

ALLERGIES

A Therapeutic Review

Lasting and fast acting

Actidil (triprolidine hydrochloride), manufactured by Calmic Pharmaceuticals, is available as tablets and elixir. It is indicated in seborrhoeic eczema, urticaria, angioneurotic oedema, allergic asthma and pruritis.

The effects of a single dose of Actidil are of rapid onset and persist for about 12 hours, although it is wise to administer the drug in divided doses.

As with preparations containing antihistamine, drowsiness may occur which is aggravated by the intake of alcohol.

Further information is available from Calmic Pharmaceuticals, P.O. Box 653, Kempton Park 1620.

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Latest prevention

Newly produced by Fisons Pharmaceuticals, Opticrom (sodium cromoglycate) is a clear, colourless aqueous solution which inhibits the release of certain pharmacological mediators from sensitised mast cells and is indicated in the treatment of allergic conjunctivitis.

Again, since therapy with sodium cromoglycate is essentially prophylactic, it is important that patients who benefit are instructed to maintain regular dosage.

Transient stinging may occur in some patients. As with all new drugs, Opticrom Eye Drops should be used with caution during the first trimester of pregnancy.

For further details are available from Fisons Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd., Old Pretoria Road, 1624 Chloorkop.

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Prophylactic therapy in allergic rhinitis

Produced by Fisons Pharmaceuticals, Rynacrom (sodium cromoglycate) inhibits the release of inflammatory agents (such as histamine) from sensitised cells, therefore offering a new approach to the management of allergic rhinitis in the form of prophylactic, rather than symptomatic therapy.

Rynacrom capsules are presented in a single-dose hard gelatin capsule for use in a specially developed nasal insufflator.

Since sodium cromoglycate therapy is prophylactic, it is important that the patient be instructed to maintain regular dosage as distinct from insufflating the drug intermittently to relieve symptoms.

Powerful antihistamine with few side effects

Zyma, a division of Ciba-Geigy, produce Fenostil (dimethindene maleate), which is indicated for pruritis of any aetiology, and eczemas, and for drug or food induced allergies, respiratory allergies, urticaria and the prevention of desensitisation reactions.

It is a powerful antihistamine, as well as an excellent antipruritic, characterized by small effective therapeutic doses.

There are no absolute contraindications in the use of Fenostil, although, despite the absence of evidence of teratogenic action,

flating the drug intermittently to relieve symptoms.

There are no specific contraindications, but as with all new drugs, it is advisable, where possible, to avoid use during pregnancy, especially in the first trimester.

No serious side-effects attributable to sodium cromoglycate have so far been reported, although occasional slight irritation of the nose may occur on insufflation of the powder.

Further details are available from Fisons Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd., Old Pretoria Road, 1624 Chloorkop.

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Prompt relief of allergic effects

Fabihistin (mehhydrolin) is a highly effective, well tolerated antihistamine produced by Bayer Pharmaceuticals, for prompt relief of all allergic conditions, especially hayfever, urticaria, allergic rhinitis, pruritis and food allergies.

Fabihistin is relatively free of secondary sedative-hypnotic ef-

Fenostil should not be used in the first trimester of pregnancy unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary.

Clinical experience has shown the risk of undesirable side-effects (drowsiness etc.) to be minimal, although motorists and machine operators should note that this treatment may affect the reflexes in sensitive individuals. Attention should also be paid to possible cumulative effects with alcohol, hypnotics and sedatives.

Further information is available from Zyma, P.O. Box 92, Isando 1600.

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fect and it does not impair psycho-physical efficiency to any appreciable degree. However, in a small percentage of people, reaction time may be impaired, and therefore, like all antihistamines, Fabihistin should be used with caution in patients whose occupations involve skills such as driving or operating

Drowsiness minimised by caffeine content

Produced by Pharmador, Histodor is available as cream and in tablet form. It is a combination of a quick-acting antihistamine mepyramine maleate and a long acting anti-histamine, promethazine hydrochloride. Histodor tablets also contain caffeine to minimise the feeling of drowsiness usually produced by antihistamines.

It is indicated for general allergic conditions, including hayfever and drug induced allergies.

Histodor tablets are contraindicated in persons needing to remain alert - such as people in control of machinery or driving - and also epileptics since large doses may precipitate fits.

Reported side-effects include dizziness, drowsiness, incoordination, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dryness of mouth, sedation and extrapyramidal manifestations.

Histodor cream is indicated for allergic and pruritic skin conditions, nettle stings, insect bites and jelly-fish stings. It is contraindicated in persons suffering from eczema.

Further details are available from Pharmador (Pty) Limited, Manchester Road, East London.

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machinery.

As for all therapeutic agents, the treating physician should decide whether Fabihistin should be taken during the first three months of pregnancy.

For further details contact Bayer Pharmaceuticals (SA) (Pty) Limited, Wrench Road, Isando, Transvaal.

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