NEW PRODUCTS

Flutiform (fluticasone propionate and eformoterol fumarate dehydrate) is a combination product for asthma. Fluticasone propionate is a synthetic trifluorinated glucocorticoid with potent anti-inflammatory activity in the lungs when administered by inhalation. Eformoterol fumarate is a potent long-acting, selective $\beta_2$-adrenergic receptor agonist. As with other combinations of inhaled corticosteroids and long-acting $\beta_2$-adrenergic agonists, the additive effect produces a reduction in the exacerbation of asthma. Flutiform inhaler is indicated for the regular maintenance treatment of asthma where the use of a combination product (an inhaled corticosteroid and a long-acting $\beta_2$-agonist) is appropriate. Flutiform is available as a pressurised inhalation in 3 different strengths, each containing 120 actuations.

Istodax (romidepsin) is an anti-neoplastic agent that belongs to the class of drugs known as histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors. Romidepsin has been shown to have pleiotropic activity including HDAC inhibition, induction or repression of gene expression, cell cycle arrest, cell differentiation, cell growth inhibition, and induction of apoptosis. Istodax is indicated for the treatment of peripheral T-cell lymphoma in patients who have received at least one prior systemic therapy. Istodax is available as a powder for concentrate for solution for infusion with solvent in a single use vial in packs of 1’s.

Nesina (alogliptin benzoate) is an orally bioavailable reversible inhibitor of the enzymatic activity of dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4), an enzyme that rapidly degrades incretin hormones. DPP 4 inhibition increases circulating blood levels of endogenous incretins. Nesina is indicated to improve glycaemic control in adult patients ($\geq$ 18 years old) with type 2 diabetes mellitus when diet and exercise do not provide adequate glycaemic control. Nesina is available as a 6.25 mg, 12.5 mg and 25 mg film coated tablet in packs of 28’s.

Tafinlar (dabrafenib mesilate) is an ATP-competitive inhibitor of certain RAF kinases (BRAFV600E, BRAFV600K). Tafinlar is indicated for the treatment of patients with BRAF V600 mutation positive unresectable stage III or metastatic (stage IV) melanoma. Confirmation of BRAF V600 mutation using an approved/validated test is required for selection of patients appropriate for Tafinlar therapy. Tafinlar is available as 50 and 75 mg capsules in bottles of 120’s.

Tecdiera (dimethyl fumarate (DMF)) is an immunomodulator. Nonclinical studies indicate that pharmacodynamic responses to DMF appear to be mediated, at least in part, through activation of the Nuclear factor (erythroid-derived 2)-like 2 (Nrf2) transcriptional pathway, which is a critical cellular defence system for responding to a variety of potentially toxic stimuli through up-regulation of antioxidant response genes. The mechanism by which DMF exerts therapeutic effects in multiple sclerosis is not fully understood. Tecdiera is indicated in relapsing MS to reduce relapse frequency and delay disability progression. Tecdiera is available as 120 mg capsules in blister packs of 112’s and 240 mg capsules in blister packs of 56’s.

NEW PRESENTATIONS

PEG-Intron (peginterferon alfa-2b (rbe)) is now available as PEG-Intron Clearclik Injector containing a single use disposable injection pen with two chamber cartridge for powder for injection and solvent (water for injections) with one injection needle and two cleansing swabs.

Revolade (eltrombopag olamine) is now indicated for the treatment of thrombocytopenia in patients with chronic hepatitis C to allow interferon-based therapy.

Zytiga (abiraterone acetate) is now indicated with prednisone or prednisolone for the treatment of patients with metastatic advanced prostate cancer (castration resistant prostate cancer) who are asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic after failure of androgen deprivation therapy.

NEW CONTRAINDICATIONS

Zytiga (abiraterone acetate) is now contraindicated in patients with severe hepatic impairment.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.

NEW INDICATIONS

Prevenar 13 (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) is now indicated in the active immunisation for the prevention of disease caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae serotypes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F and 23F (including invasive disease, pneumonia and acute otitis media) in infants and children from 6 weeks up to 17 years of age.

Revolar (bosentan) is now indicated for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension.