

Evidence Based Medicine (EBM).....	i	Landmark Outcome Trials: Glycemic Control & Prevention.....	30a
CARDIOLOGY		new Lipids/ASA/BP.....	30b
5yr CVD Risk Assessment Tool.....	1	new Overview & Approach to Type 2 Diabetes.....	30c
Antihypertensives		Obesity	
ACE Inhibitors & ARBs.....	2	Weight Loss <i>Drugs</i>	31
Beta Blockers.....	3	Weight Loss: <i>Herbal Products</i>	32-33
Calcium Channel Blockers.....	4	Thyroid: Hypo & Hyperthyroid Chart	34-35
Diuretics & Misc. Antihypertensives.....	5	new Women's: Hirsutism, idiopathic.....	36
Antihypertensives Summary - Guidelines & Trials.....	6-9	GASTROINTESTINAL	
Antiplatelets & Antithrombotics.....	10-11	Crohn's & Ulcerative Colitis.....	37-39
new Atrial Fibrillation.....	11a-c	GERD & Peptic Ulcer Disease: <i>Evidence & Chart</i>	40-41
Heart Failure.....	12-13	H. Pylori.....	42
Lipid Landmark Trials.....	14	Irritable Bowel Syndrome.....	43
Lipid Lowering Agents.....	15	Nausea & Vomiting Management.....	44-45
MI: Post MI.....	16	Various OTC (<i>see OTC GI: Dyspepsia, Constipation, Diarrhea</i>)	
QT Prolongation & Torsades de Pointes:.....	17	GENITOURINARY	
DERMATOLOGY		Erectile Dysfunction.....	46
Various OTC (<i>see OTC Acne, Fungal, Dermatitis, Plantar Warts & Head Lice</i>)		Sexual Dysfunction.....	47
Acne Treatment.....	18-19	Urinary Incontinence.....	48-49
Topical Corticosteroids.....	20	INFECTIOUS DISEASES	
EENT (<i>Eye/Ear/Nose/Throat</i>)		Adult Vaccines.....	50
Various OTC (<i>see OTC Congestion, Cough, Cold & Allergy</i>)		Antifungals.....	51-53
Glaucoma (Topical Treatments).....	21	Anti-Infectives for Common Infections.....	54-55
Intranasal Corticosteroids.....	22	Anti-Infectives Oral.....	56-57
ENDOCRINE & METABOLIC		new Hepatitis: A,B,C,D,E.....	57a-d
Andropause: Testosterone Replacement.....	23	HIV.....	58-59
Diabetes		Influenza.....	60
Antihyperglycemic (Oral Hypoglycemics).....	24-25	Malaria Prophylaxis <i>Newsletter</i>	61
Glucose: Self Monitoring (SMBG) Tips.....	26	Pneumonia: Community Acquired (CAP).....	62
Insulin Delivery Devices: Pens.....	27	Pneumonia: Fine Severity Risk & CURB-65.....	63
Insulin Management: Chart & Clinical Tips.....	28-29	Urinary Tract Infections in Adults.....	64

MUSCULOSKELETAL & CONNECTIVE TISSUE

Back Pain Treatment Options.....	65
Chronic Non-Cancer Pain	66-67
Gout.....	68
NSAIDs & Other Analgesics (<i>see OTC Pain Relief Chart</i>)	69
Opioids	70
new Opioids, Pain Approaches: Acute vs Palliative vs CNCP	70a-b
Osteoporosis	72-73
Pediatric Pain Treatment Considerations.....	71
Rheumatoid Arthritis: DMARDs	74

NEUROLOGY

Alzheimer's/Dementia	75-77
new Anticholinergic Drug List.....	77a
new Elderly/Long Term Care: Pearls for Prescribing.....	77b
Essential Tremor & Restless Legs Syndrome.....	78
Multiple Sclerosis.....	79
Migraine: Acute & Prophylaxis.....	80-81
Parkinson's.....	82-83
Seizures: Antiepileptics.....	84-85

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

Contraception	
Oral Contraceptive	86-87
Other Hormonal Birth Control	88
Menopause	
Postmenopausal Herbal Therapy.....	89
Postmenopausal Drug Therapy.....	90
new Peri-Pregnancy Drug Considerations.....	91a-b

OVER THE COUNTER (OTC) & HERBAL MEDICATIONS

Cold-fx, Glucosamine & Lakota Herbal Products.....	91
OTC Herbal Drug Interactions.....	92-93
Congestion; Cough; Cold; Allergy.....	94
GI: Dyspepsia, Constipation & Diarrhea; Pain relief.....	95
Acne; Fungal; Dermatitis.....	96
Plantar Warts; Head Lice & Vitamins.....	97

PSYCHIATRY

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.....	98-99
Anxiety Disorders	
Antianxiety Agents.....	100
Benzodiazepines.....	101
Bipolar Disorder: Mood Stabilizers.....	102-3
Depression	
Antidepressants.....	104-5
Antidepressant Drug Interactions.....	106
Hypersexuality Treatment Options.....	107
Schizophrenia: Antipsychotics.....	108-9
Sleep Disorders: Sedatives.....	110-11

RESPIRATORY

Asthma & COPD	
Pharmacotherapy.....	112-13
Inhalational Devices.....	114

SMOKING CESSATION

Smoking Cessation Chart.....	115
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MISCELLANEOUS

Cannabinoids: Overview.....	116
Canadian Health Agencies & Regulatory Environment.....	117
CKD Anemia Landmark Trials.....	118-19
Erythropoietin Comparison.....	120
Iron Replacement.....	121
Phosphate Binder.....	121a-b
new Palliative Care.....	121c-d
Patient Safety: Medication Issues.....	122
RxFiles Program, Academic Detailing Overview.....	123
Substance Abuse Chart.....	124-5
Transplantation Chart.....	126-7

INDICES

Newsletters & Q&A's.....	128
Drug, Disease & Trial.....	129-38
Abbreviations & Symbols.....	139

Other Online EBM Resources/Links:



EBM Portal **Links** (SK):

http://web.mac.com/malees/Primary_Care_Portal/EBM.html; Evidence Updates service: <http://plus.mcmaster.ca/EvidenceUpdates/Default.aspx>

General: U of T: <http://www.cebm.utoronto.ca/>; Oxford: <http://www.cebm.net/?o=1011>; McMasters: How to teach evidence based clinical practice – **Links**: <http://hsl.mcmaster.ca/ebcp/>. Dynamed: www.ebscohost.com/dynamed/

User's Guide: UofA, Centre for Health Evidence: <http://www.cche.net/usersguides/main.asp>; UBC: <http://www.ti.ubc.ca/>; Grey Literature Searching: <http://www.cadth.ca/index.php/en/cadth/products/grey-matters>

SchHARR Intro to Evidence Based Practice (Sheffield, UK) <http://www.shf.ac.uk/scharr/ir/netting/>; BMJ – Clinical Evidence **Links**: http://clinicalevidence.bmj.com/ceweb/resources/useful_links.jsp; NNTs <http://www.thennt.com/>

Clinical significance **CALCULATORS**: UBC: <http://spph.ubc.ca/sites/healthcare/files/calc/clinSig.html>; Wisconsin: <http://intsmain.is.mcw.edu/clinical/bayes.html>; Essential Evidence Plus: <http://www.essentialevidenceplus.com/>

Dalhousie Katie Clinical Significance Calculator: <http://ktcalc.cme.dal.ca/site/login.php>

RxFiles – Select Trial Summaries (more available online at www.RxFiles.ca)

Diabetes: Landmark Trials **Summary**: Glucose: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/CHT-Diabetes-Landmark-Trials-Links.pdf>

Landmark Trials **Summary**: NON-Glucose: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/members/CHT-DIABETES-Landmark-Trials-Non-Glucose.pdf>

ACCORD-ADVANCE Comparison: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Diabetes-A1C-ACCORD-vs-ADVANCE-COMPARISON.pdf>

ACCORD-BP & LIPID: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/ACCORD-BP-Lipid-Trial-Overview.pdf>

ACCORD: Glucose <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Diabetes-Targets-ACCORD-A1C.pdf>

ADVANCE: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Diabetes-ADVANCE-trial.pdf>

AVANDIA & CV risk – Meta-analysis: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Diabetes-Avandia-CV-Meta-Comments.pdf>

DREAM: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Dream-QandA.pdf>

RECORD: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Diabetes-RECORD-Trial-Summary.pdf>

Hypertension: **Summary** Table: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/HTN-LandmarkHypertensionTrials.pdf>

ACCOMPLISH: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/HTN-QandA-Accomplish.pdf>

ALLHAT: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/HTN-Update-2003-Final.pdf>

ANBP2: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/HTN-QandA-ANBP2.pdf>

ASCOT-BPLA: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/HTN-QandA-ASCOT.pdf>

Trial Summary table - abridged: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/members/cht-htn-trial-summary.pdf>

HF: CHARM: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/CHARM-Comments.pdf>

Hirsutism: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/members/Hirsutism%20Tria%20Summary.pdf>

