

## Testosterone for her

TESTOSTERONE treatment can improve sexual desire, even in postmenopausal women not taking oestrogen therapy, a Victorian study has found.

The large trial, published in this week's *New England Journal of Medicine*, shows oestrogen-depleted women with hypoactive sexual desire disorder, treated with a daily 300 mcg testosterone patch, showed improved sexual function after 24 weeks.

Women who received placebo or 150mcg of testosterone had no significant improvement, and there was no difference in side effects.

"These findings indicate that exogenous oestrogen or combined oestrogen and progestin are not required for testosterone to be effective in the treatment of hypoactive sexual desire disorder," said the researchers at Monash University, Melbourne.

## Vic renewals

VICTORIAN pharmacists can now renew their 2009 registration online at the Pharmacy Board site [pharmacist.pharmacybd.vic.gov.au](http://pharmacist.pharmacybd.vic.gov.au).

## WA HIV event

THE pharmacist update on HIV/AIDS in Perth next Tue (PD yest) is being run by the Pharmaceutical Society of WA, not the WA branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

## TGA reforms continue

THE government has agreed to "update and streamline" the existing regulatory framework for therapeutic goods in Australia.

An update issued yesterday by the TGA outlines a number of ongoing changes, incl measures to reduce the regulatory burden "across all sectors".

The European and United States Pharmacopoeias are to be recognised as default standards as well as the British Pharmacopoeia, while there will also be an expansion of publicly available information about therapeutic goods "in a move to increase the transparency of TGA processes."

And post-market monitoring is also to be enhanced, including a

## Indigenous care

THE Federal Government's \$46 million Indigenous Aged Care Plan was announced yesterday, including plans to train health professionals in remote communities on continence promotion and how to assist those suffering from severe incontinence.

The plans also includes the first overnight aged care service at Mutitjulu (near Uluru) and a general works and equipment program, as well as improving the protection around open pit fires used by elders.

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"whole of lifecycle" approach to the pharmacovigilance framework for prescription medicines.

The TGA said it expects legislation to give effect to some of the changes to be introduced by the end of this year, with further reforms introduced in the autumn 2009 sitting of parliament.

## Crestor surge

SHARES in AstraZeneca soared in the US this week after a presentation at a cardiology conference in New Orleans on Sun showed that cholesterol medication Crestor (rosuvastatin) significantly lowered the risk of heart attack.

The findings related to patients who had normal levels of cholesterol but high levels of 'C-reactive protein' or CRP, signalling inflammation.

Some analysts predict the study opens Crestor to a large group of new patients which could see sales of the medication soar.

## OTC azithromycin

THE Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has issued new guidelines for pharmacists following the UK reclassification of azithromycin 500mg from prescription-only to pharmacy medicine status.

In Aug the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency approved the reclassification of the drug for the treatment of chlamydia infection.

It's the first oral antibiotic to be approved for reclassification, and the first time an accredited laboratory test is required to confirm diagnosis before treatment is supplied.

OTC azithromycin in the UK is indicated for men and women aged 16 years or over who are asymptomatic and have tested positive for genital Chlamydia trachomatis infection, as well as treatment of their sexual partners.

## Poor medication for delirium

ELDERLY patients who develop severe delirium in hospital are being treated with inappropriate medications, according to a review of 174 cases at Royal Melbourne Hospital.

It was found that patients were often given multiple and inappropriate doses of antipsychotics and benzodiazepines, and their treatment was poorly documented and rarely reviewed.

Haloperidol and olanzapine were the main treatments, but only a quarter of patients were started on the correct low dose and titrated upwards, reported *International Psychogeriatrics*.

The researchers noted that some episodes of delirium may have been triggered when patients had their regular medication stopped on admission to hospital.

"The findings highlight the need to implement evidence-based guideline recommendations, with a focus on improving consistency in the pharmacological management and documentation process," they concluded.

## Overseas PBS

CHANGES to legislation governing the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme have now made it legal to dispense PBS medicines for government officers working outside of Australia.

The new rules allow the supply of PBS medications for eligible Commonwealth, state or territory government officers working overseas, and for their accompanying spouses and dependents.

The medicine can be sent out of Australia for use by these officers and PBS access under this provision is limited only to government staff who would otherwise be eligible for the PBS when living in Australia.

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### Trusty Tabu for great gifts

The all-year-round best-selling fragrance, Tabu, is available this Christmas in an array of gift lines. One of the sets, the Tabu Classic 50ml EDT Spray collector's limited edition, comes with its own collector's box. Tabu's allure lies in its enticing blend of oriental rose, vanilla and musk.

RRP: \$35.95

Stockist: Frostbland, Tel: (02) 8709 8800



### Chloe's cocoon of softness

Inspired by Chloé Eau de Parfum comes three new bath products. The foamy perfumed bath cream creates a cocoon of softness, while the body scrub massages skin for a smooth and subtly scented result, and perfumed body cream leaves skin velvety soft.

RRP: \$95 each

Stockist: Coty, Tel: 1800 812 663

### Extreme make-up, no touch-ups

Guerlain has two new foundations. Parure Extreme is for busy people with no time to re-apply, as it is water-resistant, non-transferable and lasts for eight hours. Parure Aqua has a lighter, translucent texture with ocean spring water for continuous hydration.

RRP: \$85

Stockist: Guerlain, Tel: (02) 9695 4800



### Royal treatment for tresses

L'Oréal Paris Elvive Re-Nutrition range uses royal jelly to help those with dry and damaged hair. Royal jelly is produced by bees and has 10 essential nutrients including glucids, proteins, essential amino acids and large quantities of vitamins, mineral salts and oligo-elements to nourish hair.

RRP: \$6.95 to \$10.95

Stockist: L'Oréal Paris, Tel: 1300 659 259

### Make me a supermodel

ModelCo's Miracle Veil Skin Perfecting Fluid is a light-weight skin corrector. It claims to minimise imperfections, disguise redness, lighten pigmentation, even out skin tone and reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles with SPF 14. White mulberry root extract calms and brightens skin, and hawthorn extract is added for its decongestive and anti-ageing benefits.

RRP: \$54

Stockist: ModelCo, Tel: (02) 8354 6700



### Simple Artificial Nails

Nailene Nail Duets are the first artificial nails to come packed in pre-matched nail pairs. They are marked by size to make it quick and easy to apply. Available in 'French Manicure' style in four colour variants to suit different skin tones and a variety of sizes for all nail types.

RRP: \$15.99

Stockist: Creative Brands, Tel: 1300 650 981



### DISPENSARY CORNER

NOT often seen in your pharmacy.

A male Japanese air force major has been suspended from duty for ten days after being caught naked while shopping for women's underwear.

The clerk at a convenience store in Miyagi, northern Japan, was somewhat surprised when the man stripped off his clothes before entering the shop to buy some pantyhose.

Apparently he was on his way home from a farewell party for a colleague and "thought it would be funny if he went into the store stark naked," said a military spokesman.

HERE'S a great way to deal with a food scandal.

A city in China's south is considering using contaminated milk to make bricks, as a cheap and environmentally friendly way of getting rid of the tainted dairy product.

Officials in Guangzhou said that's a better way of disposing of the toxic substances than attempts earlier this month by garbage processors, who poured some of the melamine-containing milk into a local river.

THIS is a nice way to get your vitamins.

A Belgian chocolate-maker has developed a new range of confectionery flavoured with vegetables including cauliflower, tomato, basil and olives.

Dominique Persoone launched the products at the recent Paris Chocolate Show, alongside his unique chicken skin-encrusted chocolate biscuits.

"These won't be popular with grannies and children," he said.

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