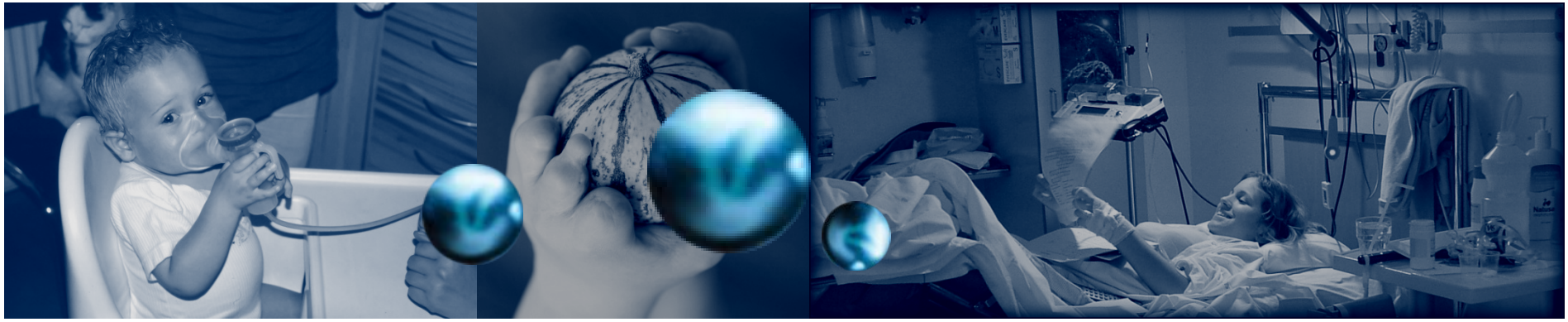
Medication errors: what patients can do to minimise them



François Houÿez

Treatment Information and Access Director

28/02-1/03 2013, EMA workshop on medication errors

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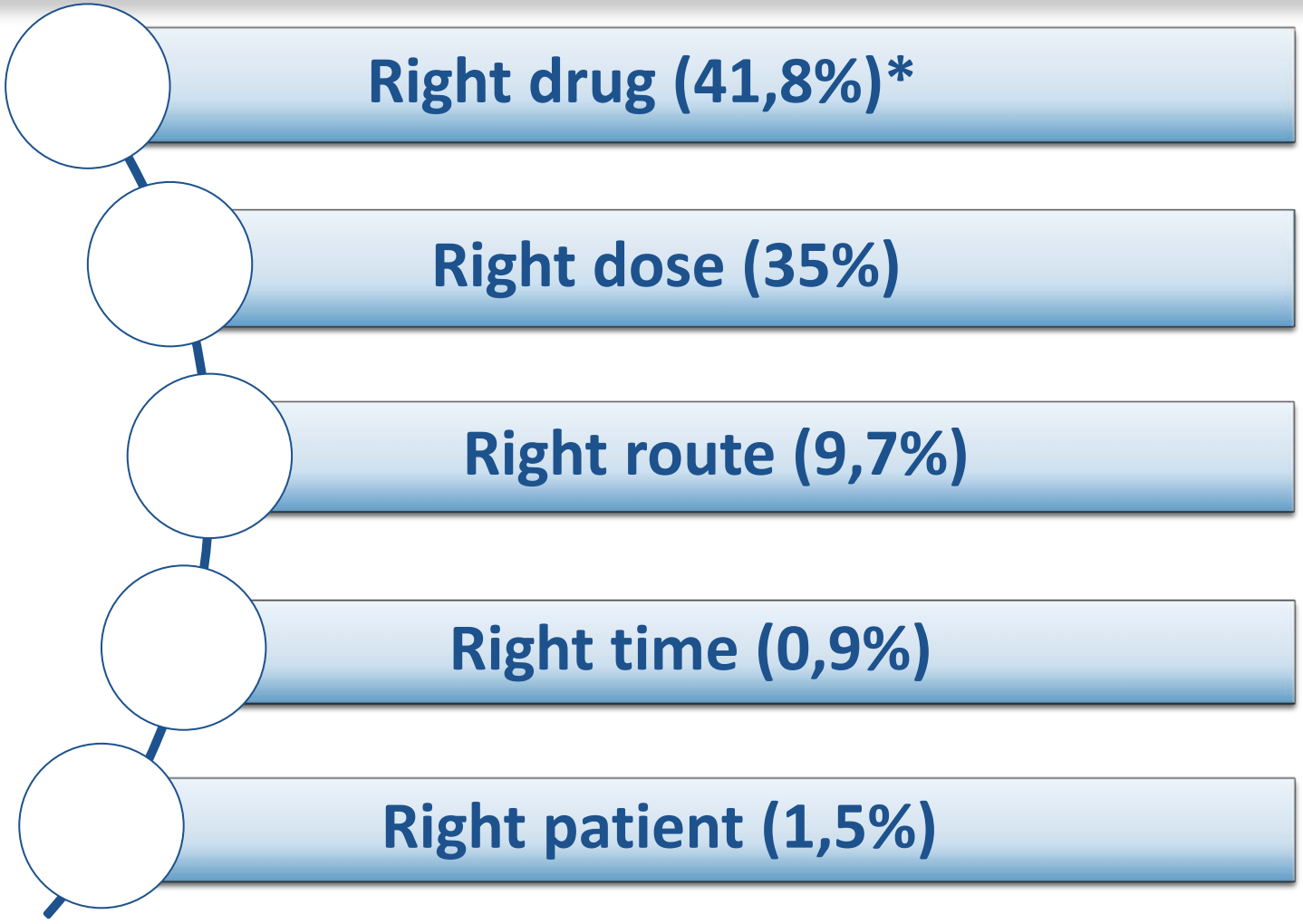
Disclaimer

