

MEDICAL ARTS PHARMACY NEWSLETTER

HEALTH *Matters*

A MONTHLY RESOURCE TO HELP KEEP YOU INFORMED

MAY 2005

Vioxx and other COX-2 are still making the news. Merck Frosst voluntarily removed Vioxx from the market in September 2004.



The 7th of April 2005, Health Canada has asked Pfizer Canada to voluntarily discontinue sales of its drug Bextra, not too commonly prescribed amongst the Senior population since not covered by ODB. Pfizer has agreed and will be discontinuing sales. Celebrex will remain the only true COX-2 available, although Health Canada is recommending important new usage restrictions. Lower doses (Celebrex 200 mg per day) OR short period of use (lower than 2 weeks) seems safe.

For more information go at www.dirc-canada.org.

DO NOT SUBMERGE PRESSURISED METERED DOSE INHALERS (pMDI) IN WATER

Counting the number of doses administered is the only accurate method to know when the canister is empty. Check the starting date, number of doses in canister and directions. Please shake well before each dose since not doing so can reduce dry delivery powder by over 30%. No need to shake new formulation of Atrovent HFA and QVAR that is a solution aerosol.

MEDICATION SAFETY

Amaryl (glimepiride) a hypoglycemicant may be confused with Reminyl (galantamine), agent used in symptomatic treatment of patients with mild to moderate dementia of alzheimer's type.

MEDICATION THAT CAN NOT BE CRUSHED

PPI such as Losec (omeprazole), Pantoloc (pantoprazole) and Pariet (rabeprazole) can not be crushed (re: will be inactivated by acid in the stomach). Prevacid (lansoprazole) is available in capsule, which can be opened and sprinkled over apple sauce or jam and swallowed whole without chewing the granules.



FACT BOX

Constipation occurs in less than 2% of the general population but affects about 25% of men and 35% of women over 65 years of age. Flax seeds seems to be usefull to decrease laxative use.



INTERACTIONS WATCH

Grapefruit juice given with warfarin may increase risk of bleeding.

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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