

AU InforMed

Volume 3 Number 16 (Issue 79)

Wednesday, June 22, 2005



Key Inforbits

- 2 New Drugs!
- Sleep down, spending up, and confusion
- Patient medication sites rated
- Pharmacies in a vending machine!?!
- Lightning strikes ...
- Happy Summer!

NEW DRUGS, and other related stuff ...

New Drug ... The FDA approved **tigecycline (Tygacil™ by Wyeth)**, a new, first-in-class, I.V. antibiotic with a broad spectrum of antimicrobial activity, including activity against MRSA, on June 15, 2005. Tigecycline is indicated for the treatment of complicated intra-abdominal infections (cIAI) and complicated skin and skin structure infections (cSSSI) in adults. It does not require dosage adjustment in patients with impaired renal function, and is typically dosed every 12 hours. It is the first antibiotic approved in a new class called glycylcyclines, related to the tetracyclines. It should be administered with caution in patients with known hypersensitivity to, and may have adverse effects similar to, the tetracyclines. The most common adverse events have been nausea (29.5%) and vomiting (19.7%). Similar to tetracyclines, it may cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman and use during tooth development may cause permanent discoloration of the teeth.

http://www.wyeth.com/news/Pressed_and_Released/pr06_16_2005_08_17_01.asp (press release, Wyeth)

New Drug ... **Insulin detemir (Levemir® by Novo Nordisk)**... The FDA approved Levemir® by Novo Nordisk June 16, 2005. It is a long-acting insulin analogue. In addition to the US approval, Levemir® has already been approved for use in 37 countries, including the countries in the European Union. Levemir® is a soluble, long-acting basal human insulin analogue with a relatively flat action profile and prolonged duration of action of up to 24 hours. It is indicated for once or twice-daily subcutaneous administration in the treatment of adult patients with diabetes mellitus who require basal (long-acting) insulin for the control of hyperglycemia. A review for use in pediatrics is under review with the FDA. Novo Nordisk expects to introduce Levemir® in the US market within the next 12 months.

<http://www.novonordisk.com/investors/sea/sea.asp?sShowNewsItemGUID=14346a1d-e796-48fc-a651-8c0b2b30880c&sShowLanguageCode=en-GB> (Novo Nordisk press release)

New Labeling ... **gefitinib (Iressa® by AstraZeneca)** ... AstraZeneca and FDA have notified healthcare professionals of new approved labeling for Iressa® that states the medicine should be used only in cancer patients who have already taken the medicine and whose doctor believes it is helping them. New patients should not be given Iressa® because in a large study Iressa® did not decrease mortality. There are other medicines for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) that have shown better outcomes.

-Margaret R. Thrower, Pharm.D., BCPS

[June 17, 2005 - [Public Health Advisory](#) - FDA]

[June 17, 2005 - [Drug Information Page](#) - FDA]

MedWatch ... Qualitest Pharmaceuticals and the FDA notified healthcare professionals and consumers of a voluntary nationwide recall of *AccuSure Insulin Syringes* 1cc, 28 Gauge 1/2 Inch, distributed between October 2004 and June 2005. There may be 1cc syringes which are mislabeled as 1/2 cc syringes on the plastic inner wrap holding 10 individual syringes, which could potentially result in confusion by the patient or caregiver, resulting in an incorrect dose or amount being administered. Read the complete MedWatch 2005 Safety summary, including a link to the firm press release, at:

<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/SAFETY/2005/safety05.htm#accusure>

FROM THE MEDICAL LITERATURE ...



Consensus Sleep Conference ... The National Institutes of Health (NIH) held a conference June 13-15, 2005 on the manifestations and management of chronic insomnia in adults. They have released a draft statement of the conference and the web site for the 18 page document is below. Two areas emphasized were the lack of knowledge of the pathophysiology of chronic insomnia and the variety of treatments used, inside and outside of FDA approved indications.

NIH. NIH State-of-the-Science Conference on Manifestations and Management of Chronic Insomnia in Adults. National Institutes of Health. 2005 Jun 13-15.

<http://consensus.nih.gov/ta/026/026InsomniaPostConfIntro.htm>



Dosage Confusion ... Patients with diabetes who use pramlintide acetate (Symlin[®] by Amylin Pharmaceuticals) for glucose control could be confused by dosing instructions that are supplied with the drug, resulting in the possibility of over- or underdosage, according to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP). It centers around using an insulin syringe (measured in units) to administer pramlintide, dosed in micrograms.

Smetzer J, Cohen MR. Symlin insulin adjunct presents safety issues. *ISMP Medication Safety Alert* 2005 Jun 16;10(12):1-2.

<http://www.ismp.org/MSAarticles/20050616.htm>



Health spending up ... The good news, is it is not rising as fast; the bad news, is it is still rising. Health care spending rose 8.2% in 2004, slightly less than the 8.4% in 2003, according to a recent study from the Center for Studying Health System Change, based in Washington, D.C. Also, spending for prescription drugs fell, apparently due to a slower growth in pricing.