Medicines mentioned in this presentation are for illustration purposes only, without any positive or negative opinion on the product itself, or on the marketing authorisation holder.

5 “R” rules



* Indicates error type in Guichet Erreurs Médicamenteuses: Présentation et bilan depuis la mise en place - Juin 2009 Affsaps (now ANSM)

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Self-medication can be erroneous

- Istotretinoin to treat acne
- Thalidomide to treat severe aphtosis
- Women at risk of using product without proper information

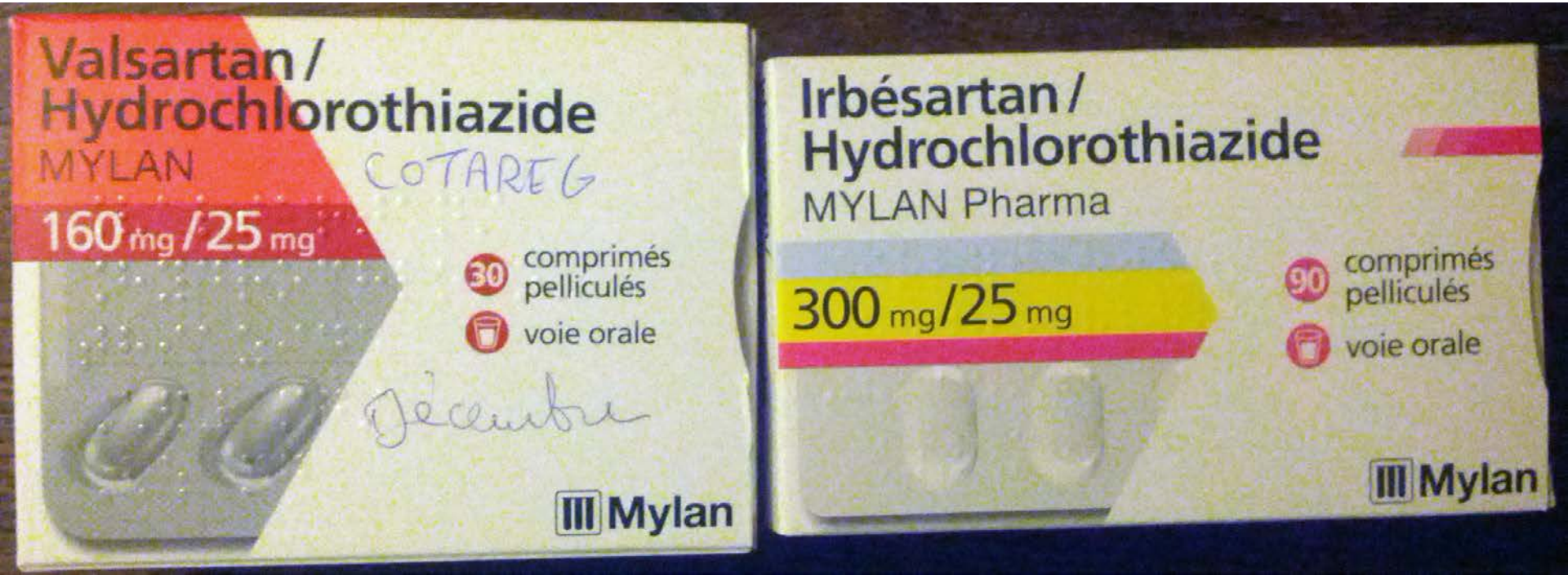
? Do we always educate people never to share medicines with others?

