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EXPERT DESK

Dr. K. Sreeraaghanidhi Arthanareeswaran, MD.,
Joint Secretary,
Vivekanandha Educational Institutions & Hospitals,
Tiruchengode & Sankari.

WARNING: UNREGULATED EYE COLOR-CHANGING DROPS ARE DANGEROUS

The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) is issuing a strong warning against the use of over the counter eye drops advertised on social media as eye color changing solutions. These products are neither FDA approved nor tested for safety and efficacy, posing serious risks to eye health.

AAO, cautions, "Consumers need to be aware that these products, often seen on platforms like TikTok, are not FDA approved. The dramatic before-and-after photos and vague claims about changing eye color lack scientific backing. There is no evidence that these drops work, nor that they are safe."

Risks of Unregulated Eye Drops: Because these drops are not FDA-approved, they have not undergone the rigorous testing required to ensure they are safe or effective. This lack of regulation raises significant concerns about the manufacturing conditions, which could lead to contamination and serious eye infections. Potential safety risks include:

- Eye inflammation
- Infection
- Light sensitivity
- Increased eye pressure or glaucoma
- Permanent vision loss

Dubious Claims about Melanin Alteration: Manufacturers claim these drops contain ingredients that can alter the melanin levels in the iris, the colored part of the eye. However, there is no scientific evidence supporting this claim. If these drops were able to affect the pigmented cells in the iris, it could potentially damage the eyes, causing inflammation, light sensitivity, or even permanent vision loss. Moreover, the impact on other eye structures that rely on melanin, like the retina, remains unclear.

Stay Safe: Consult an Eye Care Professional. The AAO advises the public to exercise caution when encountering eye health claims on social media. Stay Safe: “Consult an Eye Care Professional” The AAO advises the public to exercise caution when encountering eye health claims on social media. "Never put anything in your eyes that isn't specifically designed for that purpose," warns Dr. Giaconi. Misuse of unapproved products can lead to severe, painful eye conditions or even blindness.

For those looking to change their eye color safely, the AAO recommends using colored contact lenses. However, it is crucial that these lenses be prescribed and fitted by qualified eye health professionals to avoid risks associated with improper use.

Dear Reader / Health Care Professionals,
send your queries to :
E-Mail : pharmabeaconvpcw@gmail.com
Whats App : 9443734672

Unregulated eye color-changing drops.

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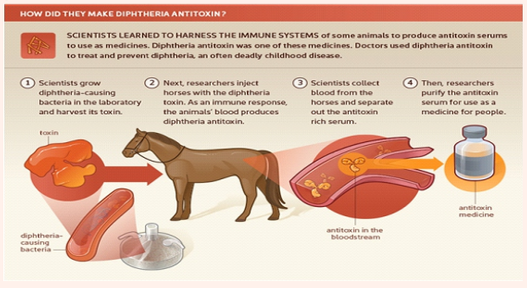
Diphtheria Management: WHO's Ground breaking Guidelines for Saving Lives

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently issued its inaugural guidance for the clinical management of diphtheria, a condition instigated by toxin-producing bacteria. Diphtheria manifests through symptoms such as a sore throat and respiratory difficulties, with fatality rates ranging from 5% to 10% in afflicted cases.

The novel guidelines advocate for the administration of diphtheria antitoxin injections by clinicians without necessitating a routine skin sensitivity test beforehand. Furthermore, healthcare providers are advised to administer an escalating dose of antitoxin to individuals suspected or diagnosed with diphtheria, adjusting the dosage based on the severity of the illness and the onset of symptoms. Additionally, the guidance underscores the preference for antibiotics such as azithromycin over penicillin in treating patients.



These recommendations stem from the backdrop of prolonged outbreaks witnessed in several countries, including Guinea and Nigeria, commencing in 2023. These outbreaks were partly attributed to deficiencies in vaccine coverage, which were further exacerbated by the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite approximately 84% of children globally receiving the three recommended doses of the diphtheria vaccine, vaccination rates among countries vary significantly.

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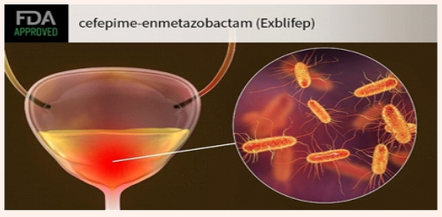
By
Mr. M. SELVAKUMAR, M.Pharm.,
Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutics, VPCW.

Breakthrough Drug Exblifep Receives FDA Approval for Treating Complicated Urinary Tract Infections (cUTIs)

Exciting news emerged on February 23, 2024, as Enmetazobactam (Exblifep 2.5 gram; Orchid Pharma) garnered approval from the FDA for its efficacy in treating complicated urinary tract infections (cUTIs) in adults. This milestone follows a robust global phase 3 trial, where Exblifep demonstrated superiority over the standard treatment, piperacillin-tazobactam, in clinical cure and microbiological eradication.



