

AU InforMed

Volume 3 Number 24 (Issue 87)

Monday, September 19, 2005



Key Inforbits

- MedWatches ...
- CDC guidelines for disasters
- Teen drug use down
- Some good, old-fashioned advice
- Faculty in the literature
- Clean Hands Week!

NEW DRUGS, and other related stuff ...

New Dose Form ... The FDA has approved a once-daily formulation of tramadol hydrochloride (Tramadol ER by Biovail Corporation) on September 9, 2005. It is approved for the treatment of moderate to moderately severe chronic pain in once-daily 100mg, 200mg and 300mg dosage strengths. It is the first once-daily tramadol formulation. The Company anticipates the commercial launch of Tramadol ER (trade name to be announced later) in early 2006. The conditions of approval by the FDA for Tramadol ER support three years of exclusivity for the indication and doses approved.

<http://www.biovail.com/english/Investor%20Relations/Latest%20News/default.asp?s=1&state=s%20howrelease&releaseid=754545> (Biovail web site)

New Combo vaccine ... The FDA approved a new combination vaccine containing Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella (Oka/Merck) Virus Vaccine Live (ProQuad[®] by Merck & Co, Inc) for simultaneous vaccination against measles, mumps, rubella (German measles) and varicella (chickenpox) in children 12 months to 12 years of age, on September 6, 2005. It is the first and only vaccine approved in the U.S. to help protect against these four diseases in a single injection. ProQuad[®] is also approved for use in children 12 months to 12 years of age if a second dose of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine is needed. Full prescribing information is available at the site below.

http://www.merck.com/newsroom/press_releases/product/2005_0906.html (Merck press release)

MedWatch ... Safety-related drug labeling changes for July 2005 have been posted on the MedWatch website. The July 2005 posting includes 32 drug products with safety labeling changes to the Contraindications, Boxed Warning, Warnings, Precautions, or Adverse Reactions sections. The Summary page --

http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/SAFETY/2005/jul05_quickview.htm

-- provides drug names and a listing of the sections changed. The Detailed view --

<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/SAFETY/2005/jul05.htm>

-- includes sections/subsections changed and a description of new or modified safety information in the Contraindications, Boxed Warning, or Warnings sections. The full labeling may be accessed by clicking on the drug name in the detailed view.

MedWatch ... ImClone Systems Inc, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company and the FDA notified healthcare professionals of changes to sections of the prescribing information for Erbitux[®],

indicated for the treatment of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) expressing metastatic colorectal carcinoma. The Warnings and Dosage and Administration sections have been revised concerning specific recommendations on observation periods following Erbitux[®] infusion. In addition, the Precautions and Adverse Reactions sections have been revised concerning an increased incidence of hypomagnesemia and recommendations for electrolyte monitoring. Read the complete MedWatch 2005 Safety summary, including links to the Dear Healthcare Professional letter and revised label, at

<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2005/safety05.htm#Erbitux>

MedWatch ... Novo Nordisk Inc. and FDA notified pharmacists of an initiative to help prevent dispensing errors. A color branded labeling has been introduced for NovoLog Mix 70/30, and NovoLog, an insulin analog. The previous box for NovoLog Mix 70/30 was white with a blue band. The current packaging for NovoLog Mix 70/30 is very similar and remains white with a blue band. The packaging for NovoLog previously was also white with a blue band. The current packaging is now white with an orange band. It is important that all pharmacists carefully distinguish insulin formulations by name and NDC number when dispensing. Read the complete MedWatch 2005 Safety summary, including links to the Dear Pharmacist letter, at: <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2005/safety05.htm#NovoLog>

FROM THE MEDICAL LITERATURE ...



Public health and safety workers and volunteers ...”To protect the public health and safety during recovery operations, CDC has provided multiple sets of guidelines, available at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/index.asp>. These include guidelines of particular interest to health-care providers, relief workers, and shelter operators. *Hurricane-Related Information for Health-Care Professionals* (<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/hcp.asp>) includes guidelines for managing acute diarrhea and guidance related to immunizations and vaccine storage. *Worker Safety During Hurricane Cleanup* (<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/workers.asp>) includes health recommendations for relief workers and guidance on worker safety during a power outage. *Hurricane Katrina Information for Shelters* (<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/katrina/shelters.asp>) includes guidance on infection control for community shelters and key facts regarding infectious diseases. In addition, a new compilation, *Natural Disasters*, has been added to the *M Guide Online Knowledge Centers* at the *MMWR* website (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>). The *M Guide* provides Internet links to previously published *MMWR* reports regarding assessment of health needs and surveillance of morbidity and mortality after hurricanes, floods, and the December 26, 2004 tsunami.”

CDC. Hurricane Katrina response and guidance for health-care providers, relief workers, and shelter operators. *MMWR* 2005 Sep 9;54(35):877.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5435a5.htm>

Reviews of Note ...

- Kadison R. Perspective: Getting an edge – Use of stimulants and antidepressants in college. *N Engl J Med* 2005 Sep 15;353(11):1089-91.
- Jemal A, Ward E, Hao Y, Thun M. Trends in the leading cause of death in the United States, 1970-2002. *JAMA*. 2005 Sep 14;294(10):1255-59.

FROM THE LAY LITERATURE about medicine ...

Teen drug use down ... is among the findings of the latest survey, the 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Teen illicit drug use declined by 9% since 2002, but unfortunately, most numbers stayed relatively constant. For example, 19.1 million Americans used illicit drugs last year (7.9%), but binge drinking is up in the teen group. Also, 70.3 million Americans used tobacco, a slight drop from 2002-2004. For the whole (very large) report, go to: 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Dept. Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. Revised Sep 8, 2005.

