

LDI Specialty Drug News

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\$9 Billion Spent on Lipitor

Pharmacy cash registers rang up a whopping \$9 billion spend in 2004 for the cholesterol lowering drug Lipitor.

This is the largest amount spent on any prescription drug to date. Zocor, also a cholesterol lowering drug came in second at \$4.7 billion. Adults age 64 and older generated the bulk of the sales. These were the results of a survey released by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Reuters/Los Angeles Times.

The survey also found that in 2004 \$4.2 billion was spent on the proton-pump inhibitor, Nexium and \$2.4

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billion for Prevacid. Adults ages 18 to 64 generated sales of \$1.9 billion for the antidepressant Zoloft.

Prescription drugs for children were also on the list for high dollar expenditures. \$680 million was spent for the asthma medication Singular and \$420 million for Zyrtec allergy medication. Not surprisingly, ADHD medications made the list as well. \$490 million for Concerta and \$400 each for Strattera and Adderall.

**Source: Medical News Today*

FluMist Vaccine Approved for Young Children

On September 19, 2007 the FDA announced that it has approved FluMist, the nasal influenza vaccine for treatment of healthy children between the ages of 2 and 5 years.

FluMist was previously approved for children over the age of 5 and adults up to the age of 49. By lowering the age limit to 2 years the range of patients that can now be treated is increased.

The vaccine, manufactured by MedImmune, contains a weakened version of the live flu virus and is sprayed into the nasal passages. Since administration is not by injection it lessens the stress on parents and children to get vaccinated.



- \$9 Billion Spent on Lipitor

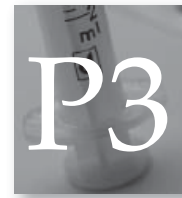
- FluMist Vaccine Approved



Toddlers and Cough Medicine- FDA Warning



Raloxifene Gets FDA Approval for Breast Cancer Prevention



Drug Lising by Disease/Condition

FluMist Vaccine, Continued - According to research, American children under age 5 are just as likely to end up in the hospital for treatment of the flu as are the elderly. The Centers for Disease Control highlights the importance of young children and older adults being vaccinated.

Side effects from FluMist for children aged 2 to 6 were mild and included runny nose, nasal congestion and a slight fever.

Toddlers and Cough Medicine – FDA Warning

Children younger than 2 years of age should not be given over-the-counter cough and cold medicines without the approval of their pediatrician. The FDA warning comes after a number of children have been accidentally overdosed.

An FDA panel will convene on October 18 to review the use of cold medicines in children as there is mounting concern that they are not being used properly. Hundreds of overdoses of over-the-counter cough and cold medications have been reported and there have been a handful of deaths as a result. In March, physicians petitioned the FDA to set up a review of the issue.

In an advisory the agency stated, “Questions have been raised about the safety of these products and whether the benefits justify any potential risk, especially in children under 2 years of age”.

Currently there is no evidence of the efficacy of these products and there are significant safety concerns about their misuse. Parents can easily inadvertently administer the medications in doses that can cause heart problems and other dangerous side effects.

Over-the-counter medications already warn parents not to administer to children younger than 2 years of age however, stronger action may be needed.

Source: Food and Drug Administration

Raloxifene Gets FDA Approval for Breast Cancer Prevention

The FDA has approved raloxifene (Evis-ta) to reduce the risk of invasive breast cancer in postmenopausal women who are at high risk for the disease.

Raloxifene was previously approved by the FDA to prevent and treat osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.

Researches are hailing this approval as an important step in the prevention of breast cancer for high risk women.

Dr. Leslie Ford, associate director for clinical research at the National Cancer Institute says “I am excited that postmenopausal women at increased risk for breast cancer now have a choice of drugs to reduce their risk. Women and their doctors are already familiar with raloxifene and should be comfortable using it for both breast cancer and osteoporosis prevention”.

The basis for FDA’s approval came after positive results from four different clinical trials. One trial, known as STAR, demonstrated that raloxifene was as effective as tamoxifen – the first drug approved for breast cancer chemoprevention – at reducing

breast cancer risk in postmenopausal women. In the STAR trial, raloxifene was generally less toxic than tamoxifen, but it was not as effective at reducing the risk of a noninvasive condition that can be a precursor to cancer, known as ductal carcinoma in situ, or DCIS.