Always read the notice!

Always keep pills inside their box!

1. Respect indication, don't share with others
2. Don't take if contra-indicated
3. Be aware of situations that change terms of use
4. Adapt lifestyle
5. Respect dose, intake frequency, treatment duration, timing…
6. Contact HCP if ADR
7. Always be vigilant

In one's medicine cabinet



Two adults, one cabinet: each adult often takes the wrong tablet as both packs are kept together and look alike

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Loose pills: which is what?

What time?
With or without food?
Etc.

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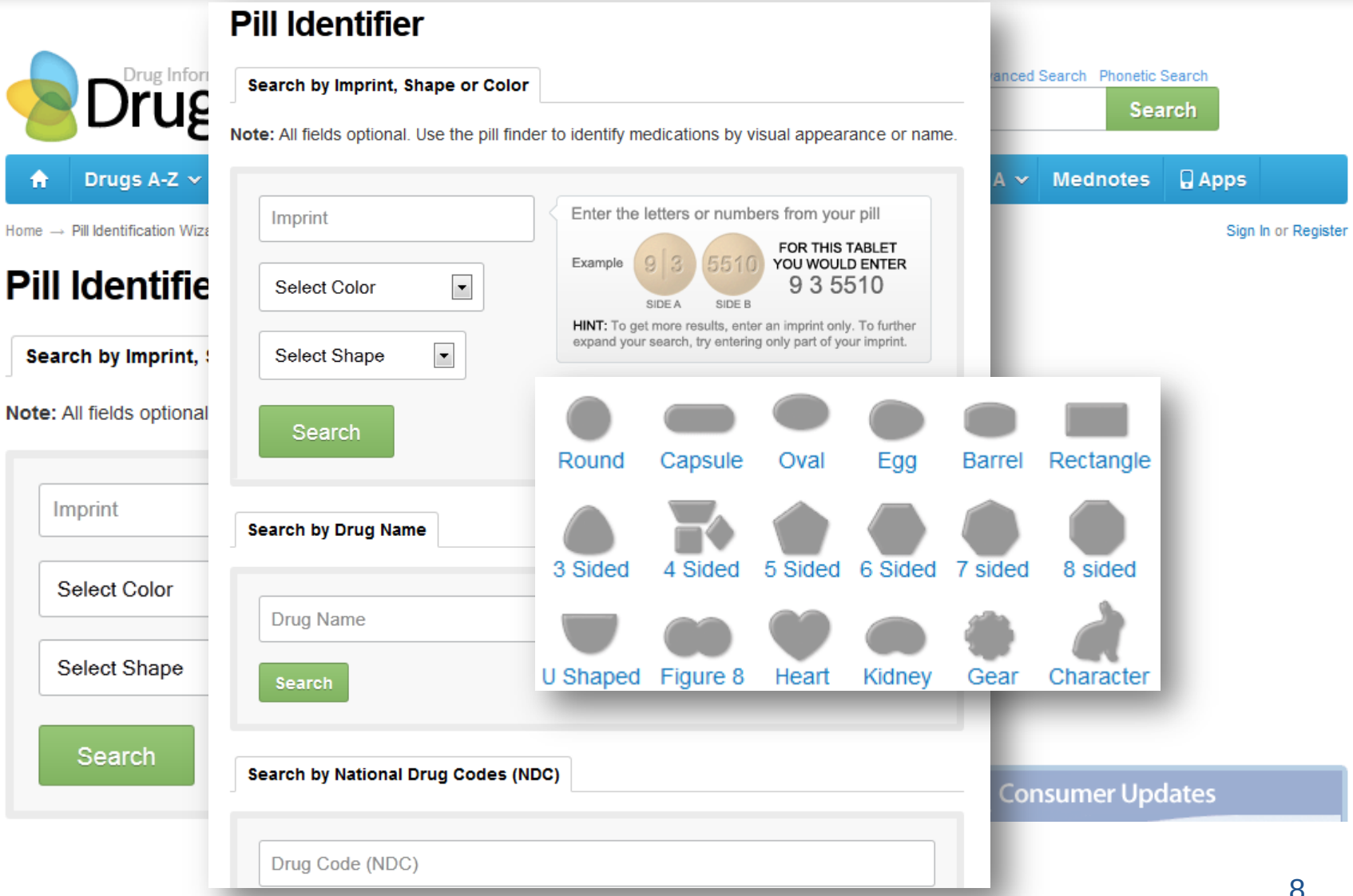
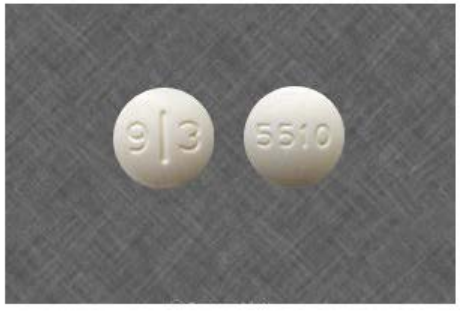
Sites that can help



