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New antiplatelet drugs for ACS

AN EVALUATION of antiplatelet therapies across a range of surgical and medical situations has identified advantages for ticagrelor and prasugrel over clopidogrel for selected patients, according to an article in *Australian Prescriber*.

The complexities of dual antiplatelet therapy and perioperative platelet inhibition are explored in the article along with effects on stents, other side effects and drug interactions.

CLICK HERE for the article.

SA record flu year

MORE cases of influenza were recorded in South Australia last year than in any other year, at 11,042 cases.

This surpassed the previous record of 10,776 in 2009, Health Minister Jack Snelling said.

This placed "unprecedented" demand on the state's health system, with 370,472 doses of flu vaccine distributed throughout the state, a record amount, the Minister said.

Flinders Medical Centre emergency services clinical director Alan O'Connor said the season highlighted the importance of being vaccinated.

US pharmacists trustworthy

THE 2014 Gallup survey of 11 US professions' honesty and ethical standards has highlighted the high regard in which US pharmacists are held, ranking them second only to nurses and equal with doctors.

A total of 805 US adults were interviewed by phone, with pharmacists and doctors scoring 65% for very high or high standards of ethics and honesty.

Nurses scored 80%, while members of congress ranked lower than car salespeople, down at 7%.

A National Community Pharmacists Association spokesperson said pharmacists were expertly trained, easily accessible and trusted medication experts.

CLICK HERE for the survey.

RACP: phmcy rules should go

THE Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) has said removal of the pharmacy ownership and location rules would enhance people's access to medicines and the healthcare advice provided by pharmacists.

In its submission to the Competition Policy Review panel's draft report, the RACP said it believed an increased level of competition aided by the removal of these rules would lead to improvements in patient access to medicines and pharmacy services, especially in regions where there was a monopoly on these.

"It is also likely to improve the affordability of those medicines that are only able to be sold by a pharmacist."

The submission said the RACP "wholeheartedly" supported the "important professional role played by pharmacists" in dispensing medicines, but that

no evidence had been presented suggesting removing ownership regulation would undermine these professional standards, and that removal would not mean non-pharmacists would be allowed to dispense medicines.

The organisation said support for retention of the rules would require "compelling evidence" that this was in the public interest, as evidence from Europe had shown no reduction in professional standards or reduced pharmacy services following liberalisation of the sector.

These rules "unnecessarily" restricted competition and "bear no relevance to today's market and the needs of patients", the submission said.

CLICK HERE to read more.

MA reporting

MEDICINES Australia has submitted to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission that a condition of authorisation of its 18th Code of Conduct requiring continued reporting on hospitality provided by member companies to healthcare professionals is not necessary, given the amendments made to the 18th edition.

It said the new reporting requirements in the Code were more meaningful for consumers.

CLICK HERE for more.

Libra tops tampons

LIBRA was the most popular brand of tampons bought by Australian women in any given four week period from April to September last year, Roy Morgan Research has found.

In a survey of 715 women, 21% bought tampons in any given four week period, with 31% purchasing Libra, followed by 26% buying Carefree, 23% buying U by Kotex and 14% buying the supermarket brand.

Among age groups, 35 to 49 year olds were most likely to buy supermarket brand tampons at 19%, the research found.

CLICK HERE to read more.

ADHD compliance low

Persistence with therapies for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has been demonstrated to be poor over the course of a patient's life, in a new study out of the University of Canberra and published in *The Journal of Attention Disorders*.

The growing proportion of discontinuous treatment observed suggested a need for strategies to assist families with the transition onto and off medications, the authors said.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

Advertising complaints

THE Advertising Complaints Resolution Panel has ruled that TFS Manufacturing's Tissue Fixation System and Omega Pharma's Replens advertisements were in breach of a number of sections of the advertising code.

Both companies were required to withdraw representations and advertising for their products, the Panel said.

CLICK HERE for details.

Aus better cancer survival than NZ

SURVIVAL from all cancers combined in NZ was "significantly lower" than in Australia for both sexes at one year and up to 10 years after diagnosis, according to a study published in the *NZ Medical Journal*.

Using data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the NZ Cancer Registry for diagnosis from 2006 to 2010, the study found cancer survival was 4.4% lower in NZ for females and 4.6% lower for males than in Australia.

The difference for all cancer combined equated to about 341 deaths annually in NZ men and 364 deaths in women, it said.