Developed by Orchid Pharma, Exblifep combines the fourth-generation cephalosporin cefepime with a proprietary beta-lactamase inhibitor, aiming to combat antimicrobial resistance in gram-negative bacteria. The drug's success in the trial, meeting both non-inferiority and superiority criteria, underscores its potential in addressing the growing threat of antibiotic-resistant infections.

cUTIs, which affect approximately 3.6 million patients in the United States annually, can lead to debilitating symptoms such as chills, fever, and back pain. The approval of Exblifep offers hope for patients suffering from these infections, providing a promising treatment option with a comparable safety profile to existing therapies. During the phase 3 trial, Exblifep demonstrated a clinical cure rate of 79.1%, surpassing piperacillin-tazobactam's rate of 58.9%. Moreover, both drugs exhibited similar safety profiles, with minimal treatment discontinuation observed in patients.

With FDA approval secured, Exblifep is poised to enter the US market in the coming quarters, marking a significant advancement in the fight against antibiotic-resistant infections. This approval reaffirms the importance of ongoing research and development efforts aimed at addressing the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance.

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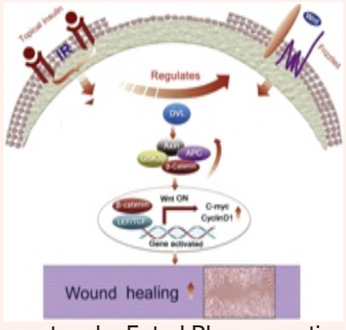
By
Mrs. R. Kavitha, M.Pharm.,
Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology, VPCW.

CLEAR VISION AHEAD: THE HUMAN EYE INSULIN!

"The Way with World's First Human Insulin Eye Drops for Corneal Conditions"

Mumbai-based Entod Pharmaceuticals has made strides in medical innovation with the development of the world's inaugural human insulin eye drops, specifically tailored to address corneal afflictions such as neurotrophic corneal ulcers and dry eyes. Traditionally, insulin has been administered via injections to regulate blood sugar levels among diabetic patients worldwide. However, recent research from diverse global studies has unveiled its potential efficacy when delivered in the form of eye drops. These findings underscore the capability of insulin eye drops in rejuvenating corneal tissue and managing ocular surface conditions. The presence of insulin (INS) receptors on the ocular surface (OS) and lacrimal gland (LG), and the high prevalence of dry eye syndrome (DES) and corneal lesions in diabetic patients suggest that INS is relevant for OS homeostasis and wound healing.



There is compelling and growing global evidence suggesting that insulin eye drops could revolutionise ophthalmic therapeutics. The eye drop formulation, EyeSulin, would be the first of its kind in the world to treat eye conditions once approved. The company's roadmap includes the imminent initiation of the drug regulatory approval process in India. This pivotal undertaking entails submitting applications to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) to conduct comprehensive clinical trials. Following the successful completion of these trials, the next step involves seeking approval from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for commercialization. With a steadfast dedication to adhering to regulatory standards and protocols, Entod Pharmaceuticals aims to navigate this process diligently, paving the way for the introduction of transformative medical solutions to benefit patients in India and beyond.

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By
Dr. C. AROKIA RANI, Pharm. D.,
Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, VPCW.

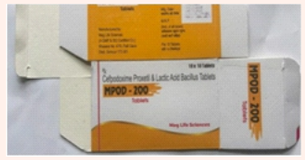
Beware! Chalk Powder Instead of Medicine. Telangana Drug Alert

In a shocking revelation, the Telangana Drug Control Administration recently has issued a stern warning against counterfeit medicines purportedly manufactured by 'Meg Lifesciences.' Investigations have exposed a chilling reality - 'Meg Lifesciences' doesn't even exist. Instead of life-saving compounds, these falsified drugs are filled with nothing but chalk powder and starch, posing grave health risks to unsuspecting consumers.

The three counterfeit medications identified are MPOD-200 Tablets, MEXCLAV 625 Tablet, and Cefoxim-CV Tablets. The Drug Control Administration has wasted no time in responding to this alarming discovery. A Spurious Drug Alert and Stop Use Notice have been issued for all medications bearing the name of 'Meg Lifesciences.' Consumers and healthcare providers alike are urged to immediately discontinue the use of any such drugs. Retailers and wholesalers have been instructed to halt the sale and distribution of these counterfeit products and to promptly inform local authorities.

Recent raids conducted by the Drug Control Administration have resulted in the seizure of counterfeit drug stocks falsely attributed to 'Meg Lifesciences,' totalling a staggering Rs. 33.35 lakhs. Legal proceedings are now underway against those involved in this nefarious drug racket.