Result

Images & Information



Mercaptopurine

Imprint:
9 3
5510

Strength:
50 mg

Color:
Yellow

Size:
9.00 mm

Shape:
Round

Availability:
Prescription only

Drug Class:
Antimetabolites

Pregnancy Category:
D - Positive evidence of risk

CSA Schedule:
N - Not a controlled drug

Manufacturer:
Teva Pharmaceuticals USA

National Drug Code (NDC):
00093-5510

Inactive Ingredients:
corn starch
potato starch
lactose
magnesium stearate
stearic acid

View Details | Print Page

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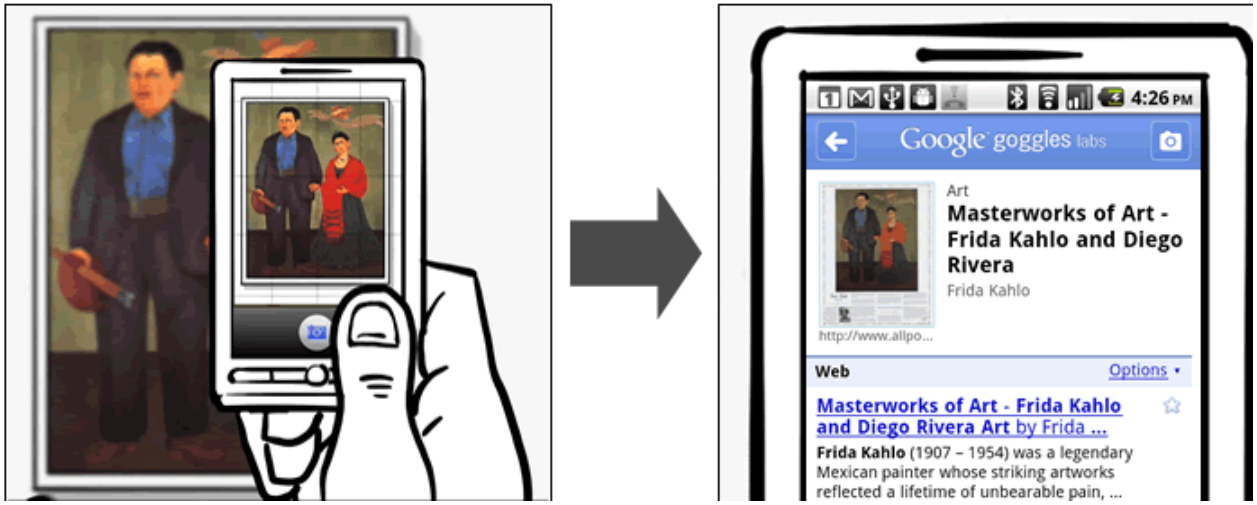
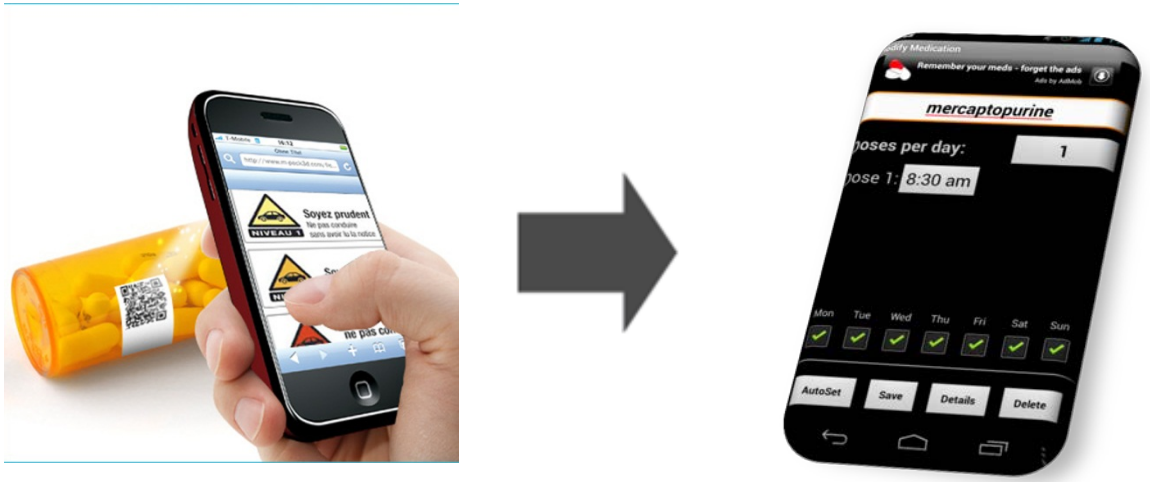
Or





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A patient says

- I take up to 80 mg a day depending on symptoms
- The tablets come in various dose amounts
- I used to take two or three 5 mgs a day now I take 1 mg 3 times a day
- The blister packs that the medication is contained within are identical even the colour and you have to look carefully at the packet to see which dose it is
- If you are vision-impaired it is more of a problem and you can easily take the wrong tablet
- When you use them and pop a tablet out then it is harder to distinguish what the writing on the blister pack says as it has been broken up

Why not a tablet-free zone?

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Graphic design and Company corporate identity

- Contains:
  - Zidovudine
  - Lamivudine
  - Abacavir: 8% risk of potentially life-threatening hypersensitivity reaction. Never re-challenge

- Contains:
  - Zidovudine
  - Lamivudine

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Graphic design and Company corporate identity

THE BODY®
The Complete HIV/AIDS Resource

Home | What's New | Ask the Experts | Blogs | Connect | Just Diagnosed | Treatme

Tweet | Recommend

Email | Print-Friendly | Glossary | PDF

An Apparent Third-Party Tampering Issue -- GSK Community Statement

From GlaxoSmithKline

March 29, 2007

Dear Community Member,

We would like to call to your attention an apparent third-party tampering that caused misbranding of Ziagen® (abacavir sulfate) Tablets as Combivir® (lamivudine and zidovudine) Tablets and employed counterfeit labels for Combivir Tablets. Both Combivir and Ziagen are medicines used as part of combination regimens to treat HIV infection.

