

MEDICAL ARTS PHARMACY NEWSLETTER

HEALTH Matters

A MONTHLY RESOURCE TO HELP KEEP YOU INFORMED

JULY / AUGUST 2005

FACT BOX THE RISE OF RENAL DISEASE

The number of patients being treated for End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) climbed by nearly 20% in 5 years. Of all new patients with the disease, over half were 65 years or older. End-Stage Renal Disease is the final stage of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) when dialysis or a transplant is needed to stay alive. The two main causes of Chronic Kidney Disease are Diabetes and High Blood Pressure. These diseases should be controlled or even better prevented, to prolong kidney function. Serum creatinine is often used to evaluate kidney function, but it can be misleading. Creatinine clearance is a better measure of renal function because it takes into account serum creatinine, age, weight, and gender.

Cockcroft-Gault equation:

$$\text{CrCl (ml/min)} = \frac{(140 - \text{age}) \times 1.22 (\text{weight (kg)}) (\times 0.85 (\text{in women}))}{\text{Serum Creatinine (umol)}}$$

Weight is the Ideal Body Weight and is calculated with the following equation:

$$\text{IBW male} = 50 + (2.3 \times \text{ht in inches over 5 feet})$$

$$\text{IBW female} = 45.5 + (2.3 \times \text{ht in inches over 5 feet})$$

NEW FORMULATION! - But not covered on Ontario Drug

Benefit! At a time of \$ squeezing this would be too luxurious OXYTROL a unique PATCH of 36mg oxybutinin for treating overactive bladder with symptoms of URGE urinary Incontinence, urgency and frequency. Oxytrol works as well as oral oxybutinin (Ditropan XL) and oral tolterodine (Detrol LA), causes less dry mouth and is applied twice weekly rotating sites on abdomen, hip or buttock.

ABBREVIATIONS: Using abbreviations for diseases is one thing as CKD OR ESRD but using **Drug Abbreviations**, to save time when taking verbal prescriptions can be a source of drug errors. Just to name a few, MgSO₄ (magnesium sulfate) can be mistaken for MSO₄ (morphine sulfate) or vice versa, AZT known as Zidovudine (Retrovir) an antiviral medication can be mistaken as azathioprine an immunosuppressive agent used for Rheumatoid Arthritis or Psoriasis. Double-check anytime you see one of these abbreviations, they are easily misread and can lead to errors!!



Reminyl (galantamine) is not indicated for use in patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) because of an increased risk of mortality in that population. There is no evidence of an increased risk of mortality when Reminyl is used in patients with mild to moderate Alzheimers Disease.



Just a Reminder for nursing home staff !

A pharmacist is On-Call after regular store hours for emergencies and the procedure to follow is easy as 1-2-3!

1. Dial the Medical Arts Pharmacy pager number 937-8208 or 1-800- 481-0062 for homes not local. Your call will be answered by a telephone answering machine which will prompt you to leave your numeric message on the touchtone phone after the tone.
2. Enter your 7 digit telephone number followed by an extension number if applicable.
3. A pharmacist will return your call within the hour. If the pharmacist-on-call does not return your call in a reasonable delay, please refer to the list provided to your facility with pharmacists names and their home phone numbers and their cell numbers! Do not hesitate to call when you know it is necessary!

If you have requests, suggestions or comments for future issues, your feedback may be directed to

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You can also consult all Medical Arts Pharmacy Newsletters from our website at

www.medicalartsparmacy.ca

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