daily, 6-hourly. The dosage can be titrated depending on patient response (see Data Sheet). Therapy should be interrupted at intervals of 6 to 12 months, in order to reassess suitability for continued suppression. Children: no data available. Prophylaxis of HSV infections in immunocompromised patients: Adults and children over 2 yrs: one 200mg tablet 4 times daily, 6-hourly. The duration of prophylactic administration is determined by the duration of the period at risk. For severely immunocompromised patients the dose can be doubled to 400mg or I.V. dosing could be considered. Children under 2 yrs: formulation not applicable.

Contra-indications, Warnings, etc.: Contra-indicated in patients known to be hypersensitive to acyclovir.

Precautions: For patients with renal impairment the dose may have to be adjusted (see Data Sheet). In elderly patients adequate hydration should be maintained. Special attention should be given to dosage reduction in elderly patients with impaired renal function. In pregnancy the potential benefits should outweigh the possibility of unknown risks before the use of Zovirax is considered.

Side- and Adverse Effects: Skin rashes have been reported in a few patients receiving Zovirax Tablets; the rashes have resolved on withdrawal of the drug. In trials, the incidence of gastrointestinal events has not been found to differ from placebo.


Legal Category: POM.

Date of Preparation: May 1993.

The Wellcome Foundation Ltd.
Crewe, Cheshire.

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More GPs are prescribing 'Zestril' for more patients than ever before.
HYPERTENSION
BY
JOHN COOPE MBE FRCPG

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OCCASIONAL PAPER 61

Stress Management in General Practice

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Stress Management in General Practice
Occasional Paper 61

Stress looms large in the profession's thinking at present: stressed patients represent one of the largest groups of problems facing general practitioners and doctors themselves are coming increasingly under pressure.

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DYSPORT Abbreviated Prescribing Information
Presentation: Freeze-dried pellet in a glass vial containing 500 units of Clostridium botulinum type A toxin-haemagglutinin complex. Use: The treatment of blepharospasm and hemifacial spasm. Dosage and Administration: In the treatment of bilateral blepharospasm the recommended initial dose is 120 units per eye as four subcutaneous injections into the orbicularis oculi muscle. On subsequent administration, approximately every eight weeks, the dose may be reduced to 80 units per eye and further reduced to 60 units per eye depending upon the return of spasm. Hemifacial spasm is treated as unilateral blepharospasm. Use is not recommended in children. Contraindications: Pregnant or lactating women. Side effects: Proptosis, diplopia, keratitis, dry eyes, minor bruising, eye-lid swelling, reversible external ophthalmoplegia. Warnings: Excessive doses may produce profound neuromuscular paralysis. There is no specific antidote. Pharmaceutical Precautions: Store unopened vials at 2°C to 8°C. After reconstitution use within one hour. Do not freeze. After use, residual Dysport is inactivated with dilute hypochlorite solution (1% available chlorine). Legal Category: POM. Pack Size: Two vials per box. Basic NHS Cost: £4.40 per box. Product Licence Number: PL.6958/0003. Product Licence Holder: Porton Products Limited, 1, Bath Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 4UH, U.K. Tel: 0628 771417, Fax: 0628 770211. References: 1. Grandas F, Elston J, Marsden C.D. J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiatry 1988;51:767-77. 2. Elston J.S. 1991 in press. Dysport is a trademark.
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and
Paul Wallace

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11 November 1993
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British Journal of General Practice, September 1993
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