If patients have bottles of Combivir Tablets, they should immediately examine the contents of each bottle of Combivir to confirm that it does indeed contain tablets of Combivir. The Combivir and Ziagen tablets are easily distinguishable. Combivir is a white capsule-shaped tablet engraved with "GX FC3" on one side; the other side of the tablet is plain. Ziagen is a yellow capsule-shaped tablet engraved with "GX 623" on one face; the other side is plain. (See photos below of Combivir and Ziagen).

http://www.thebody.com/content/art40466.html

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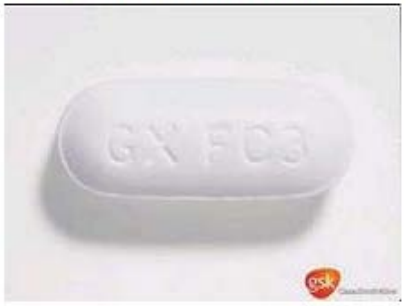
Inconsistent choices

Combivir bottle: yellow colour

Combivir bottle

Ziagen box

Combivir Tablet -- engraved side



Ziagen Tablet -- engraved side

Combivir Tablet -- back side

Ziagen Tablet -- back side

But the yellow tablets are abacavir tablets

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Among thousands, some medical apps can help

HIV iChart

Developer:

University of Liverpool *[UK-based university]*
eMedFusion *[UK- and USA-based app developer and advertising agency]*

Android: http://bit.ly/NUFnA8
Apple: http://bit.ly/a1FZWY
Blackberry: –
Nokia: –
Windows Phone: –
Other weblinks: –
Languages: English
Number of languages: 1
Countries of use: Any in which the user is familiar with English

Summary:

Provides people with HIV/AIDs with up-to-date information on potential drug interactions between HIV drugs and other drugs that the individual may be prescribed (also covers over-the-counter, recreational, and alternative medications). Results are presented as a 'traffic-light' system of red, amber, or green. A brief summary of the interaction is given, along with a grading of the quality of evidence (very low; low; moderate; or high). The app is offline after being downloaded to the user's device, and does not need an Internet connection during operation (except to download regular updates).

H-Bookmark

Developer:

Network Persone Sieropositive (NPS) Italia Onlus *[Italy-based patient group specialising in HIV/AIDS]*

Android: http://bit.ly/N77yZ0
Apple: http://bit.ly/T0ZTzN
Blackberry: http://bit.ly/Rt7ffE
Nokia: –
Windows Phone: –
Other weblinks: http://bit.ly/MOEiLP
Languages: Italian
Number of languages: 1
Countries of use: Italy, Switzerland (parts of)

Summary:

App for people living with HIV/AIDS. Provides a daily planner, with a schedule of appointments, consultations, tests, and treatments, and supplies notification of when events are due, and when medication must be taken. Issues reminders when medication is running low. Lists antiretroviral drugs, detailing properties and ingredients. A database of centres for infectious diseases in Italy can be searched by name, region or province. Also holds information on restrictions faced by people living with HIV/AIDS who travel to different countries in the world. A 'Help me' facility relies on the phone's GPS to text friends and relatives of the exact location if help is needed.

FarmaciaPlus

Developer:

Logica Informatica srl *[Italy-based computer service company]*

Android: –
Apple: http://bit.ly/MkJXbl
Blackberry: –
Nokia: –
Windows Phone: –
Other weblinks: –
Languages: Italian
Number of languages: 1
Countries of use: Italy, Switzerland (parts of)

Cost: €9.99

Summary:

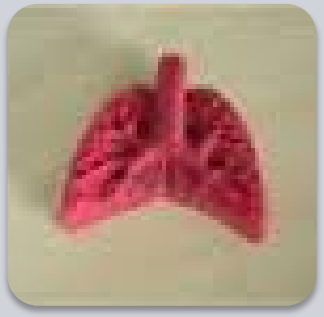
A catalogue of 80,000 formulations of 18,000 drugs available in Italy (and Europe), searchable by characters, types of medicine, manufacturer, side effects, interactions, and others. 'Favorites' can be grouped into custom categories. Information on each drug includes: name; therapeutic indications; active ingredients; interactions; effects on driving, lactation, and pregnancy; side effects; the presence of gluten; preclinical safety data; precautions for storage; period of validity; nature and contents of container, etc. Updated every three months. Only available to people aged over 17.