Survival differences were likely due to differences in diagnosis and treatment services, the study said.

CLICK HERE to read more.

5th Community Pharmacy Agreement

PHARMACY PRACTICE INCENTIVES (PPI)

DAA AND CLINICAL INTERVENTION CLAIM DUE

Claiming for PPI will only be available on the 5CPA portal from 1 - 14 January 2015

5cpa.com.au

Australian Government
Department of Health

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Funded by the Australian Department of Health as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

EMA nods 7 meds

THE Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) recommended granting marketing authorisation for seven medicines.

It recommended that orphan medicine Holoclar be granted conditional authorisation for the treatment of moderate to severe limbal stem cell deficiency due to physical or chemical burns to the eyes, the first advanced therapy medicine containing stem cells recommended for approval in the European Union, CHMP said.

Other medicines nodded included Mysimba (naltrexone / bupropion), Xadago (safinamide) and Clopidogrel ratiopharm (clopidogrel).

MEANWHILE the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has changed its procedural guidance for safety update reports to simplify how marketing authorisation holders presented proposed changes to product information of nationally authorised medicines, with a pilot of the changes starting this month, the EMA said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Electronic medication reconciliation tool

IMPLEMENTATION of an electronic tool facilitated the process of medication reconciliation in a general surgical unit, according to a study published in the *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*.

A total of 1,678 discrepancies between usual patient drugs and post-surgery prescribed therapies were noted, of which 167 were unintended.

Of the unintended discrepancies, 79.2% caused no harm, 13.6% required patient monitoring or intervention and 7.1% might have contributed to temporary patient harm and required intervention, the study found.

The proportion of unintended discrepancies over the total amount of drugs reconciled was reduced after implementation of the tool (6.6%) compared with before implementation (10.6%), the authors said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the abstract.

TGA: no pholcodine AEs

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has said there have been no adverse event reports to the organisation of anaphylaxis occurring with the concomitant use of pholcodine and the neuromuscular blocking agents suxamethonium, rocuronium and atracurium, muscle relaxants used during surgery.

Australian and New Zealand Anaesthetic Allergy Group chair Dr Michael Rose told the *Sydney Morning Herald* there was "growing evidence" that opioid cough suppressant pholcodine was putting people at risk of anaphylaxis through interaction with muscle relaxants used in surgery.

Pholcodine is contained in more than 50 products on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

Rose told the publication anaesthetists were preparing to re-submit to the TGA that access to pholcodine products be limited.

The call follows the release of a report 'Safety of Anaesthesia: A review of anaesthesia-related

mortality in Australia and New Zealand 2009-2011' which found seven deaths during the period were due to anaphylaxis, out of 22 'category one' anaesthesia-related deaths.

A TGA spokeswoman said the organisation analysed the available data relating to consumption of pholcodine and anaphylactic reactions to the neuromuscular blocking agents named above, which did not seem to support any association.

The European Medicines Agency also recently undertook an "extensive analysis" of the same issue and came to the same conclusion, the spokeswoman said.

"The TGA will continue to monitor the safety of pholcodine and any emerging safety data that may be submitted to TGA or identified through TGA's own studies."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more and [HERE](#) for the report.

PBAC: overuse of antibiotics

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has said it agrees with the Drug Utilisation Sub Committee (DUSC) view that there was overuse of antibiotics at the population level.

At its December meeting, the PBAC considered the DUSC report and noted its view that community antibiotic supply was "extensive, high relative to other OECD nations, and increasing in recent years".

The PBAC said it agreed that the DUSC analysis be published in a peer review journal, and noted its suggestion that reducing the number of months a prescription for an antibiotic remained valid could be a way of reducing inappropriate use.

The DUSC would also provide information regarding alternate measures of opioid utilisation than prescription counts and Defined Daily Doses per 1000 population per day to the PBAC with tranche three of the post market review of authority required PBS listings, the PBAC said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Amended poisons entries

THE delegate of the Secretary to the Department of Health and Ageing has released final decisions on scheduling proposals for phenylenediamines and toluenediamine.

The final decision was that the entry for the former on the Poisons Standard would be amended to include, in Appendix C, the phrase "including alkylated and arylated derivatives in preparations for skin colouration, tattooing and dyeing of eyelashes or eyebrows except when included in Schedule Six" with an implementation date of 01 Feb, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said.