This revelation serves as a stark reminder of the dangers lurking in the pharmaceutical market. The public is urged to remain vigilant and report any information regarding the distribution or sale of drugs claiming to be from 'Meg Lifesciences' to the authorities. In the face of such deceit, it's imperative to remember: when it comes to medication, always trust reputable sources. Let's stay informed, stay vigilant, and safeguard our health against counterfeit threats.

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By

Dr. R. ABIRAMI, Pharm. D.,

Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, VPCW.

Non-hormonal Approach for Menopausal Hot Flashes!

Hot flashes are sudden-onset, spontaneous, and episodic sensations of warmth usually felt on the chest, neck, and face immediately followed by an outbreak of sweating. The onset of hot flashes can be associated with perspiration, heart palpitations, headache, weakness, fatigue, faintness, and anxiety, and they can be triggered by warm environments, hot drinks, or emotional stress. On average, they last less than five minutes. The average frequency varies from 10 times per day to several times per week. The mean duration is 1.2 years.

Conventionally, hormone replacement therapy has been widely utilised to help restore hormonal balance and therefore ameliorate hot flushes. However, hormone replacement therapy may not be suitable in women with increased risk of cardiovascular disease, thromboembolic disease, or increased risk of certain types of cancer, such as breast and endometrial cancer. Therefore, its efficacy is limited by the duration of treatment recommended and whether any contraindications are present which prohibit its use. Alternative treatment options include selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, gabapentin, cognitive behavioural therapy, herbal remedies, acupuncture, as well as diet and lifestyle modifications

Fezolinetant is the first neurokinin 3 (NK3) receptor antagonist approved by the FDA to treat moderate to severe hot flashes from menopause. It works by binding to and blocking the activities of the NK3 receptor, which plays a role in the brain's regulation of body temperature. It is available as a tablet and prescribed at a dose of 45mg once daily. In one trial of over 500 postmenopausal women with moderate-to-severe hot flashes, fezolinetant significantly reduced hot flash frequency and severity when compared with placebo. After 12 weeks of therapy, the mean reductions in hot flash frequency for fezolinetant 45 mg, 30 mg, or placebo were 64, 59, and 45 percent, respectively. Women receiving fezolinetant 45 mg also had significant improvements in sleep disturbances when compared with placebo. Liver Function Tests (LFT) to be performed prior to initiation and do not start the therapy if bilirubin/AST/ALT is ≥2 times the ULN. NK3R antagonism is a promising target for further pharmacological studies, with promising data on improvement in the frequency, severity, and impact of hot flushes.

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2. Al Wattar BH, Talaulikar V. Non-oestrogen-based and complementary therapies for menopause. Best Practice & Research Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism. 2024;38(1):101819.

By

Dr. K.S. NAGHUL ADHITHYA, Pharm. D.,

Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, VPCW.

STUDENT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Institution Innovation Council had organized impact lecture series on a topics "How to plan for start-up, legal and Ethical Steps" and "How to Spark Your Entrepreneurial Journey: Empowering College Women in Innovation and Startup Culture" presented by Mrs. Rithika Chandran, Founder and Managing Director, BR TRONICAL Hub Pvt Ltd, Namakkal and Mr. Gowtham Shanmugam, EDII-TN District Coordinator of Dharmapuri Collector office respectively on 03.05.2024 at our seminar hall.

I D. Pharm students went for an industrial visit to SPM Drugs Pvt. Ltd., Bhavani on 14.05.2024. Students explored various process involved in the manufacturing process of IV formulations.

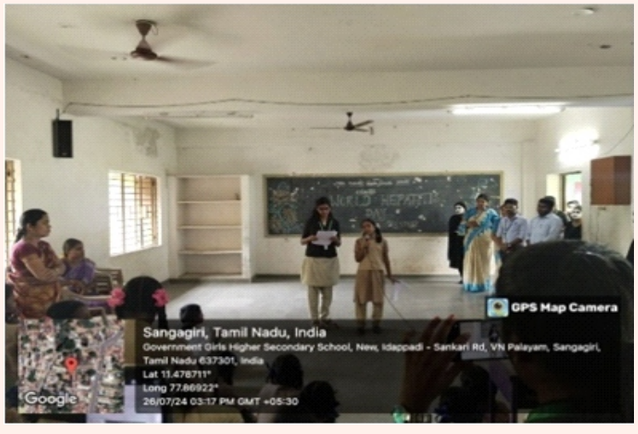
II D. Pharm students went for a field visit to Siddha Medicinal Plant Garden, Mettur on 15.05.2024. Students were exposed to various medicinal plants and explained about their uses.