For some reason, I don't feel much better.

Struck BC, Ginsburg PB, Cookson JP. Tracking health care costs: Declining growth trend pauses in 2004. *Health Affairs* (web exclusive) 2005 Jun 21;W5-286 to W5-295.

<http://www.healthaffairs.org/>

Reviews of Note ...

- Kessler RC, Demier O, Frank RG, Olfson M, Pincus HA, Walters EE, et al. Prevalence and treatment of mental disorders, 1990 to 2003. *N Engl J Med*. 2005 Jun 16;352(24):2515-23.
- Abrams J. Chronic stable angina. *N Engl J Med*. 2005 Jun 16;352(24):2524-33.

FROM THE LAY LITERATURE about medicine ...



patientINFORM.org ... A new web site is available that is intended to help patients navigate through the current medical literature and particularly new studies in cancer, heart disease and diabetes. The American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association are involved. The intent is for independent experts to offer commentary on the studies, “putting them in perspective” in patient terms, and publishers offering free access to full text journal articles. It is intended to be operational next month. Check it out!

<http://www.patientinform.org/PI/home.jsp>

Patient med sites rated ... and speaking of patient sites, Consumer Reports WebWatch has rated the top 20 most-visited Internet sites, in conjunction with the Health Improvement Institute (HII). These ratings are available on an early release web site, <http://www.healthratings.org/>, free for now, but use of the site is generally a subscription. A few of the top sites included the NIH, the Mayo Clinic and WebMD. However, there were negatives for all of the sites (advertising in particular) and some discussion of conflict of interest by Consumers Union, since they also sell subscriptions to products that do the same thing.

Agnavall E. Sites for sore eyes (legs, etc.): Ads, lack of disclosure, missing data compromise even the best consumer health web sites, new ratings show. *Washington Post.com* 2005 Jun 21; pg. HE01.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/06/20/AR2005062001059.html?referrer=email>



Medication vending machines ... It's getting closer! ... Vending machines to be placed in pharmacies, to avoid long lines at the counter for refills are operational in California and perhaps soon in other states. In part, it is the chain pharmacy response to mail-order. It is also touted as a cost-saving measure (reduced pharmacist hours). While they are only for refills now, it should save time and appease some cranky customers; and of course, the patient will walk up to the counter and ask their questions ... won't they?!?

Rundle RL. Getting your drugs from a vending machine: Pharmacies test kiosks that dispense refills: Some regulators are leery. *Wall Street Journal online* 2005 Jun 21; p. D1.



Lightning Safety Awareness Week, June 19-25, 2005 ... Go to the National Weather Service site below for more information than you knew existed, about lightning safety. Also, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is helping “blast off” the program. Their site contains some spectacular photographs of lightning strikes.

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/> (National Weather Service)

http://www.nasa.gov/vision/earth/lookingatearth/lightning_safety2005.html (NASA)

AUBURN FACULTY and STUDENTS in the literature ...

- Duncan-Hewitt W, Austin Z. Pharmacy schools as expert communities of practice? A proposal to radically restructure pharmacy education to optimize learning. *Am J Pharm Educ.* 2005;69(3):article 54.
<http://www.ajpe.org/view.asp?art=aj690354&pdf=yes%20> (subscription only)
- Austin Z, Duncan-Hewitt W. Faculty, student, and practitioner development within a community of practice. *Am J Pharm Educ.* 2005; 69(3):article 55.
<http://www.ajpe.org/view.asp?art=aj690355&pdf=yes%20> (subscription only)

NEW RESOURCES in the DILRC ...

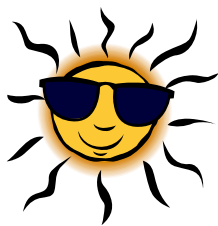
This just in from our Library Liaison, Jean Liddell ...

"**Natural Standard** was founded by clinicians and researchers to provide high quality, evidence-based information about complementary and alternative therapies. This international multidisciplinary collaboration now includes contributors from more than 100 eminent academic institutions." You can find this new resource at <http://www.naturalstandard.com/> or from the AU Library home page, go to "Find Articles and Databases" then "Databases by Title" then click on "N" and "Natural Standard" and take a look at this new database.

The last "dose" ...

A person who is nice to you, but rude to a waiter, is not a nice person. (This is very important. Pay attention. It never fails.)

From "16 Things that it took me over 50 years to learn"
by Dave Barry



Happy

Summer

, June 21, 2005!



An electronic bulletin of drug and health-related news highlights, a service of ...

Auburn University, Harrison School of Pharmacy, Drug Information Center

• Phone 334-844-4400 • Fax 334-844-8366 • <http://www.pharmacy.auburn.edu/dilrc/dilrc.htm>

Bernie R. Olin, Pharm.D., Director