MORE THAN A NAME *by Jerry Ham (Alzheimer's carer)*

Aricept™

donepezil hydrochloride

Making a difference in Alzheimer's

BRIEF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

ARICEPT™ (donepezil hydrochloride)Please refer to the SmPC before prescribing ARICEPT 5mg or ARICEPT 10mg. **Indication:** Symptomatic treatment of mild to moderately severe Alzheimer's dementia. **Dose and administration:** ***Adults/elderly;*** 5mg daily which may be increased to 10mg once daily after at least one month. No dose adjustment necessary for patients with renal or mild-moderate hepatic impairment. ***Children;*** Not recommended. **Contra-Indications:** Pregnancy. Hypersensitivity to donepezil, piperidine derivatives or any excipients used in ARICEPT. **Lactation:** Excretion into breast milk unknown. Women on donepezil should not breast feed. **Warnings and Precautions:** Initiation and supervision by a physician with experience of Alzheimer's dementia. A caregiver should be available to monitor compliance. Regular monitoring to ensure continued therapeutic benefit, consider discontinuation when evidence of a therapeutic effect ceases. Exaggeration of succinylcholine-type muscle relaxation. Avoid concurrent use of anticholinesterases, cholinergic agonists, cholinergic antagonists. Possibility of vagotonic effect on the heart which may be particularly important with "sick sinus syndrome", and supraventricular conduction conditions. There have been reports of syncope and seizures - in such patients the possibility of heart block or long sinusal pauses should be considered. Careful monitoring of patients at risk of ulcer disease including those receiving NSAIDs. Cholinomimetics may cause bladder outflow obstruction. Seizures occur in Alzheimer's disease and cholinomimetics have the potential to cause seizures. Cholinomimetics may have the potential to exacerbate or induce extrapyramidal symptoms. Care in patients suffering asthma and obstructive pulmonary disease. As with all Alzheimer's patients, routine evaluation of ability to drive/operate machinery. **Drug Interactions:** Experience of use with concomitant medications is limited, consider possibility of as yet unknown interactions. Interaction possible with inhibitors or inducers of Cytochrome P450; use such combinations with care. Potential to interfere with anticholinergic agents. Possible synergistic activity with succinylcholine-type muscle relaxants, beta-blockers or cholinergic agents. **Side effects:** Most commonly diarrhoea, muscle cramps, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and insomnia. Other common effects in clinical trials (≥ 5%, and ≥ placebo) headache, pain, accident, common cold, abdominal disturbance and dizziness. Syncope, bradycardia, and rare cases of sinoatrial block and atrioventricular block, and seizure have been reported. Rare reports of liver dysfunction including hepatitis. Psychiatric disturbances, including hallucinations, agitation and aggressive behaviour have also been reported; these resolved on dose reduction or discontinuation. There have been some reports of anorexia, gastric and duodenal ulcers and gastrointestinal haemorrhage. Extrapyramidal symptoms have been rarely reported. Minor increases in muscle creatine kinase. **Presentation:** Blister packed in strips of 14. ARICEPT 5mg; white, film coated tablets marked 5 and ARICEPT, packs of 28. ARICEPT 10mg; yellow, film coated tablets marked 10 and ARICEPT, packs of 28. **Marketing authorisation numbers:** ARICEPT 5mg; PA 822/2/1. ARICEPT 10mg; PA 822/2/2. **Marketing authorisation holder:** Pfizer (Ireland) Ltd., Parkway House, Ballymount Road Lower, Dublin 12, Republic of Ireland. **Further information from/Marketed by:** Pfizer (Ireland) Ltd., Parkway House, Ballymount Road Lower, Dublin 12, Republic of Ireland. **Date of preparation:** September 2000.

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NEW!

going

Orally dispersible tablet

going

placed in the mouth, starts dispersing in about 15 seconds[1]

gone

disperses completely within one minute[1]

Zyprexa® VeloTab™

Orodispersible Tablets, Olanzapine

Zyprexa VeloTab is a new oral rapidly dispersing formulation of Zyprexa which offers greater ease of use and aims to enhance compliance.

Zyprexa VeloTab is especially suitable for patients with schizophrenia unable to take oral tablets.

Zyprexa VeloTab is available in 5mg and 10mg tablets.