The final decision for the toluenediamine entry was that the Schedule Six amendment would include "in nail polish preparations containing 2,5-toluenediamine except when labelled 'avoid contact with skin'", with a final implementation date of 01 Feb, the TGA said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Four hep C meds to be considered

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Council is set to consider listing four treatments for hepatitis C on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme at its March meeting, Hepatitis Australia has said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

EMA pilot project

SIX medicines have been chosen by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to progress through its adaptive pathways pilot project.

First designed and adopted last year (*PD* 21 Mar 14), the new approach is part of the EMA's plan to improve timely access to patients in need of new medicines by initially licensing for a specific urgent indication and then gradually widening the availability for other indications.

The six new medications now go further into the in-depth discussion phase and others are planned for introduction in 2015.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.



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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au



DISPENSARY CORNER

PHARMACIST, grocer.

You may want to start stocking feijoas and blackberries, given recent University of Auckland research showing the fruit had a strong anti-inflammatory effect.

Looking into treatments for inflammatory bowel disease, the research studied 12 fruits, with the latter showing the strongest anti-inflammatory response, researchers said in a press release.

The results suggested the fruit extracts could help regulate oxidative stress and inflammation in cells, researchers said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

NO FLAPDOODLE, you rapscallion.

If you're a fan of old-school English, you could try some of the words contained on Wayne State University's Word Warrior list for 2015.

The list highlights words it considers worthy of revival, and this year includes 'caterwaul' (a shrill howling or wailing noise), the excellent 'flapdoodle' (nonsense) and 'rapscallion' (a mischievous person), as well as the most-definitely-needs-to-be-used-more 'obambulate' (to walk about).

You can check out the full list by [CLICKING HERE](#).

BOWHEAD whale pill.

We know there's no pill for longevity but maybe research is on its way, given scientists have worked out the genetic blueprint for the bowhead whale, which can live for more than 200 years, *Reuters* has reported.

Research found differences between the whale's genes and other mammals' related to DNA repair and the aging process, which could explain its lifespan, the publication reported.

New Billie Goat Soap Hydrating Face Range

Billie Goat Soap Gentle Cream Face Cleanser is a light, creamy milk cleanser that soothes and moisturises dry, sensitive skin as it purifies without causing irritation. A highly concentrated formula rich in goats' milk, cocoa butter, jojoba, grape seed and coconut oils, **Billie Goat Soap Hydrating Day Cream** offers long lasting moisture and contains no SLS/ Sulphates, mineral oil, colour, parabens or synthetic fragrance, the company says.

Stockist: 1800 181 040

RRP: Face Cleanser: \$12.95, Day Cream: \$14.95

Website: www.billiegoatsoap.com.au



Daily Essentials Light Moisturising Day Cream SPF 30+

NIVEA Daily Essentials Light Moisturising Day Cream is a lightweight formula that provides 24 hour intensive moisture, harnessing the calming and softening benefits of vitamins and natural lotus extract, while providing SPF 30 protection, the company says. Active ingredients include octyl salicylate 45 mg/g, phenylbenzimidazole sulfonic acid 25 mg/g, butyl methoxydibenzoylmethane 45 mg/g, octocrylene 45 mg/g and homosalate 90 mg/g. Always read the label. Use only as directed.



Stockist: Major wholesalers

RRP: \$12.99

Website: www.nivea.com.au

L'Occitane Angelica Exfoliating Gel

L'Occitane Angelica Exfoliating Gel boosts skins radiance. The face scrub with a pearly texture immediately revitalises tired or lacklustre skin. Microbeads in the gel massage the face to leave the skin with a fresh, youthful glow. Key ingredients in the gel include Angelica essential oil and Angelica water to rehydrate and revitalise the skin with long-lasting results, the company says.

Stockist: 02 8912 3000

RRP: \$32.00

Website: www.au.loccitane.com



Keep kiddies' hair clean with Johnson's

With no need for extra conditioner, Johnson's **Kids 2-in-1 Conditioning Shampoo** (300ml) features a delicious berry scent and won't sting the eyes, bringing that extra bit of fun with your kiddies but without the tears from the inevitable soap in the eyes. Great for hard to manage hair, Johnson's **Kids No More Tangles Spray** (200 ml) can be used every day on both wet and dry hair. Gentle on fine hair and smooth to the feel, it features a strawberry fragrance.

Stockist: Major wholesalers

RRP: \$3.99 each

Website: www.jnjust.com.au



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