"World Hypertension Day" was observed on 14.06.2024 at our seminar hall. As a part of the program we took pledge, conducted rally and quiz competition.

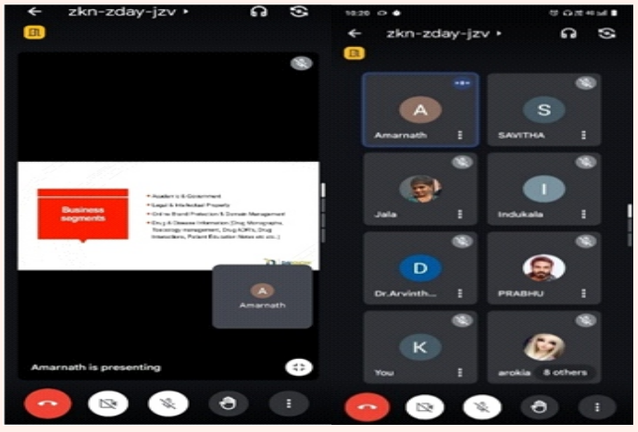
I & II Pharm. D observed "World Environment Day" on 21.06.2024 at VPCW Seminar hall. As a part of the event, we planted tree saplings, conducted drawing and photography competition and prizes were awarded to the winners.

Celebrated “International Yoga Day” on 21.06.2024 in Srinivasa Mahal. There we practiced various yoga postures and meditation.

Observed “Kargil Vijay Diwas” on 26th July 2024 in our seminar hall. Pledge taken and cultural programs were conducted to aware about the patriotism.



Observed “World Hepatitis Day” on 26th July 2024 at Government Girls High School, Sankagiri. The awareness about the hepatitis was created among the school students and teachers.



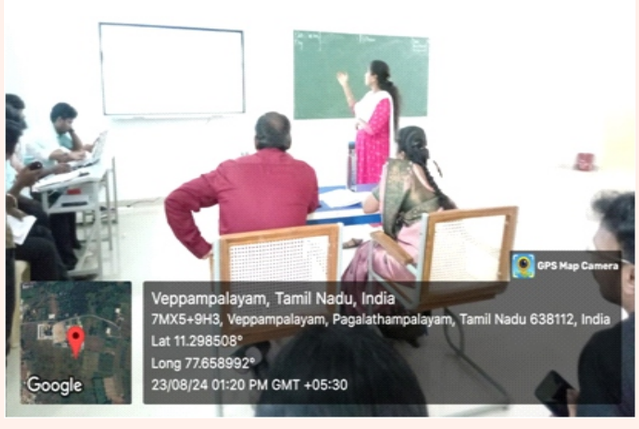
Department of Pharmacy Practice organized webinar on the topic of "Orientation to micromedex" presented by Mr. Amarnath N, Marketing Head – South, DIAKNOW Pvt Ltd, Bangalore on 16.07. 2024 at VPCW seminar hall.

Department of Pharmaceutics has organized 2nd National level symposium on "Innovative breakthrough in Pharmacare – Nurturing the Future Pharmacists – 2024 [IBP-NFP-2024]" on the theme "Emerging Drug Delivery & Regulatory Facets of Pharmaceuticals" sponsored by APTI, on 09 .08.2024 & 10.08.2024 at our seminar hall. This seminar holds 15 CEP awarded by TN Dr. M.G.R. Medical University. As a part of this seminar, e-poster presentation competition was conducted and winners were awarded with certificates and momento. Totally 600 delegates participated in the seminar.

"78th Independence day" was celebrated on 15.08.2024 at our campus. Dr. Arthanareeswaran, Joint Managing Director, was the Chief guest of the event. National flag was hoisted by the chief guest and various patriotic cultural events were performed by our students.

II D. Pharm students went for a hospital visit to Swamy Vivekanandha Medical College,Hospital and Research Institute, Tiruchengode on 20.08.2024. Student visited and explored various departments of the hospital.

B. Pharm students of VPCW have attended one day National seminar titled“Strategic solutions for addressing global health needs through pharmacy“ held on 23.08.2024 at SS Institute of Pharmacy, Sankagiri. In the seminar, our students were presented their research work in oral presentation. Our student Ms. R. Sowbagaya lakshmi, III B. Pharm have got 1st prize in the presentation.



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- ★ RABINDHARANATH TAGORE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FOR WOMEN
- ★ VISWABHARATHI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FOR WOMEN

★★★

Elayampalayam - 637 205, Tiruchengode Tk., Namakkal Dt., Tamil Nadu.
Mobile : 94437 34670, 99655 34670.
Veerachipalayam - 637 303, Sankari Tk., Salem Dt., Tamil Nadu.
Mobile : 99425 34564, 97888 54417.
website : www.vivekanandha.ac.in