



Health Newsflash

New Drugs Anticipated in 2003



ESI Canada follows the trail of new drugs that are due to arrive on the Canadian market. In this issue, we provide you with a brief summary of drugs anticipated to have an impact on the private sector this year. It is important to note that a new drug marketed in the same class as an existing drug will most likely be similarly priced. Unless utilization increases, the impact will be insignificant.

Three new drugs for erectile dysfunction, Cialis, Levitra, and Uprima, are expected to be marketed this year and have no major medical advantage over Viagra. Uprima's regulatory approval may be delayed as its new drug application was withdrawn in the U.S. two years ago and then resubmitted last year.

Strattera is a new therapy for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in adults and children. This product differs from current therapy in that studies have shown that it may not have the addiction potential associated with Ritalin.

High cholesterol is an under-diagnosed and under-treated condition, therefore utilization for these drugs will increase in the next few years. Currently, two drugs to treat this condition are in the top 10 drugs by ingredient cost. Crestor, a product similar to Lipitor and Zocor (the "statins") was marketed in February 2003. Ezetrol, an add-on therapy to the statins, which inhibits the absorption of cholesterol, is anticipated to be available in late 2003.

The new biological products are expensive compared to current therapies, with some anticipated to cost approximately \$20,000 per year per patient. Humira, Amevive, Fuzeon, Pegasys and Forteo are biological products expected this year for a variety of medical conditions (see chart below).

Other drugs anticipated in 2003 are (1) Relpax: the fifth migraine product, (2) Inspra: an addition to many treatment options for high blood pressure, (3) Iressa: an oral cancer product, and (4) Pregabalin: one of numerous treatment options for epilepsy.

This chart lists the drugs, alphabetically by use, we anticipate will be available on the Canadian market in 2003.

Drug Name	Brand Name	Use	Manufacturer
Atomoxetine	Strattera	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
Gefitinib	Iressa	Cancer	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
Duloxetine	Cymbalta	Depression	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
Escitalopram	Lexapro*	Depression	Lundbeck
Pregabalin	Unknown	Epilepsy	Pfizer Canada Inc.
Apomorphine	Uprima	Erectile dysfunction	Abbott Laboratories Ltd.
Tadalafil	Cialis	Erectile dysfunction	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
Vardenafil	Levitra	Erectile dysfunction	Bayer Inc.
Peginterferon alfa-2a	Pegasys	Hepatitis C	Hoffman-La Roche Ltd.
Eplerenone	Inspra	High blood pressure	Pharmacia Canada Inc.
Ezetimibe	Ezetrol	High cholesterol	Schering Canada Inc.
Rosuvastatin	Crestor**	High cholesterol	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
Enfuvirtide	Fuzeon	HIV/AIDS	Hoffman-La Roche Ltd.
Eletriptan	Relpax	Migraine	Pfizer Canada Inc.
Teriparatide	Forteo	Osteoporosis	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
Alefacept	Amevive	Psoriasis	Biogen Canada Inc.
Adalimumab	Humira	Rheumatoid arthritis	Abbott Laboratories Ltd.

* U.S. brand name

** Available since February 2003

Redefining Health Claims Solutions

Volume 5
Issue 7

May 20,
2003

Author: Jan Demsey, Pharm.D.

Editor: Steven Semelman, Pharm.D.



ESI CANADA®

www.esi-canada.com