<http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nhsda.htm#New>



Good, old-fashioned advice ... provided by a nutrition advisor to the American Institute for Cancer Research and the president-elect of the American Cancer Society. The short version is that healthy habits can prevent cancer (and a variety of other problems). The bad news is we already know all of this and it is truly a choice we make. The recommendations range from avoiding tobacco (duhh!) to eating more fruits and veggies, exercise, staying out of the sun, and even flossing! You can help yourself and your patients by emphasizing these principles.

Szabo L. Proven steps to a longer life. *USA Today* 2005 Sep 11.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2005-09-11-longer-life_x.htm



Big Pharma big giving ... A number of pharmaceutical companies have stepped up with contributions to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. According to one article, direct contributions of over \$33 million has been given or pledged and in many cases does not include the direct product contributions and many pledges to match employee contributions! The article identifies the company, their annual sales and their pledged amounts.

Morse S. A tide of giving. *Washington Post.com* 2005 Sep 13; p. HE03.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/12/AR2005091201397.html>

AUBURN HSOP FACULTY in the literature ...

- Wargo KA, Gupta R. Neuroleptic malignant syndrome: No longer exclusively a “neuroleptic” phenomenon. *J Pharm Technol.* 2005 Sep/Oct;21:262-70.
- Gupta R, Wargo KA. Rifampin-induced thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura. *Ann Pharmacother.* 2005 Oct;36:xxx.
- Wargo KA, Wargo NA, Eiland EH III. Maximizing pharmacodynamics with high-dose levofloxacin. *Hosp Pharm.* 2005 Sep;40(9):777-87.
- Clark DB, Byrd DC, Andrus MR, Rogers T, Martin TA. Decreasing costs and optimizing therapy of erythropoietic medications in a hospital-based outpatient cancer treatment center. *Hosp Pharm.* 2005 Sep;40(9):788-95.
- Felkey BG, Fox BI. PDAs for patients. *Hosp Pharm.* 2005 Sep;40(9):826-8.

NEW RESOURCES in the DILRC ...

- Committee on the use of complementary and alternative medicine by the American public. *Complementary and Alternative Medicine in the United States.* Institute of Medicine. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2005.

- Wichtl M, ed. *Herbal Drugs and Phytopharmaceuticals: A Handbook for Practice on a Scientific Basis*. 3rd ed. Stuttgart: MedPharm, 2004.

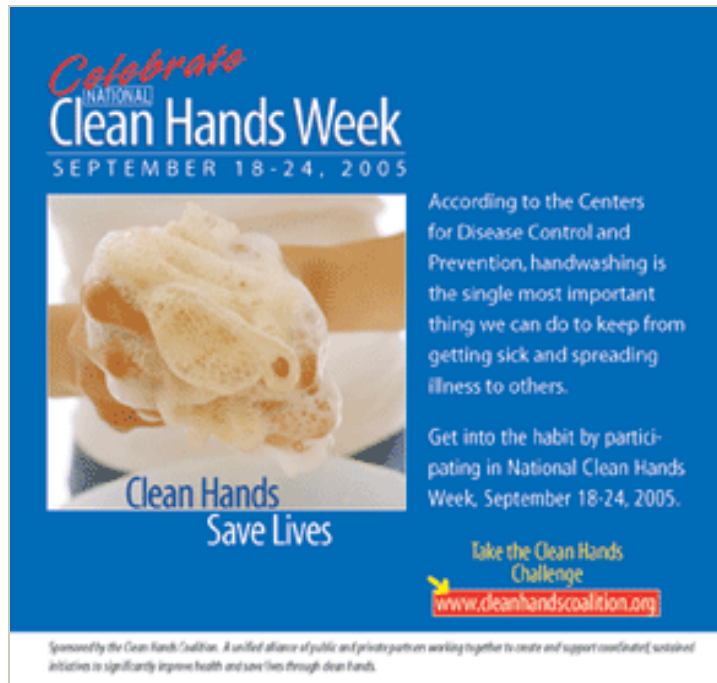
 **The last “dose” ...**




Facts on hand hygiene



- According to [CDC](#), the single most important thing we can do to keep from getting sick and spreading illness to others is to clean our hands.
- Nearly 22 million school days are lost due to the common cold alone. Some viruses and bacteria can live from 20 minutes up to 2 hours or more on surfaces like cafeteria tables, doorknobs, and desks. ([CDC](#))
- 52.2 million cases of the common cold affect Americans under the age of 17 each year. (CDC, 1996)
- Students don't wash their hands often or well. In one study, only 58% of female and 48% of male middle and high school students washed their hands after using the bathroom. (American Journal of Infection Control, 1997)
- A study of Detroit school children showed that scheduled hand washing, at least four times a day, can reduce gastrointestinal illness and related absences by more than 50%. (Family Medicine, 1997)
- **CLICK ON THE PICTURE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION**



Celebrate
NATIONAL
Clean Hands Week
SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2005



**Clean Hands
Save Lives**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, handwashing is the single most important thing we can do to keep from getting sick and spreading illness to others.

Get into the habit by participating in National Clean Hands Week, September 18-24, 2005.

Take the Clean Hands Challenge
www.cleanhandscoalition.org

Sponsored by the Clean Hands Coalition. A united alliance of public and private partners working together to create and support coordinated, sustained initiatives to significantly improve health and save lives through clean hands.

An electronic bulletin of drug and health-related news highlights, a service of ...

Auburn University, Harrison School of Pharmacy, Drug Information Center

- Phone 334-844-4400 • Fax 334-844-8366 • <http://www.pharmacy.auburn.edu/dilrc/dilrc.htm>

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