Shapes can help

Heart diseases

Bone diseases

Kidney diseases



Lung diseases

Other ideas…

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HAS reports (www.has-sante.fr)

- New technologies can decrease medication errors by 30 to 80% (1)
- Double-checking decreases administration errors by 70% (2)
- Simple control at all stages reduces medication errors by 80% (3)
- A informed patient can intercept 3% of errors (4)

1. Hodgkinson B, Koch S, Nay R. Strategies to reduce medication errors with reference to older adults. Int J Evid Based Healthc 2006;(4):2-41.
2. McDowell SE, Mt-Isa S, Ashby D, Ferner RE. Where errors occur in the preparation and administration of intravenous medicines: a systematic review and Bayesian analysis. Qual Saf Health Care 2010;19(4):341-5.
3. Bonnabry P. Intérêts et limites des technologies de l'information dans la sécurisation du circuit du médicament. MAS en pharmacie hospitalière, Lausanne, 29 septembre 2010. http://pharmacie.hug-ge.ch/ens/conferences/pb_MAS_IT10.pdf
4. Grasha AF. Understanding medication errors. A cognitive systems approach. Medscape Educ 2001.

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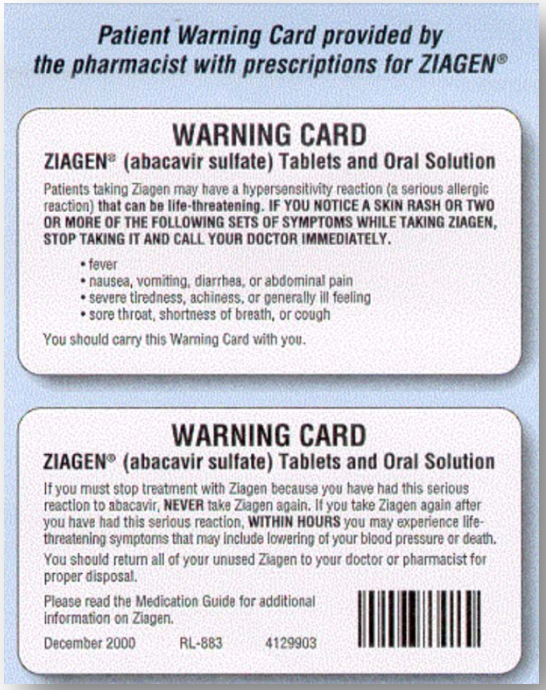
Popular measures

EPAR ANNEX Thalidomide CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTION WITH REGARD TO THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE MEMBER STATES

- Treatment initiation forms
  - There should be 3 types of treatment initiation forms:
    - Female patient of childbearing potential
    - Female patient of non-childbearing potential
    - Male patient



Patient Warning Card provided by the pharmacist with prescriptions for ZIAGEN®

WARNING CARD

ZIAGEN® (abacavir sulfate) Tablets and Oral Solution

Patients taking Ziagen may have a hypersensitivity reaction (a serious allergic reaction) **that can be life-threatening. IF YOU NOTICE A SKIN RASH OR TWO OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SETS OF SYMPTOMS WHILE TAKING ZIAGEN, STOP TAKING IT AND CALL YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY.**

- fever
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain
- severe tiredness, achiness, or generally ill feeling
- sore throat, shortness of breath, or cough

You should carry this Warning Card with you.

WARNING CARD

ZIAGEN® (abacavir sulfate) Tablets and Oral Solution

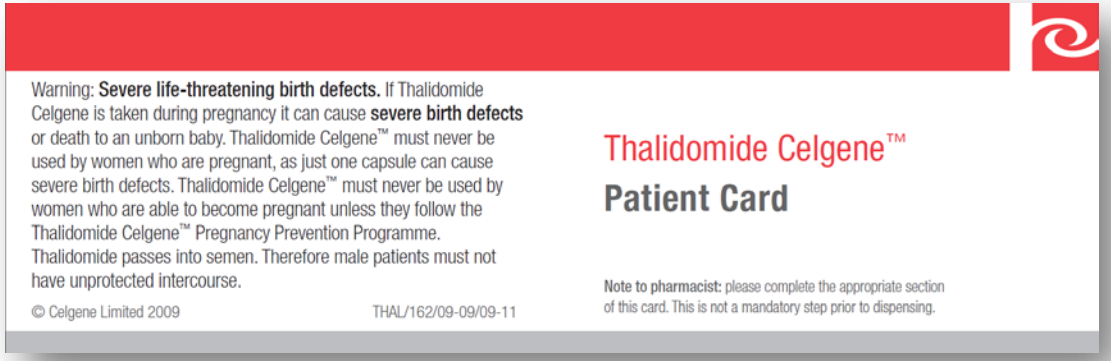
If you must stop treatment with Ziagen because you have had this serious reaction to abacavir, **NEVER** take Ziagen again. If you take Ziagen again after you have had this serious reaction, **WITHIN HOURS** you may experience life-threatening symptoms that may include lowering of your blood pressure or death.

You should return all of your unused Ziagen to your doctor or pharmacist for proper disposal.

Please read the Medication Guide for additional information on Ziagen.

December 2000 RL-883 4129903

  - All treatment initiation forms should contain the following elements:
    - Teratogenicity warning
    - Date of counselling
    - Affirmation of patient understanding regarding the risk of thalidomide and the PPP measures.
    - Patient details, signature and date
    - Prescriber name, signature and date
    - Aim of this document i.e. as stated in the PPP: "The aim of the treatment initiation form is to protect patients and any possible foetuses by ensuring that patients are fully informed of and understand the risk of teratogenicity and other adverse reactions associated with the use of thalidomide. It is not a contract and does not absolve anybody from his/her responsibilities with regard to the safe use of the product and prevention of foetal exposure."



Warning: **Severe life-threatening birth defects.** If Thalidomide Celgene is taken during pregnancy it can cause **severe birth defects** or death to an unborn baby. Thalidomide Celgene™ must never be used by women who are pregnant, as just one capsule can cause severe birth defects. Thalidomide Celgene™ must never be used by women who are able to become pregnant unless they follow the Thalidomide Celgene™ Pregnancy Prevention Programme. Thalidomide passes into semen. Therefore male patients must not have unprotected intercourse.

© Celgene Limited 2009 THAL/162/09-09/09-11

Thalidomide Celgene™

Patient Card

Note to pharmacist: please complete the appropriate section of this card. This is not a mandatory step prior to dispensing.

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For those who can’t read

- Voice labeling system that allows users to record, and re-record information onto self-adhesive labels
- Recognises sound
- Instantly plays back the recordings

Suggestions to patients and others

- Medicines cabinet at home: one per person
- EudraPharm and other sites: pill identifier
- Patient education: never share drugs (EUPATI)
- ∃ issue: specific graphic design for package
- Special shapes, colours… for drugs at risk
- Package leaflets also for inpatients !

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Eurordis Drug Information Transparency and Access 'DITA' task force members

- Claudie Baleydier, Friedreich Ataxia, FRA
- Greetje Goossens, Myeloma Patients Europe, BEL
- Juan Fuertes, Primary Pulmonary Hypertension, SPA
- Ellen van Veldhuizen, Addison Disease Org., NLD
- Rainald von Gizycki, Pro Retina, GER
- Danijela Szili, Rett synd., HUN
- François Houÿez, Anne-Mary Bodin, EURORDIS, Paris
- Rob Camp, EURORDIS, SPA
- Lise Murphy, Marfan syndrome, SWE
- Oliver Timmis, Alkaptonuria Society, GBR
- Christine Lavery, Muco-polysaccharidosis Society, GBR
- Philip Bloom, Myeloma Patients Europe, FRA
- Dragomir Slavev, Thalassemia org. , BLG
- Richard West, Behcet Society, GBR

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Thank you.