The STAR trial however, found that both raloxifene and tamoxifene reduced the risk of invasive breast cancer by approximately 50 percent. Raloxifene also reduced the risk of blood clots, endometrial cancer, and cataracts compared with women on tamoxifen.

Although breast cancer risk reduction was not a primary endpoint of the clinical trials, all trials demonstrated a significant risk reduction in women given raloxifene.

Source: NCI Cancer Bulletin

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For more information regarding LDI’s Specialty Newsletter, please contact us:

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Specialty Medication Listing by Disease/Condition

AIDS/HIV

Daunoxome
Doxil
Intron A
Roferon-A
Serostim
Taxol
Fuzeon

Alpha1 - Proteinase Inhibitor Deficiency

Aralast
Prolastin
Zemaira

Antihemophilic Agents

Antihemophilic Factor
Advate
Alphanate
Bioclote
Helixate FS
Hemofil M
Humate P
Hyate C
Koate DVI
Kogenate FS
Monarc M
Monoclate P
Recombinate
ReFacto

Anti-nausea

Aloxi
Anzemet
Emend
Kytril
Zofran

Asthma

Xolair

Cancer/Related

Adriamycin
Adrucil
Alkeran
Aredia
Avastin
BiCNU
Blenoxane
Busulfex
Campath
Camptosar
Cerubidine
Cosmegen
Cytarabine
Cytoxan
Depocyt

Doxil

DTIC-Dome
Eligard
Ellence
Erbitux
Ethyol
Faslodex
Fludara
Gemzar
Gleevec
Herceptin
Hycamtin
Idamycin
IFEX
Intron A
Leucovorin
Leukine
Leustatin
Lupron Depot
Lupron Depot-Ped
Mesnex
Mustargen
Mutamycin
Mylotarg
Navelbine
Nexavar
Nipent
Novantrone
Oncaspar
Ontak
Paraplatin
Platinol AQ
Proleukin
Rituxan
Roferon-A
Sutent
Tarceva
Taxol
Taxotere
Temodar
Thyrogen
Toposar
Trelstar Depot
Trelstar LA
Trisenox
VePesid
Vinblastine
Vincasar
Vumon
Xeloda
Zanosar
Zoladex
Zometa

Contraceptives

Depo-Provera

Crohn's Disease

Remicade

Dystonia

Botox
Myobloc

Factor IX Concentrates

Alphanine SD
Benefix
Mononine
Profilnine SD
Proplex T
Bebulin VH

Gaucher's Disease

Ceredase
Cerezyme
Zavesca

Growth Hormone Deficiency

Genotropin
Humatrope
Norditropin
Nutropin
Nutropin AQ
Saizen

Hematologics

Arixtra
Aranesp
Epogen
Fragmin
Innohep
Lovenox
Neulasta
Neumega
Neupogen
Procrit

Hepatitis C

Copegus
Infergen
Intron A
Pegasys
Peg-Intron
Rebetron
Roferon-A

Hormone Deficiency

Delatestryl
Delestrogen
Depo-Estradiol
Depo-Testosterone

Hunter Syndrome

Elaprase

Primary Immunodeficiency

Carimune NF
Gamimune N
Gammagard S/D
Gammar-P
Gamunex
Iveegam EN
Panglobulin
Panglobulin NF
Polygam S/D
Venoglobulin-S

Miscellaneous

Alferon-N
Milrinone
Zincard

Multiple Sclerosis

Avonex
Betaseron
Copaxone
Novantrone
Rebif
Tysabri

Osteo/ Rheumatoid/ Psoriatic Arthritis

Enbrel
Humira
Hyalgan
Kineret
Orencia
Remicade
Supartz
Synvisc

Osteoporosis

Forteo
Miacalcin

Psoriasis

Amevive
Enbrel
Raptiva
Remicade

Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Synagis

Rh Hemolytic Disease

BayRho-D
Micro-Rhogam
Rhogam
WinRho-SDF