APhA DrugInfoLine®

December 2018

Neurology

Advising on this article: Jack J. Chen

December 3, 2018

Switching antiepileptic suppliers associated with increased seizure risk?

Key Point

Switching the manufacturer of antiepileptic drugs increased the risk of seizure recurrence in patients who were previously seizure-free, according to a retrospective, observational study published in the Annals of Neurology.

Source URL:

http://www.aphadruginfoline.com/neurology/switching-antiepileptic-suppliers-associated-increased-seizure-risk

Focus on Asthma Care

Advising on this article: Devra K. Dang

December 3, 2018

SMART therapy associated with a lower risk of asthma exacerbations

Key Point

A meta-analysis of 16 trials evaluating use of a single maintenance and reliever therapy (SMART), with the majority of studies using a combination of budesonide and formoterol in a dry-powder inhaler, found that the risk of asthma exacerbations was lower in patients using this regimen compared with an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) as the controller therapy (with or without a long-acting beta-agonist [LABA]) plus a short-acting beta-agonist (SABA) as the relief therapy.

Source URL:

http://www.aphadruginfoline.com/focus-asthma-care/smart-therapy-associated-lower-risk-asthma-exacerbations

Focus on Anticoagulation Care

Advising on this article: Sarah Ray

December 11, 2018

Aspirin may be good for knee replacement thromboembolism prevention

Key Point

Use of aspirin prophylaxis for patients undergoing a total knee arthroplasty (TKA) to prevent venous thromboembolism (VTE) was noninferior to other anticoagulant chemoprophylactic regimens. However, additional studies are needed given the retrospective nature of the current analysis, published in JAMA Surgery.

Source URL:

http://www.aphadruginfoline.com/focus-anticoagulation-care/aspirin-may-be-good-knee-replacement-thromboembolism-prevention

Psychiatry

Advising on this article: M. Lynn Crismon

December 11, 2018

Quetiapine prescribing decreased after clinicians received Medicare letters

Key Point

High-volume primary care prescribers of quetiapine who received letters stating their use of the drug was higher than their peers and was under review by Medicare resulted in less prescribing of the drug. This outcome persisted over 2 years, with no apparent adverse effects on patients, according to results of a trial published in JAMA Psychiatry.

Source URL:

http://www.aphadruginfoline.com/psychiatry/quetiapine-prescribing-decreased-after-clinicians-received-medicare-letters

New Drug Approvals

Generic Name (Trade Name—Company)	**Uses**/Notes
December 11, 2018	
Fish oil triglycerides injectable emulsion	Fresenius Kabi announced that fish oil triglycerides injectable emulsion, approved under the trade name Omegaven, is now commercially available in the United States. This novel lipid had previously been available only for compassionate use in the United States.
(Omegaven—Fresenius Kabi)	
I.V. lipid emulsion approved for pediatric patients with parenteral nutrition-associated cholestasis	Omegaven is an I.V. lipid emulsion that provides calories and fatty acids for pediatric patients with parenteral nutrition-associated cholestasis, or PNAC. It is the first and only FDA-approved fish oil lipid emulsion for this condition. The product is available as a 5 g/50 mL and 10 g/100 mL (0.1 g/mL) injectable emulsion in a single-dose bottle. Cholestasis is a condition in which bile is not released from the liver. PNAC may occur following long-term parenteral nutrition administration in pediatric patients with temporary or permanent intestinal failure. Development of PNAC is associated with increased morbidity and mortality and can progress to liver fibrosis, hepatic failure, and death. In clinical trials, the most common adverse drug reactions (>15%) were vomiting, agitation, bradycardia, apnea, and viral infection.

Source URL:

http://www.aphadruginfoline.com/new-drug-approvals/iv-lipid-emulsion-approved-pediatric-patients-parenteral-nutrition-associated

Supplemental Approvals

Generic Name (Trade Name—Company)	**Uses**/Notes
December 13, 2018	
SUBA-itraconazole ***(Tolsura—Mayne Pharma)*** **FDA approves new formulation of itraconazole for certain systemic fungal infections**	Mayne Pharma announced FDA approval of SUBA-itraconazole 65 mg capsules, a new formulation of itraconazole that targets certain systemic fungal infections in adult patients. The agent is indicated for the treatment of blastomycosis (pulmonary and extrapulmonary), histoplasmosis (including chronic cavitary pulmonary disease and disseminated, nonmeningeal histoplasmosis) and aspergillosis (pulmonary and extrapulmonary, in patients who are intolerant of or who are refractory to amphotericin B therapy). These serious infections most commonly occur in vulnerable or immunocompromised patients, for example, those with a history of cancer, transplants (solid organ or bone marrow), HIV/AIDS, or chronic rheumatic disorders, and are often associated with high mortality rates or long-term health issues. The product will launch in January 2019, according to the manufacturer.

Source URL:

http://www.aphadruginfoline.com/supplemental-approvals/fda-approves-new-formulation-itraconazole-certain-systemic-fungal-infections