

PHARMACY CORNER

Generic Available for Antinausea Drug

Teva Pharmaceuticals has unveiled granisetron hydrochloride tablets, bioequivalent to Kytril® (Roche Laboratories, Inc.).

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rates all generic drugs AA or AB, with AB drugs determined to be bioequivalent to the brand name original through human bioavailability study and AA drugs considered inherently unlikely to have bioavailability issues. Granisetron hydrochloride tablets have been rated AB and are available in 1 mg tablets.

Glioblastoma Treatment Shows Promise



According to Swiss researchers, more patients with glioblastoma are living longer when the oral alkylating agent temozolomide (Temodar®, Schering-Plough Corp.) is combined with radiation therapy.

According to the researchers, patients' four-year survival rates were four times higher than patients treated with radiation alone, with a rate higher still among patients with good performance status or favorable genetics. Temozolomide was granted accelerated approval by the FDA in 1999 for anaplastic astrocytoma in relapse. Approved in 2005 for glioblastoma after European and Canadian researchers showed that the drug significantly improved short-term survival, long-term results from the randomized trial of temozolomide and radiation now show a clear benefit for the combined therapy at two, three, and four years.

NEW PRODUCTS

First Aid Kit Talks to Users

The Intelligent First Aid™ (DLH, Inc.) talking kit is a revolutionary first aid tool that includes individually labeled, color-coded injury packs that supply the user with easy-to-follow instructions for managing a specific injury. The audio module in each injury pack delivers step-by-step instructions, pausing and repeating when necessary to provide guidance. Each kit includes nine injury-specific packs: breathing, bleeding, shock, head and spine, bone, eye, burns, bites and stings, and basics,

and comes complete with easy-to-follow, color-coded instruction cards and supplies. Intelligent First Aid kits also allow companies to meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards for providing on-site care in the workplace. For more information, visit http://www.intelligentfirstaid.com/catalog/index.php/cPath/5_6.

Ginger Root Relieves Pain



ZingiberRX™ (HealthSonix, Inc.) is a natural product made from ginger that is bringing relief to people suffering from aches and pain related to arthritis, sore muscles, and injured or inflamed tendons and ligaments. ZingiberRx contains the essential oil and powder from the rhizome of the zingiber cassumunar plant. HealthSonix uses a distillation process to extract oil from the rhizome and formulate it as a fast-absorbing, deep-penetrating topical cream. Unlike most over-the-counter creams, ZingiberRx is not a counter-irritant; it does not create a hot sensation like capsaicin or a cooling effect like menthol. For more information, visit www.healthsonix.com or call +1-877-622-2121 (North America) or +1-905-212-7711 (international).

Through-Wave Ultrasound Unveiled

Advanced Imaging Technologies has introduced ARIA Breast Imaging System (BIS), a real-time, through-wave ultrasound imaging system that uses the diffractive properties of sound combined with holography to create highly detailed three-dimensional images of breast tissue. The system also is equipped for image-guided biopsy.

ARIA BIS has been clinically proven to provide quality views of breast tissue, particularly dense tissue, and deliver comprehensive data for enhanced diagnostic decision making. ARIA BIS is automated with whole-breast presentation capabilities, and provides high spatial and contrast resolution. In addition, the system allows for retrieval of prior comparative studies for quick comparison. ARIA BIS is FDA approved for breast imaging and image-guided breast biopsy. For more information, visit www.aitimaging.com.

Radiation Therapy Educational Resources Available

The National Cancer Institute announced the availability of easy-to-use radiation therapy educational resources that include 11 fact sheets (in English and Spanish) and various booklets for patients.

The resources provide straightforward information to help patients understand how radiation therapy works and how to best manage side effects. Patient-centered publications encourage individuals to fully participate in their care by providing personalized tips and answering key questions.

For more information, call the National Cancer Institute at +1-800-422-6237, or visit www.cancer.gov/publications or www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wtk/index.

Recombinant Clotting Solution Wins FDA Approval

The FDA has approved Recothrom™ (ZymoGenetics, Inc.), a clotting solution derived from ovarian cells harvested from hamsters to help control bleeding during surgery. Recothrom is the first clotting solution manufactured using recombinant DNA technology. The hamster cells were genetically modified to produce human thrombin.

In a clinical trial of surgical patients (N = 411), Recothrom controlled bleeding within 10 minutes when used topically. Recothrom also demonstrated noninferiority to an approved topical thrombin derived from cattle plasma. The hamster cells are free from known infectious agents and undergo an additional viral inactivation process.

Drug-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* Test Gains Clearance

The FDA has cleared for marketing GeneOhm StaphSR Assay (Beckton, Dickinson, and Co.), the first rapid blood test for the drug-resistant bacterium known as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), which can cause potentially deadly infections. Methicillin is an antibiotic that successfully treated infections from the *S. aureus* bacterium. However, over the years, the bacterium mutated and spawned MRSA, a strain resistant to methicillin with a higher rate of fatalities. The GeneOhm StaphSR Assay uses molecular methods to identify whether a blood sample has genetic material from MRSA or a more common and less dangerous bacterium that can still be treated with methicillin. For more information, visit www.bd.com/geneohm/english/products/idi_mrsa.asp.

Mention of specific products and opinions related to those products do not indicate or imply endorsement by the Oncology Nursing Forum or the Oncology Nursing Society.

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/08.ONF.477-478