HRT: WHI: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/HRT-Post-WHI-2002-Header.pdf>

WHI & Age: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/HRT-Age-and-the-WHI.pdf>

WHI & Extras/Perspectives on NNTs, NNHs: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/HRT-WHI-Extras-Perspectives.pdf>

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<http://www.cebm.utoronto.ca/teach/materials/caworksheets.htm>

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& Q&A 2004: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Lipid-QandA-Update-Oct04.pdf>

AIM-HIGH: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Lipid-AIM-HIGH-nicotinic-acid-Niaspan-trial.pdf>

ASCOT-LLA: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Lipid-QandA-ASCOT.pdf>

CARDS: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Lipid-QandA-CARDS.pdf>

ENHANCE: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Lipid-ENHANCE-trial-overview.pdf>

IDEAL: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Lipid-QandA-IDEAL.pdf>

JUPITER: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Lipid-Jupiter-trial-overview.pdf>

DREAM-IT: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Lipid-QandA-Prove-It.pdf>

SHARP: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Lipid-Sharp-CKD-trial.pdf>

SPARCL: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Lipid-QandA-SPARCL.pdf>

Thrombotic (antithrombotics): ASA, clopidogrel, anticoagulants: warfarin :

ACTIVE-A & ACTIVE-W trials <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/ACTIVE-A-Trial-Summary.pdf>

Antithrombotics Summary Chart: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/members/cht-AntiThrombotics.pdf>

CHARISMA: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Charisma-Q&A.pdf>

Clopidogrel-PPI drug interaction: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Clopidogrel-PPI-interaction-QandA.pdf>

RE-LY: Dabigatran vs warfarin in Atrial Fibrillation <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/RE-LY-Trial-Dabigatran.pdf>

ROCKET-AF: Rivaroxaban vs warfarin in A Fib: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/ROCKET-AF-Rivaroxaban.pdf>

ARISTOTLE: Apixaban vs warfarin in A Fib: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/ARISTOTLE-AF-Apixaban.pdf>

MISC.:

Catie AD: Atypical Antipsychotics in Patients with Alzheimer's <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Psych-CATIE-AD-trial-summary.pdf>

Meloxicam: SELECT, MELISSA; *celecoxib* CLASS, *rofecoxib* VIGOR.; <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/QandA-Meloxicam-2.pdf>

OAB: Darifenacin-Oxybutynin Memory Trial : <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/UI-Darifenacin-Kay-Trial-QandA.pdf>

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2009 Canadian -10yr risk of Cardiovascular (CVD) disease (based on Framingham Heart Study).

RISK*	MEN										WOMEN															
AGE	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+						
Age points	0	2	5	7	8	10	11	12 or 13	14	15	0	2	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12						
TOTAL CHOL <4.1 mmol/l																										
4.1-5.2																										
5.2-6.2																										
6.2-7.2																										
≥7.2																										
HDL mmol/l	<0.9		0.9-1.2		1.2-1.3		1.3-1.6		≥1.6		<0.9		0.9-1.2		1.2-1.3		1.3-1.6		≥1.6							
	+2		+1		0		-1		-2		+2		+1		0		-1		-2							
SYSTOLIC BP	Not Treated					Treated					Not Treated					Treated										
<120	-2					0					-3					-1										
120-129	0					2					0					2										
130-139	1					3					1					3										
140-159	2					4					2					5										
≥160	3					5					4					7										
SMOKER																										
No																										
Yes	0										0															
	4										3															
Diabetic																										
No																										
Yes	0										0															
	3										4															
TOTAL POINTS																										
POINTS	MEN: actual 10yr CVD risk %													WOMEN actual 10yr CVD risk %												
<3	-2-1	2-3	4-5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13-14	15-16	>17	<-2	-1-2	3-5	6-7	8-9	10	11	12	13	14-15	16-17	18-20	≥21
<1% (10yr % Risk→)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	11	13	15-18	21-25	>29	<1% (10yr % Risk→)	1	2	3	4-5	6	7	8	10	11-13	15-18	21-27	≥30

Guidelines use "13" but this appears to be an error; should be "12" based on reference.

Key: Low risk <10% Moderate risk 10-19% High risk ≥20%

*Risk assessments based on Framingham data; other risk factors such as family history of CAD (2x CAD 10yr risk %=actual risk %), physical inactivity, obesity & left ventricular hypertrophy should also be considered.

Patients with High risk→ ALL pts with CAD,CVD,PAD; most with DIABETES ^{♂-45yr,♀-50yr, younger with risk factors} & chronic renal dx ^{GFR <30ml/min} regardless of risk score.

- Cardiac Risk Tools: 1) www.statcoder.com 2) www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines 3) <http://www.framinghamheartstudy.org/>
 4) **Reynold Risk Score** (also incorporates family cardiac history & CRP results, but is based on non-diabetic individuals) <http://www.reynoldsriskscore.org/>
 5) **Cardiovascular Life Expectancy Model Risk Score** (also incorporates family cardiac history) <http://www.chiprehab.com/>

For suggested lipid targets, see bottom of page 15 on the RxFiles Lipid chart.

Comparative 10yr CAD % risks by AGE	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74yr
Males	Low risk % →	2%	3	4	4	6	7	9	14
	Average risk % →	3%	5	7	11	14	16	21	30
Females	Low risk % →	<1%	<1	2	3	5	7	8	8
	Average risk % →	<1%	<1	2	5	8	12	13	14

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³ Canadian Hypertension Society -2011 Canadian Hypertension Recommendations Working Group-downloadable Summary & Slides: www.hypertension.ca

Canadian Hypertension Education Program. 2011 CHEP recommendations for the management of hypertension.

http://hypertension.ca/chepp/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/FullCHEPRecommendations_EN_2011.pdf

ACCF American College of Cardiology Foundation / AHA American Heart Association 2011 – Hypertension in the Elderly: <http://circ.ahajournals.org/cgi/reprint/CIR.0b013e31821daaf6>

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Canadian 2003 Diabetes Guidelines <http://www.diabetes.ca/cpg2003/download.aspx> (Meltzer S, Leiter L, Daneman D, et al 1998. Clinical practice guidelines for the management of diabetes in Canada. CMAJ 1998;159 (8 Suppl).)

Additional articles of interest for CV Risk:

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ACE INHIBITOR (ACEI) / ANGIOTENSIN II RECEPTOR BLOCKER (ARB): Comparison Chart

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FDA June/10 June 14, 2010 (Washington, DC) — The FDA is conducting a safety review of the angiotensin receptor blocker **olmesartan** (Benicar, Daiichi Sankyo) after determining that diabetic patients taking the drug in two completed phase 3 trials may have had an excess risk of **cardiovascular death**, the regulatory body has announced [1]. The safety announcement says that the FDA's review is "ongoing, and the agency has not concluded that Benicar increases the risk of death. FDA currently believes that the benefits of Benicar in patients with high blood pressure continue to outweigh its potential risks." The agency also notes that "other controlled clinical trials evaluating Benicar and other ARBs have not suggested an increased risk of cardiovascular-related death." The primary end points of the two trials were dominated by measures of renal function. In the Randomized Olmesartan and Diabetes Microalbuminuria Prevention (ROADMAP) study, conducted in Europe, 4447 patients with diabetes and at least one additional cardiovascular risk factor, but no evidence of renal dysfunction, were randomized to receive either olmesartan at 40 mg/day (n=2232) or placebo (n=2215). The trial, sponsored by Sankyo Pharma, ended in July 2009 [2]. In the Olmesartan Reducing Incidence of End Stage Renal Disease in Diabetic Nephropathy Trial (ORIENT), conducted in Japan and Hong Kong, 566 patients with diabetes and renal dysfunction were randomized to receive olmesartan at 10 mg/day to 40 mg/day (n=282) or placebo (n=284).

FDA June/11 Food and Drug Administration drug safety: **No increase in risk of cancer** with certain blood pressure drugs—**angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs)**. June 2, 2011. <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm257516.htm>

FDA Apr/12 notified healthcare professionals of possible risks when using blood pressure medicines containing aliskiren with other drugs called angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (ACEIs) and angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) in patients with diabetes or kidney (renal) impairment. (Altitude study)

Ferrari R; Perindopril and Remodeling in Elderly with Acute Myocardial Infarction Investigators. Effects of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibition with perindopril on left ventricular remodeling and clinical outcome: results of the randomized Perindopril and Remodeling in Elderly with Acute Myocardial Infarction (**PREAMI**) Study. *Arch Intern Med*. 2006 Mar 27;166(6):659-66.

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Gillespie EL, White CM, Kardas M, et al. The impact of ACE inhibitors or angiotensin II type 1 receptor blockers on the development of new-onset type 2 diabetes. *Diabetes Care*. 2005 Sep;28(9):2261-6. CONCLUSIONS: ACEIs or ARBs may decrease patients' odds of developing new-onset type 2 diabetes but does not reduce the odds of mortality, cardiovascular, or cerebrovascular outcomes over the study follow-up periods among patients with hypertension.

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2008 Nov;101(5):495-9. Limited evidence suggests that for patients who develop angioedema when taking an ACE-I, the risk of development of any subsequent angioedema when taking an ARB is between 2% and 17%; for confirmed angioedema, the risk is 0% to 9.2%.

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Health Canada Jan/12 **RASILEZ** (aliskiren) and **RASILEZ HCT** (aliskiren/hydrochlorothiazide) - Potential Risks of Cardiovascular and Renal Adverse Events in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes - Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. The combination of **aliskiren with ACE inhibitors and ARBs is now contraindicated in patients with type 2 diabetes**. The Product Monograph will be updated accordingly.

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Julius S, et al.; Trial of Preventing Hypertension (**TROPHY**) Study. Feasibility of treating prehypertension with an ARB (candesartan) *N Engl J Med*. 2006 Apr 20;354(16):1685-97. Epub 2006 Mar 14. (see also PharmLetter May06.) (InfoPOEMs: This study tells us what we already know (that is, that blood pressure medications reduce blood pressure), but says nothing about what really matters: Does intervention in patients with prehypertension improve patient-oriented outcomes? The choice to study such an expensive drug is also disappointing, but not surprising. Given that the number needed to treat [NNT] to prevent 1 stroke, heart attack, or death in patients with mild hypertension is 140 for 5 years (<http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier/index.html>), it is likely that the actual clinical benefit of treating prehypertension is even smaller. (LOE = 1b))

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BETA-BLOCKER (BB): Comparison Chart

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October 28, 2010 (Chicago, Illinois) — Propranolol, an old drug being used off label, is an effective way to reduce vision-threatening **periocular infantile hemangiomas**, according to a study presented here at the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology 2010 Joint Meeting. "[Oral] propranolol is not a common treatment used by ophthalmologists, but it may be now," said David Plager, MD, who presented the findings. "It gives impressive results." Dr. Plager is professor of ophthalmology and director of the Section of Pediatric Ophthalmology at Indiana University in Indianapolis. Propranolol, an oral beta blocker, "looks to be a very promising addition to our treatment armamentarium," Dr. Plager told Medscape Medical News. *J AAPOS*. 2010;14:251-256. Abstract

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CALCIUM CHANNEL BLOCKER (CCB): Comparison Chart

- ¹ Major Outcomes in High-Risk Hypertensive Patients Randomized to [Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitor or Calcium Channel Blocker vs Diuretic](#). The Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial (**ALLHAT**). The ALLHAT Officers and Coordinators for the ALLHAT Collaborative Research Group. *JAMA*. 2002;288:2981-2997.
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Additional articles:

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Jones AG, Evans PH, Vaidya B. **Phaeochromocytoma**. *BMJ*. 2012 Feb 20;344:e1042.

Jung S-Y, Choi N-K, Kim J-Y, et al. **Short-acting nifedipine and risk of stroke** in elderly hypertensive patients. *Neurology* 2011;77:1229-1234.

Juraschek SP, Guallar E, Appel LJ, Miller ER 3rd. Effects of **vitamin C supplementation** on blood pressure: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Am J Clin Nutr*. 2012 May;95(5):1079-88.

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Kessler CS, Joudeh Y. Evaluation and treatment of **severe asymptomatic hypertension**. *Am Fam Physician*. 2010 Feb 15;81(4):470-6.

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Lakoski SG, Greenland P, Wong ND, et al. **Coronary Artery Calcium Scores** and Risk for Cardiovascular Events in Women Classified as "Low Risk" Based on Framingham Risk Score: The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA). *Arch Intern Med*. 2007 Dec 10;167(22):2437-42. The presence of CAC in women considered to be at low risk based on FRS was predictive of future CHD and CVD events. Advanced CAC identified a subset of low-risk women at higher risk based on current risk stratification strategies.

Lenestral R, Olausson PO, Kallen B. **Maternal use of antihypertensive drugs in early pregnancy** and delivery outcome, notably the presence of heart defects in the infants. *Eur J Clin Pharmacol* 2009;65:615-25.

Law M R, Morris J K, Wald N J et al. Use of blood pressure lowering drugs in the prevention of cardiovascular disease: meta-analysis of 147 randomised trials in the context of expectations from prospective epidemiological studies. *BMJ* 2009;338:b1665, doi: 10.1136/bmj.b1665 (Published 19 May 2009) With the exception of the extra protective effect of **β blockers given shortly after a myocardial infarction and the minor additional effect of calcium channel blockers in preventing stroke**, all the classes of blood pressure lowering drugs have a similar effect in reducing CHD events and stroke for a given reduction in blood pressure so excluding material pleiotropic effects.

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Lip GY, Felmeden DC, Dwivedi G. **Antiplatelet agents and anticoagulants** for hypertension. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2011 Dec 7;12:CD003186. Antiplatelet therapy with ASA for primary prevention in patients with elevated blood pressure provides a benefit, reduction in myocardial infarction, which is negated by a harm of similar magnitude, increase in major haemorrhage. The benefit of antiplatelet therapy for secondary prevention in patients with elevated blood pressure is many times greater than the harm. Benefit has not been demonstrated for warfarin therapy alone or in combination with aspirin in patients with elevated blood pressure.

Lopez-Garcia E, et al. **Coffee** consumption and coronary heart disease in men and women: a prospective cohort study. *Circulation*. 2006 May 2;113(17):2045-53. Epub 2006 Apr 24. (InfoPOEMs: There is no evidence that coffee consumption increases the likelihood that someone will develop heart disease. (LOE = 2b))

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Antihypertensives: Landmark & Recent Trials – Summary

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Extra, extra, extra....read if you want to....Other information....

Risk Stratification Schemes Use to Predict Warfarin-Associated Hemorrhage

Risk Scheme (publication year)	Risk Factors	Risk Category	Points	Major Bleeding Rates in Validation Cohorts	Comment
ATRIA Risk Score ²⁴ (2011) Adults with nonvalvular, nontransient atrial fibrillation on warfarin & enrolled in Kaiser Permanente of Northern California	Anemia (3 points) Severe renal disease=eGFR<30mL/min (3 points) Age ≥ 75 yrs (2 points) Any prior hemorrhage diagnosis (1 point) Diagnosed Hypertension (1 point)	Low Intermediate High	0-3 4 5-10	0.72%/yr 2.71%/yr 5.99%/yr	Clinical risk factors based on computerized databases Anemia not defined Simple to use Data on ethanol abuse, drug abuse, aspirin, OTCs, & genetic factors not available
RIETE risk scheme ²⁵ (2008) Developed in patients with acute venous thromboembolism	Recent major bleeding (<15 days before thrombotic event) (1.5 points) Creatinine>106 mmol/L (1.5 points) Anemia (1.5 points) Malignancy (1 point) Clinically overt pulmonary embolism (1 point) Age > 75 yrs (1 point)	Low Intermediate High	0 1-4 >4	0.1% at 3 months 2.8% at 3 months 6.2% at 3 months	
HEMORR ₂ HAGES ²⁶ (2006) Developed in hospitalized Medicare patients with atrial fibrillation discharged on warfarin	Hepatic or renal disease (1 point) Ethanol abuse (1 point) Malignancy (1 point) Older age > 75 yrs (1 point) Reduced platelet count or function (1 point) Rebleeding risk (2 points) Hypertension (1 point) Anemia (1 point) Genetic factors (1 point) Excessive fall risk or neuropsychiatric disease (1 point) Stroke (1 point)	Low Intermediate High	0-1 2-3 ≥4	1.9-2.5%/yr 5.3-8.4%/yr 10.4-12.3%/yr	
Shireman et al. ⁴⁸ (2006) Developed in hospitalized Medicare patients with atrial fibrillation discharged on warfarin	Age ≥ 70 yrs Female Remote bleeding event Alcohol or drug abuse Diabetes mellitus Anemia (Hct<30% during index hospitalization) Antiplatelet drugs (aspirin, clopidogrel, or ticlopidine at discharge) Risk score = 0.49 (age ≥ 70) + 0.32 (female) + 0.58 (remote bleed) + 0.62 (recent bleed) + 0.71 (alcohol/drug abuse) + 0.25 (diabetes) + 0.86 (anemia) + 0.32 (antiplatelet use)	Low Intermediate High	≤ 1.07 1.07-2.18 ≥2.19	0.9% within 90 days 2.0% within 90 days 5.4% within 90 days	Complicated risk score formula
Kearon et al. ⁴⁹ (2003) Developed in patients with acute venous thromboembolism enrolled in clinical trial. Risk score categories developed & validated by Gage et al.	Age ≥ 65 yrs (1 point) Prior stroke (1 point) Prior peptic ulcer disease (1 point) Prior GI bleeding (1 point) Creatinine > 141 mmol/L (1 point) Anemia or thrombocytopenia (1 point) Liver disease (1 point) Diabetes mellitus (1 point) Antiplatelet therapy (1 point)	Low Intermediate High	0-1 2 3 ≥4	2.5%/yr 6.5%/yr 9.3%/yr 15.3%/yr	
Kuijjer et al. ⁵⁰ (1999) Developed in patients with acute thromboembolism	Age>60 yrs (1.6 points) Female (1.3 points) Malignancy (2.2 points)	Low Intermediate High	0 1-2.9 ≥3	0.6% at 3 months 2% at 3 months 7% at 3 months	
Outpatient Bleeding Index ⁵¹ (1998) Developed in patients newly starting warfarin after hospital discharge	Age≥65 yrs (1 point) Prior stroke (1 point) Prior GI bleeding (1 point) Recent MI, diabetes mellitus, hematocrit < 30%, creatinine > 141 mmol/L (1 point if any of the above)	Low Intermediate High	0 1-2 3-4	3%/yr 8%/yr 30%/yr	

eGFR=estimated glomerular filtration rate, RIETE=Registro Informatizado de la Enfermedad TromboEmbolica

Bleeding risk ↑ as anti-thrombotic intensity ↑. Antithrombotics listed from lowest to highest bleeding risk: (note: based on extrapolated data from different studies & different populations)

1) ASA 75-325mg daily or clopidogrel 75mg daily alone, 2) ASA 75-325mg daily + clopidogrel, 3) apixaban 5mg BID (but ↑ bleed in ACS pts) or dabigatran 110mg BID, 4) dabigatran 150mg BID, rivaroxaban 20mg daily or warfarin.

ROCKET-AF, ARISTOTLE & RELY: Comparison Tables of Baseline Characteristics (Adapted with permission from M.Louie, PharmD)

Baseline	Age median	Male	HTN	DM	Prior TIA/S	Prior MI	Time _{spent} INR 2-3	CHADS ₂ (mean)	Trial design	n	Follow up
Dabigatran 110mg bid	71.5	63.3%	78.9%	23.2%	20%	16.5%	64% (mean)	2.1	RCT Open blinded assessment	18k	2 yr
Dabigatran 150mg bid								2.2			
Rivaroxaban 20mg od	73	60%	90.5%	39.5%	55%	17.5%	55% (mean)	3.4	RCT DB DD	14k	1.94 yr
Apixaban 5mg bid	70	65%	87.5%	25%	19.4%	14.2%	62% (mean)	2.1	RCT DB DD	18k	1.8 yr

ROCKET-AF, ARISTOTLE & RELY: Comparison Table of Results

Results	Stroke or systemic embolism	Ischemic stroke	Hemorrhagic stroke	All cause death	MI/ACS	Major bleed	Intra-cranial bleed	GI bleed	Discontinue rate
Dabigatran 110 vs warf	NSS 3.0vs3.3%	NSS 2.6vs2.4%	0.2vs0.7% RR 0.31	NSS 7.4vs8.1%	NSS 1.4vs1.0%	5.4vs6.6% RR 0.81	0.4vs1.4% RR 0.31	NSS 2.2vs2.0%	20.7vs16.6%
Dabigatran 150 vs warf	2.2vs3.3% RR 0.67	1.8vs2.4% RR 0.77	0.2vs0.7% RR 0.26	NSS 7.2vs8.1%	1.5vs1.0% RR 1.40?	NSS 6.2vs6.6%	0.6vs1.4% RR 0.41	3.0vs2.0% RR 1.5	21.2vs16.6%
Rivaroxaban vs warf	3.8vs4.3% RR 0.88 _{pp}	NSS 2.1vs2.3%	0.4vs0.7% RR 0.58	NSS 2.9vs3.5%	NSS 1.4vs1.8%	NSS 5.6vs5.4%	0.8vs1.2% RR 0.66	NSS 3.2vs2.2%	23.9vs22.4%
Apixaban vs warf	2.3vs2.9% RR 0.80	NSS 1.8vs1.9%	0.4vs0.9% RR 0.51	6.6vs7.4 RR 0.90	NSS 1.0vs1.1%	3.6vs5.1% RR 0.70	0.6vs1.3% RR 0.42	NSS 1.2vs1.3%	25.3vs27.5%

ROCKET-AF, ARISTOTLE & RELY: Comparison Table of NNT & NNH

NNT NNH	Stroke or systemic embolism	Ischemic stroke	Hemorrhagic stroke	All cause death	MI/ACS	Major bleed	Dyspepsia	GI bleed	Antidote
Dabigatran 110 vs warf			192			77	17 11.8vs5.8%		?
Dabigatran 150 vs warf	88	132	182		239-284?		18 11.3vs5.8%	100	?
Rivaroxaban vs warf	135 _{pp}		333						Octaplex
Apixaban vs warf	167		238	132		67			Octaplex?

Concluding comments:

Dabigatran (RELY)

RELY has been criticized for its open label design. Tolerance is an issue with the higher discontinuation rates than warfarin driven by dyspepsia. The tartaric acid in the formulation is likely driving the increased dyspepsia rates. Although not statistically significant after re-analysis, the increasing trend for MIs is worrisome. The 150mg dosage has the best NNT for the stroke and systemic embolism, hemorrhagic stroke and the only statistically significant NNT for ischemic stroke. The 110mg dosage may be appropriate for those at high risk for major bleeding.

Rivaroxaban (ROCKET-AF)

The trial design was superior to RELY in that it was double blinded with sham INR for both comparator and control groups. Their patient population was also sicker with CHADS₂ score mean of 3.4 compared to 2.1-2.2 from RELY. However, a criticism has been that the time within TTR (INR2-3) for the warfarin group was only 55%, which is lower than RELY and ROCKET-AF. This is understandable because sicker patients are more difficult to dose to TTR with warfarin. Also rivaroxaban was shown to be non-inferior to warfarin for the intention to treat analysis and was only superior in the per protocol group. As far as efficacy for the primary endpoint, it could be considered second to last before dabigatran 110mg dosage.

Apixaban (ARISTOLE)

This drug reduced all cause mortality compared to warfarin, which is already a very efficacious drug. This endpoint trumps the other two trials. On the safety side there is 30% less major bleeding (a combination of less intracranial and a decreasing trend for GI bleeds). It has not yet been approved in Canada or the US for stroke prevention in AF patients.

Recommendations for the prevention of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation

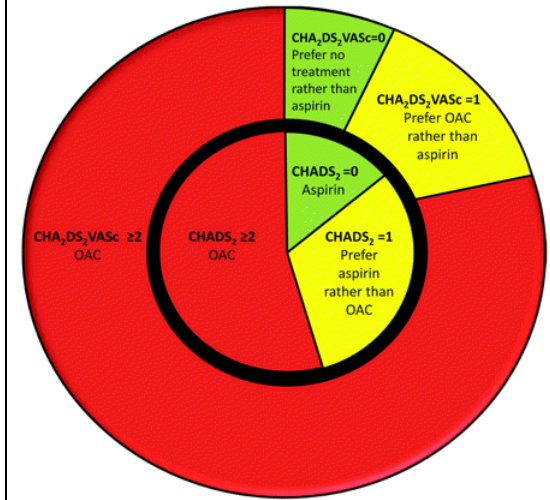


Figure. Recommendations for the prevention of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation. The inner circle represents treatment recommendations based on the use of the CHADS₂ score, as in US guidelines. The outer circle represents recommendations based on the CHA₂DS₂-VASc model, as outlined in the European guidelines, which advise anticoagulant therapy in a larger proportion of patients with atrial fibrillation. Bleeding risk assessment is recommended for patients at intermediate stroke risk (yellow-shaded area), with particular caution and regular patient review for those on warfarin therapy when the HAS-BLED (hypertension, abnormal renal/liver function, stroke, bleeding history or predisposition, labile international normalized ratio, elderly, drugs/alcohol concomitantly) score is ≥3. For patients at very high risk of bleeding (eg, those with malignant hypertension or prior episodes of major bleeding), conservative monitoring without treatment should be considered. OAC indicates oral anticoagulation.

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Management of Recent-Onset AF & Flutter in the Emergency Department (ED):⁵²

- Rate-control vs. Rhythm Control Treatment (Tx)
- Rate Control Tx = ventricular rate control, oral anticoagulation, no attempt to return the patient to sinus rhythm in the ED, & delayed cardioversion after 4 weeks, if indicated
- Rhythm Control Tx = cardiovert patients to sinus rhythm in ED (pharmacologically or electrically), then discharge home in sinus rhythm

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54. Gage BF, van Walraven C, Pearce L, et al. Selecting patients with atrial fibrillation for anticoagulation: Stroke risk stratification in patients taking aspirin. *Circulation* 2004; 110:2287-92. (InfoPOEMs: Clinical decision rules, especially the well-validated Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation (SPAF) score, can help identify which groups of patients with atrial fibrillation are likely and unlikely to benefit from anticoagulation. (LOE = 1a) If the risk of stroke is low (< 2%), the harms of anticoagulation generally outweigh the benefits. If the risk of stroke is high (> 4%), the benefits of anticoagulation outweigh the risks for most pts. If the patient's stroke risk is in between both extremes, we have to look carefully at his or her risk for hemorrhage.)
55. Sabatine MS, et al. Addition of Clopidogrel to Aspirin and Fibrinolytic Therapy for Myocardial Infarction with ST-Segment Elevation (**CLARITY-TIMI 28**). *N Engl J Med*. 2005 Mar 9; [Epub] (N=3491, Groups: Plavix 300mg x1 then 75mg od (median **4 doses** given) until angiography vs placebo had 30 day mortality of less than 5%, age <75yr, **excluded high bleeding risk pts**, few CABG performed, thus select pts were studied, mechanism may be to prevent reocclusion) (InfoPOEMs: Adding clopidogrel to aspirin and fibrinolytic therapy during the first week in patients with ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction reduces the likelihood of recurrent myocardial infarction and ischemia leading to revascularization over a 30-day period (number needed to treat = 15). The short-term risk of major bleeding was low. This trial does not address how long patients should continue to take clopidogrel after the first week of treatment. (LOE = 1b)) (Sabatine MS, Cannon CP, Gibson CM, et al.; Clopidogrel as Adjunctive Reperfusion Therapy (CLARITY)-Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction (TIMI) 28 Investigators. Effect of clopidogrel pretreatment before percutaneous coronary intervention in patients with ST-elevation myocardial infarction treated with fibrinolytics: the **PCI-CLARITY** study. *JAMA*. 2005 Sep 14;294(10):1224-32. Epub 2005 Sep 4. CONCLUSIONS: Clopidogrel pretreatment significantly reduces the incidence of cardiovascular death or ischemic complications both before and after PCI and without a significant increase in major or minor bleeding. These data add further support to the early use of clopidogrel in STEMI and the strategy of routine clopidogrel pretreatment in patients undergoing PCI. (InfoPOEMs: Pretreatment with clopidogrel before percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease complications without increasing the risk of bleeding complications. This study only followed patients for 30 days after the intervention, so further long-term studies are needed before a general recommendation can be made. (LOE = 1b-)) (Scirica BM, et al. The role of clopidogrel in early & sustained arterial patency after fibrinolysis for ST-segment elevation MI: the ECG CLARITY-TIMI 28 Study. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2006 Jul 4;48(1):37-42. Epub 2006Jun 12.)
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136. Effects of Fondaparinux on Mortality and Reinfarction in Patients With Acute ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction: The **OASIS-6** Randomized Trial. *JAMA.* 2006 Mar 14; [Epub ahead of print] CONCLUSION: In patients with STEMI, particularly those not undergoing primary percutaneous coronary intervention, **fondaparinux** significantly reduces mortality & reinfarction without increasing bleeding and strokes. (InfoPOEMs: Fondaparinux (Arixtra) reduces the risk of mortality and reinfarction without increasing the risk of severe bleeding events in patients with acute ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction. Patients undergoing primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) received no additional benefit from fondaparinux compared with unfractionated heparin (UFH). (LOE = 1b-)) Mehta SR, et al.; ASPIRE Investigators. Randomized, blinded trial comparing fondaparinux with unfractionated heparin in patients undergoing contemporary percutaneous coronary intervention: Arixtra Study in Percutaneous Coronary Intervention: a Randomized Evaluation (ASPIRE) Pilot Trial. *Circulation.* 2005 Mar 22;111(11):1390-7.
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- Abciximab reduces the risk of adverse events in patients with non-ST-segment elevation ACS undergoing PCI after pretreatment with 600 mg of clopidogrel. The benefits provided by abciximab appear to be confined to patients presenting with an **elevated troponin level**.
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Brain Natriuretic Peptide (BNP) has diagnostic value for both types of HF and is recommended where available, when diagnosis is unclear. The use of BNP in non-acute HF and community outpatient practice remains to be clarified.³

Table: Brain natriuretic peptide (BNP mainly secreted by ventricular myocardium) & prohormone of BNP (NT-proBNP longer half life, affected by renal fx) assay cut-off points for the diagnosis of HF³

	Age	HF unlikely	HF possible but consider alternative diagnoses	HF very likely
BNP (pg/mL)	All	<100	100-500	>500
NT-proBNP (pg/mL)	<50	<300	300-450	>450
	50-75	<300	300-900	>900
	>75	<300	300-1800	>1800

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In conclusion, the present analysis adds support to the concept that for patients with established atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, a further risk reduction without sacrifice of safety can be achieved by reducing LDL cholesterol to very low levels. (Barter P, Gotto AM, LaRosa JC, Maroni J, et al; Treating to New Targets Investigators (TNT). HDL cholesterol, very low levels of LDL cholesterol, and cardiovascular events. *N Engl J Med*. 2007 Sep 27;357(13):1301-10. In this post hoc analysis, HDL was predictive of major cardiovascular events in patients treated with statins. This relationship was also observed among patients with LDL cholesterol levels below 70 mg per deciliter.) Wenger NK, Lewis SJ, Welty FK, Herrington DM, Bittner V. Beneficial effects of aggressive LDL cholesterol lowering in women with stable coronary heart disease in the Treating to New Targets (TNT) study. *Heart*. 2007 Dec 10; [Epub ahead of print] Conclusion Intensive lipid-lowering treatment with atorvastatin 80 mg produced significant reductions in relative risk for major cardiovascular events compared with atorvastatin 10 mg in both women and men with stable CHD. Shepherd J, Kastelein JJ, et al.; TNT (Treating to New Targets) Investigators. Intensive lipid lowering with atorvastatin in patients with coronary heart disease and chronic kidney disease: the TNT (Treating to New Targets) study. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2008 Apr 15;51(15):1448-54. [PubMed - in process] Aggressive lipid lowering with atorvastatin 80 mg was both safe and effective in reducing the excess of cardiovascular events in a high-risk population with CKD and CHD. Shepherd J, Kastelein JP, Bittner VA, Carmena R, Deedwania PC, Breazna A, Dobson S, Wilson DJ, Zuckerman AL, Wenger NK; Treating to New Targets Steering Committee and Investigators. Intensive lipid lowering with atorvastatin in patients with coronary artery disease, diabetes, and chronic kidney disease. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2008 Aug;83(8):870-9. The absolute risk reduction in patients with diabetes and CKD was substantial, yielding a number needed to treat of 14 to 14 to prevent 1 major cardiovascular event over 4.8 years. Patients with diabetes, stable coronary artery disease, and mild to moderate CKD experience marked reduction in cardiovascular events with intensive lipid lowering, in contrast to previous observations in patients with diabetes and end-stage renal disease. Bangalore S, Messerli FH, Wun CC, et al. Treating to New Targets Steering Committee and Investigators. 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46. InfoPOEMs July, 2005. More adverse events with rosuvastatin than other statins. Bottom line: The United States Federal Drug Administration (FDA), Health Canada, and European regulators have recently issued advisories to physicians regarding higher doses of rosuvastatin. These data -- though inherently limited by their voluntary nature and the possibility of reporting bias-- lend credence to concerns that rosuvastatin is less safe than other statins. It is also the only statin for which we do not have patient-oriented outcome data. (**LOE = 2c**). *Circulation* 2005;111:3051-57.

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Abourbih S, Filion KB, Joseph L, Schiffrin EL, Rinfret S, Poirier P, Pilote L, et al. Effect of fibrates on lipid profiles and cardiovascular outcomes: a systematic review. *Am J Med.* 2009 Oct;122(10):962.e1-8. Epub 2009 Aug 19.

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Afilalo J, Duque G, Steele R, et al. Statins for secondary prevention in elderly patients. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2008;51:37-45. The posterior median estimate of the number needed to treat to save 1 life was 28 (95% CI 15 to 56).

CONCLUSIONS: Statins reduce all-cause mortality in elderly patients and the magnitude of this effect is substantially larger than had been previously estimated. (InfoPOEMs: Treating 28 elderly patients with coronary heart disease (CHD) for 5 years will prevent 1 of them from dying during that period. For every 38 people treated for 5 years, 1 nonfatal myocardial infarction will be prevented; for every 58 patients treated for 5 years, 1 stroke will be prevented. (LOE = 1a))

Afilalo J, Majdan AA, Eisenberg MJ. Intensive statin therapy in acute coronary syndromes and stable coronary heart disease: a comparative meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials. *Heart* 2007;93(8):914-921.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=1727734_9&opt=Abstract> Intensive statin therapy will decrease overall mortality rates compared with lower doses in patients with a recent history of acute coronary syndrome (ACS) but not in patients with stable coronary heart disease. However, 80 patients must be treated to prevent 1 additional death over 2 years. Intensive treatment decreases overall hospital admissions for heart failure in both groups and decreases major cardiac events in pts with stable coronary heart disease, but, again, the results are not striking. (LOE = 1a)

Amend KL, Landon J, Thyagarajan V, Niemcryk S, McAfee A. Incidence of Hospitalized Rhabdomyolysis with Statin and Fibrate Use in an Insured US Population (October). *Ann Pharmacother.* 2011 Sep 13. The number needed to harm was lower for combination statin-gemfibrozil therapy (2753) compared with that for statin therapy alone (454,545).

AIM-HIGH: National Institutes of Health. NIH stops clinical trial on combination cholesterol treatment [press release]. May 26, 2011. Available [here](#). A trial of extended-release niacin (Niaspan, Abbott) given in addition to statin therapy in patients with a history of cardiovascular disease, high triglycerides, and low levels of HDL cholesterol has been halted prematurely, 18 months ahead of schedule, because niacin offered no additional benefits in this patient population. There was also a small, unexplained increase in ischemic stroke (1.6 vs 0.7%) in the high-dose, extended-release niacin group, in the [Atherothrombosis Intervention in Metabolic Syndrome with Low HDL Cholesterol/High Triglyceride and Impact on Global Health Outcomes](#) (AIM-HIGH) study, according to a statement from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), which sponsored it. N=3414, 32months. AIM-HIGH enrolled 3,414 participants in the US and Canada with a history of cardiovascular disease, low HDL cholesterol, and high triglycerides, who were all prescribed simvastatin and who were also randomized to either high-dose, extended-release niacin in gradually increasing doses up to 2000 mg per day (n=1718) or placebo (n=1696). Of the participants, 515 were given a second LDL-cholesterol-lowering drug, ezetimibe (Zetia, Merck/Schering-Plough), in order to maintain LDL-cholesterol levels at the target range between 40 and 80 mg/dL.

AIM-HIGH investigators. Niacin in patients with low HDL cholesterol levels receiving intensive statin therapy. *N Engl J Med*2011; DOI:10.1056/oa1107579.

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Available at: <http://content.onlinejacc.org>. Risk of statin-associated elevated liver enzymes or rhabdomyolysis is not related to the magnitude of LDL-C lowering. However, the risk of cancer is significantly associated with lower achieved LDL-C levels.

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FDA June/11: Food and Drug Administration drug safety communication: New restrictions, contraindications, and dose limitations for Zocor (simvastatin) to reduce the risk of muscle injury. June 8, 2011. Limit using the 80-mg dose unless the patient has already been taking the drug for 12 months and there is no evidence of myopathy.

FDA Nov/11 notified healthcare professionals the cholesterol-lowering medicine Trilipix (fenofibric acid) may not lower a patient's risk of having a heart attack or stroke.

FDA Feb/12 has approved important safety label changes for the class of cholesterol-lowering drugs known as statins. The changes include removal of routine monitoring of liver enzymes from drug labels. Information about the potential for generally non-serious and reversible cognitive side effects and reports of increased blood sugar and glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c) levels has been added to the statin labels. The lovastatin label has been extensively updated with new contraindications and dose limitations when it is taken with certain medicines that can increase the risk for muscle injury.

FDA Mar/12 notified healthcare professionals of updates to the prescribing information concerning interactions between protease inhibitors (HIV & HCV) and certain statin drugs. Protease inhibitors and statins taken together may raise the blood levels of statins and increase the risk for muscle injury (myopathy/ rhabdomyolysis).

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QT PROLONGATION and TORSADES DE POINTES: DRUGS and SUDDEN DEATH

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- FDA Nov/10 is requesting that manufacturers of the painkiller **propoxyphene** pull the drug from the market because of concerns over cardiotoxicity. (Propoxyphene is marketed alone as Darvon & combined with acetaminophen as Darvocet.) The agency's request is based on data showing that, even when taken at therapeutic doses, the drug can lead to potentially dangerous changes in the heart's electrical activity, including prolonged PR & QT intervals & widened QRS complex. FDA advises clinicians to stop prescribing propoxyphene and to ask current users to discontinue the drug. [FDA's MedWatch alert](#)
- FDA Dec/10 The injectable form of dolasetron mesylate (Anzemet) should not be used to prevent nausea or vomiting related to chemotherapy because the drug increases the risk for torsade de pointes, the FDA announced on Friday. The FDA recommends against using Anzemet injections in patients with congenital long-QT syndrome. The warning does not apply to Anzemet tablets because the risks for developing an abnormal heart rhythm are not as high as with the injections. [FDA MedWatch alert](#) (Free)
- FDA July/11 FDA has added a warning to the label of the atypical antipsychotic quetiapine (Seroquel) cautioning about potential increases in the QT interval. Postmarketing cases of QT prolongation have been reported in some 17 patients, according to the *New York Times*. These patients had overdosed on quetiapine, had other illnesses, or were taking other medications that can cause electrolyte imbalance or QT prolongation.
- FDA Aug/11 The antidepressant citalopram (marketed as Celexa) should not be prescribed at doses above 40 mg/day because higher dosages can cause arrhythmias, the FDA has warned.
- FDA Sep/11 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is informing the public of an ongoing safety review of the anti-nausea drug

17

- Zofran (ondansetron, ondansetron hydrochloride and their generics). Ondansetron may increase the risk of developing abnormal changes (QT prolongation & torsades) in the electrical activity of the heart.
- Health Canada Aug/10 **Droperidol** Injection USP is associated with severe arrhythmia (eg. QT) and the Canadian Monograph of this product has been updated to reflect this risk.
- Health Canada Nov/10 **Darvon-N (dextropropoxyphene) - Recall and Withdrawal in Canada** - Paladin Labs Inc. Paladin Labs Inc. in collaboration with Health Canada would like to inform healthcare professionals of the voluntary recall and withdrawal of the opioid analgesic Darvon-N (dextropropoxyphene) in Canada. (widen the QRS complex, prolong the QT interval and therefore increase the risk of serious abnormal heart rhythms.)
- Health Canada Feb/12 has recently approved vandetanib (CAPRELSA) to treat medullary thyroid cancer in adult patients where either the tumour cannot be removed by surgery or it has spread from the thyroid gland to other parts of the body. CAPRELSA can cause serious QT heart rhythm changes which may result in sudden death, if left untreated.
- Health Canada Mar/12: **Domperidone** should be used at the lowest possible dose. The risk of serious ventricular arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death may be higher in patients taking daily doses greater than 30 mg, and in patients over 60 years old.
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- Recommendation 1 (Disclosure): Clinicians should inform patients of arrhythmia risk when they prescribe methadone. Recommendation 2 (Clinical History): Clinicians should ask patients about any history of structural heart disease, arrhythmia, and syncope. Recommendation 3 (Screening): Obtain a pretreatment electrocardiogram for all patients to measure the QTc interval and a follow-up electrocardiogram within 30 days and annually. Additional electrocardiography is recommended if the methadone dosage exceeds 100 mg/d or if patients have unexplained syncope or seizures. Recommendation 4 (Risk Stratification): If the QTc interval is greater than ms but less than 500 ms, discuss the potential risks and benefits with patients and monitor them more frequently. If the QTc interval exceeds 500 ms, consider discontinuing or reducing the methadone dose, eliminating contributing factors, such as drugs that promote hypokalemia, or using an alternative therapy. Recommendation 5 (Drug Interactions): Clinicians should be aware of interactions between methadone and other drugs that possess QT interval-prolonging properties or slow the elimination of methadone.
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- MHRA Dec/11 **Citalopram and escitalopram** are associated with dose-dependent QT interval prolongation and should not be used in those with: congenital long QT syndrome; known pre-existing QT interval prolongation; or in combination with other medicines that prolong the QT interval. ECG measurements should be considered for patients with cardiac disease, and electrolyte disturbances should be corrected before starting treatment. For citalopram, new restrictions on the maximum daily doses now apply: 40 mg for adults; 20 mg for patients older than 65 years; and 20 mg for those with hepatic impairment. For escitalopram, the maximum daily dose for patients older than 65 years is now reduced to 10 mg/day; other doses remain unchanged.
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Other acne drugs

<p>Salicylic Acid = SA^T* Oxy, Clearasil, Neutrogena, others Gels, lotions, toners, cleansers, sticks, pads, washes & astringents 0.5, 1, 2 & 3.5%</p> 	<p>Common: less irritating than BP, burning, stinging, pruritus & erythema Serious: rare systemic salicylate toxicity: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, loss of hearing, lethargy, psychic disturbances & hyperpnea ?protect from sun</p> <p>8-12 weeks for noted improvement</p>	<p>✓Used with topical retinoids to treat mild comedonal acne or 2nd line monotherapy agent³ (also for seborrhea & psoriasis) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not commonly recommended (less potent than equal strength BP) ⚠: ↑ skin irritation or drying effect: Abrasive or medicated soaps or cleansers; Acne preps (e.g., BP, Resorcinol, Sulfur, Tretinoin); alcohol-containing topicals (After-shave lotions, perfumed toiletries, cosmetics/soaps with a strong drying effect); Isotretinoin OD or BID, 3-6% is keratolytic , OTC: \$10-15</p>
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Additional info:

AADA Nov/10 American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA) updated its position statement on the use of isotretinoin. <http://www.aad.org/forms/policies/Uploads/PS/PS-Isotretinoin.pdf>

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Health Canada Sept/07 is advising consumers not to use BuXie PaiDu XiaoDou Su is used as an acne treatment and was found to contain the prescription drug rifampicin (rifampin).

Health Canada Feb/10 Accutane has been associated with cases of severe skin reactions (e.g. toxic epidermal necrolysis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and erythema multiforme).

iPLEDGE (The **iPLEDGE program**) is a computer-based risk management program designed to further the public health goal to eliminate fetal exposure to isotretinoin through a special restricted distribution program approved by the FDA. The program strives to ensure that: No female patient starts isotretinoin therapy if pregnant & No female patient on isotretinoin therapy becomes pregnant. This enhanced program is a SINGLE pregnancy risk management program for prescribing and dispensing all isotretinoin products (brand and generic products). The iPLEDGE program requires registration of all wholesalers distributing isotretinoin, all healthcare professionals prescribing isotretinoin, all pharmacies dispensing isotretinoin, and all male and female patients prescribed isotretinoin. This program is designed to create a verifiable link between the negative pregnancy test and the dispensing of the isotretinoin prescription to the female patient of childbearing potential. The iPLEDGE program requires that all patients meet qualification criteria and monthly program requirements. Before the patient receives his/her isotretinoin prescription each month, the prescriber must counsel the patient and document in the iPLEDGE system that the patient has been counseled about the risks of isotretinoin. There are also additional qualification criteria and monthly requirements for female patients of childbearing potential. As part of the ongoing risk management of isotretinoin products, it is crucial that a female of childbearing potential selects and commits to use two forms of effective contraception simultaneously for one month before, during, and for one month after isotretinoin therapy. She must have 2 negative urine or blood (serum) pregnancy tests with a sensitivity of at least 25 mIU/ml before receiving the initial isotretinoin prescription. The first pregnancy test is a screening test and can be conducted in the prescriber's office. The second pregnancy test must be done in a CLIA-certified laboratory according to the package insert. Each month of therapy, the patient must have a negative result from a urine or blood (serum) pregnancy test conducted by a CLIA-certified laboratory prior to receiving each prescription. <https://www.ipledgeprogram.com/>

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November 8, 2006 -- Medicis and Dow Pharmaceutical Sciences, Inc. announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") has approved Ziana(TM) (clindamycin phosphate 1.2% and tretinoin 0.025%) Gel. Ziana(TM) Gel is the first and only combination of clindamycin and tretinoin approved for once daily use for the topical treatment of acne vulgaris in patients 12 years or older.

November 8, 2006 -- QLT Inc. announced positive results of a Phase IV clinical trial of Aczone(TM) dapsone in more than 50 patients with G6PD deficiency that was performed to meet a post-approval commitment requested by the FDA. Mar/08 FDA removes G6PD screening & labeling requirements from the label. June 6/08 /CNW/ - QLT Inc. (NASDAQ: QLT; TSX: QLT) announced today that Health Canada has completed its review of QLT USA, Inc.'s labeling supplement (SNSD) for Aczone(R) and has **removed** the glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) screening and blood monitoring requirements.

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Williams Hywel C, Dellavalle Robert P, Garner Sarah. Acne vulgaris. www.thelancet.com Published online August 30, 2011

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Web sites:

American Academy of Dermatology www.skincarephysicians.com/acnenet/FAQ.html www.aad.org/public/publications/pamphlets/common_acne.html?media=print

Medline Plus www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tutorials/acne/htm/index.htm

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases www.niams.nih.gov/Health_Info/Acne/default.asp

EXTRAS:

Eczema in Children – NICE guideline approach <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&oi=11636>

Tx Escalator ⇅			Systemic treatment
			Phototherapy
		Bandages	Bandages
		Topical calcineurin inhibitors	Topical calcineurin inhibitors
	Mild potency corticosteroids	Mild potency corticosteroids	Mild potency corticosteroids
	emollients	emollients	emollients
	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Atopic eczema severity			

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Relative Absorption	
<i>Forearm</i>	<i>1.0</i>
<i>Sole</i>	<i>0.14</i>
<i>Back</i>	<i>1.7</i>
<i>Scalp</i>	<i>3.5</i>
<i>Forehead</i>	<i>6.0</i>
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>13.0</i>
<i>Scrotum</i>	<i>42.0</i>

Cushing Syndrome (pituitary-adrenal axis suppression):

- 50g of 0.05% clobetasol/wk or
- 500g of 1% hydrocortisone/wk
- in infants: a little as 1g/day x several days may ↓ HPA

Topical Corticosteroids: Comparison Chart

¹ American Hospital Formulary System (AHFS) Drug Information 2009.

² Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy 1999 (<http://www.merck.com/pubs/mmanual/tables/110tb1.htm> access verified May 27, 2003)

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⁵ Brazzini B, Pimpinelli N. New & established topical corticosteroids in dermatology: clinical pharmacology and therapeutic use. *Am J Clin Dermatol*. 2002;3(1):47-58.

⁶ Korting HC, Unholzer A, Schafer-Korting M, Tausch I, Gassmueller J, Nietsch KH. Different skin thinning potential of equipotent medium-strength glucocorticoids. *Skin Pharmacol Appl Skin Physiol*. 2002 Mar-Apr;15(2):85-91.

⁷ FDA Issues Public Health Advisory Informing Health Care Providers of Safety Concerns Associated with the Use of Two Eczema Drugs, Elidel and Protopic Mar 10, 2005 <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/ANSWERS/2005/ANS01343.html> April/05 Health Canada http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/protection/warnings/2005/2005_31.html **CDA response:** http://www.dermatology.ca/public-patients/atopic-dermatitis/calcineurin_e.php

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Medscape Mar 18, 2010 - Drugs for eczema made by Novartis AG and Astellas Pharma may need their warning labels expanded after dozens of new reported cases of cancer and infection in children, U.S. Food and Drug Administration staff said in documents released on Thursday. Agency scientists said **46 cancer cases and 71 infection** cases have been reported in patients aged 16 and younger from 2004 to 2008 with Novartis' Elidel and Astellas' Protopic. Both drugs -- also known as pimecrolimus and tacrolimus respectively -- already carry strong warnings about cancer and infection, but officials should consider expanding them to include the new post-marketing reports, they wrote.

Menter A, Korman NJ, Elmets CA, Feldman SR, Gelfand JM, Gordon KB, Gottlieb A, Koo JY, Lebwohl M, Lim HW, Van Voorhees AS, Beutner KR, Bhushan R, American Academy of Dermatology. Guidelines of care for the management of **psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis**. Section 3. Guidelines of care for the management and treatment of psoriasis with **topical** therapies. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2009 Apr;60(4):643-59.

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van Velsen SGA et al. **Bone mineral density** in children with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis. J Am Acad Dermatol 2010 Nov; 63:824.

Useful tables from Canadian Glaucoma Guidelines 2009:

Table 19—Staging each eye for glaucoma damage

Suspect	One or two of the following: IOP >21 mm Hg; suspicious disc or cup to disc (C/D) asymmetry of >0.2; suspicious 24-2 (or similar) VF defect
Early	Early glaucomatous disc features (e.g. C/D* <0.65) and (or) mild VF defect not within 10° of fixation (e.g. MD better than -6 dB on HVF 24-2)
Moderate	Moderate glaucomatous disc features (e.g. vertical C/D* 0.7–0.85) and (or) moderate VF defect not within 10° of fixation (e.g. MD from -6 to -12 dB on HVF 24-2)
Advanced	Advanced glaucomatous disc features (e.g. C/D* >0.9) and (or) VF defect within 10° of fixation† (e.g. MD worse than -12 dB on HVF 24-2)

Adapted from Damji et al.¹⁶⁰
 Please refer to text in order to decide whether a nerve exhibits characteristics of glaucomatous damage.
 *Refers to vertical C/D ratio in an average size nerve. If the nerve is small, then a smaller C/D ratio may still be significant; conversely, a large nerve may have a large vertical C/D ratio and still be within normal limits.
 †Also consider baseline 10-2 VF (or similar)
 Note: MD, mean deviation; HVF, Humphrey Visual Field Analyzer.

Table 20—Suggested upper limit of initial target IOP for each eye

Stage	Suggested upper limit of target IOP. Modify based on longevity, QOL and risk factors for progression	Evidence
Suspect in whom a clinical decision is made to treat	24 mm Hg with at least 20% reduction from baseline	OHTS, ⁴⁷ EGPS ³²⁵
Early	20 mm Hg with at least 25% reduction from baseline	EMGTS, ⁴⁸ CIGTS ³²⁶
Moderate	17 mm Hg with at least 30% reduction from baseline	CNTGS, ¹² AGIS ¹¹
Advanced	14 mm Hg with at least 30% reduction from baseline	AGIS, ¹¹ Odberg ³²⁷

Adapted from Damji et al.¹⁶⁰
 Note: Target IOP may need to be adjusted during the course of follow-up. Extremes of CCT may be helpful in the setting of target IOP. For example, if the cornea is very thin, this may encourage a more aggressive approach with more frequent follow-up.¹⁶¹

Table 21—Advantages and disadvantages of single and combined cataract and glaucoma procedures

Procedure	Advantages	Disadvantages
Phacoemulsification alone	Quick procedure with more rapid visual recovery	Postoperative IOP spike is a potential risk, particularly in patients with advanced VF loss
	Improved vision, which benefits QOL	Not regarded as a consistent or powerful means of lowering IOP
	May lower IOP a small amount in some patients	IOP should be watched closely in both the early postoperative period and later
Trabeculectomy alone	Quicker than combined procedure	Will not improve vision
	May achieve superior long-term IOP lowering than combined procedure or cataract alone	May cause or worsen cataract
Combined procedure	Minimizes anesthetic risk by combining 2 procedures in 1	May not be as effective at long-term IOP control as trabeculectomy alone
	Convenience to patient with 1 trip to operating room rather than 2	Increased risk of complications with 2 procedures rather than 1
	Cost savings	Slower visual recovery than doing cataract alone
	May blunt potentially damaging postoperative IOP spikes in patients with advanced VF loss	
	Opportunity to improve IOP control and improve vision at the same time with enhanced QOL	

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 - Mannitol – Onset 10-30min; max effect in 1 hour

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testosterone therapy in patients with breast or prostate cancer, a palpable prostate nodule or induration or prostate-specific antigen greater than 4 ng/ml or greater than 3 ng/ml in men at high risk for prostate cancer such as African-Americans or men with first-degree relatives with prostate cancer without further urological evaluation, hematocrit greater than 50%, untreated severe obstructive sleep apnea, severe lower urinary tract symptoms with International Prostate Symptom Score above 19, or uncontrolled or poorly controlled heart failure. When testosterone therapy is instituted, we suggest aiming at achieving testosterone levels during treatment in the mid-normal range with any of the approved formulations, chosen on the basis of the patient's preference, consideration of pharmacokinetics, treatment burden, and cost. Men receiving testosterone therapy should be monitored using a standardized plan.

Bhasin S, Travison TG, Storer TW, et al. Effect of **testosterone supplementation** with and without a dual **5 alpha-reductase inhibitor** (dutasteride) on fat-free mass in men with suppressed testosterone production: a randomized controlled trial. *JAMA*. 2012; 307(9):931-939. n=139

Bodybuilding.com and FDA Nov/09 notified healthcare professionals and patients of a nationwide and international recall of all lots and expiration dates of 65 dietary supplement products that were sold through the Company's website, www.bodybuilding.com. FDA believes that the recalled products contain the following ingredients that are currently classified, or the FDA believes should be classified, as steroids: "**Superdrol**," "**Madol**," "**Tren**," "**Androstenedione**," and/or "**Turinabol**." Acute liver injury is known to be a possible harmful effect of using steroid-containing products. In addition, steroids may cause other serious long-term adverse health consequences in men, women, and children. These include shrinkage of the testes and male infertility, masculinization of women, breast enlargement in males, short stature in children, a higher predilection to misuse other drugs and alcohol, adverse effects on blood lipid levels, and increased risk of heart attack, stroke, and death.

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Endogenous Hormones, Prostate Cancer Collaborative Group, Roddam AW, Allen NE, Appleby P, Key TJ. **Endogenous sex hormones and prostate cancer**: a collaborative analysis of 18 prospective studies *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 2008 Feb 6;100(3):170-83. Epub 2008 Jan 29. In this collaborative analysis of the worldwide data on endogenous hormones and prostate cancer risk, serum concentrations of sex hormones were not associated with the risk of prostate cancer.

FDA May/09 notified healthcare professionals that it will require two prescription topical testosterone gel products, AndroGel 1% and Testim 1%, to include a boxed warning on the products' labels after receiving reports of adverse effects in **children who were inadvertently exposed** to testosterone through contact with another person being treated with these products. Of the fully reviewed cases, adverse events reported in these **children** included inappropriate enlargement of the genitalia (penis or clitoris), premature development of pubic hair, advanced bone age, increased libido and aggressive behavior.

FDA Aug/09 not to use body-building products marketed as containing **steroids or steroid-like substances** such as TREN-Xtreme, MASS Xtreme, ESTRO Xtreme, AH-89-Xtreme, HMG Xtreme, MMA-3 Xtreme, VNS-9 Xtreme, and TT-40-Xtreme..

FDA Nov/09 & IDS Sports notified consumers that five of the IDS's dietary supplement products (**Bromodrol, Dual Action Grow Tabs, Grow Tabs, Mass Tabs, and Ripped Tabs TR**) contain the following undeclared substances, which FDA considers to be steroids: "Madol," "Turinabol," "Superdrol," &/or "Androstenedione."

FDA Dec/09 for **S-DROL**: a voluntary recall by the manufacturer of one lot (lot# 810481, expiry date 01/2012) of S-DROL after FDA testing found it to contain undeclared desoxymethyltestosterone.

FDA Dec/09 warned consumers to stop using bodybuilding products manufactured by American Cellular Labs after they were found to contain unauthorized synthetic steroids in **TREN-Xtreme, MASS Xtreme, ESTRO Xtreme, AH-89-Xtreme, HMG Xtreme, MMA-3 Xtreme, VNS-9 Xtreme, TT-40-Xtreme**.

FDA Jan/10 & **MuscleMaster(dot)com**, Inc. notified consumers and healthcare professionals of the voluntary nationwide recall of all lots and expiration dates of the seventeen dietary supplements listed in the firm press release, sold between June 1, 2009 and November 17, 2009. FDA informed MuscleMaster(dot)com that it believes that the recalled products contain ingredients that are **steroids**.

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Gettler LT, McDade TW, Feranil AB, Kuzawa CW. Longitudinal evidence that **fatherhood decreases testosterone** in human males. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2011 Sep 12.

Health Canada Feb /06 is warning consumers not to use the product MIT(methyl-1-testosterone) Andro Technologies, or any other supplements containing the synthetic steroid methyl-1-testosterone, due to such potentially serious health risks as liver disorders and hardening of the arteries. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_06_e.html

Health Canada July/07 is warning Canadians not to use the dietary supplement **MdMt**, or any other supplements containing the synthetic steroids methyl-1-testosterone or methylidienolone that are obtained without a prescription, due to potentially serious health risks including reduced fertility and liver disorders.

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Postmenopausal women with decreased sexual desire associated with personal distress and with no other identifiable cause may be candidates for testosterone therapy. Testosterone treatment without concomitant estrogen therapy cannot be recommended because of a lack of evidence. When evaluating a woman for testosterone therapy, recommendations are to rule out causes not related to testosterone levels (eg, physical and psychosocial factors, medications) and to ensure that there is a physiologic cause for reduced testosterone levels (eg, bilateral oophorectomy). Laboratory testing of testosterone levels should be used only to monitor for supraphysiologic levels before and during therapy, not to diagnose testosterone insufficiency. Monitoring should also include subjective assessments of sexual response, desire, and satisfaction as well as evaluation for potential adverse effects. Transdermal patches and topical gels or creams are preferred over oral products because of first-pass hepatic effects documented with oral formulations. Custom-compounded products should be used with caution because the dosing may be more inconsistent than it is with government-approved products. Testosterone products formulated specifically for men have a risk of excessive dosing, although some clinicians use lower doses of these products in women. Testosterone therapy is contraindicated in women with breast or uterine cancer or in those with cardiovascular or liver disease. It should be administered at the lowest dose for the shortest time that meets treatment goals. Counseling regarding the potential risks and benefits should be provided before initiating therapy.
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Summary & Overview:

⇒ Warnings don't always correspond with available evidence; there is little information to suggest cross-sensitivity among the different sulfa chemical classes, however, those who have experienced a previous allergic reaction (to any drug) are more likely to experience a subsequent allergic reaction (to a related or unrelated drug)

⇒ Specific drugs

• **Chlorpropamide (Diabinese) (Apo-Chlorpropamide - Canada) - no warning**

• **Gliclazide (Diamicron) – Warning- (Contraindicated-Health Canada)**

• **Glimepiride (Amaryl)- Warning- (Contraindicated-Health Canada)**

• **Glipizide (Glucotrol)- no warning**

• **Glyburide (DiaBeta, others) - Warning (Contraindicated-Health Canada)**

• **Tolbutamide (Orinase) (Apo-Tolbutamide - Canada) - Warning**

⇒ One case report of contact dermatitis with tolbutamide in a patient with sensitivity to sulfanilamide vaginal cream.

After discontinuation of tolbutamide, therapy was changed to chlorpropamide, which was tolerated without difficulty.

⇒ Another case report describes an allergic reaction to glyburide in a patient with a known allergy to sulfamethoxazole.

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Wilcox R, Kupfer S, and Erdmann E. Effects of pioglitazone on major adverse cardiovascular events in high-risk patients with type 2 diabetes: Results from Prospective Pioglitazone Clinical Trial in Macrovascular Events (**PROactive 10**). Am Heart J 2008; DOI:10.1016/j.ahj.2007.11.029 In patients with advanced type 2 diabetes at high risk for cardiovascular events, pioglitazone treatment resulted in significant risk reductions in MACE composite end points to 3 years.

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Emerging Risk Factors Collaboration, Diabetes mellitus, **fasting blood glucose** concentration, & risk of vascular disease: a collaborative meta-analysis of 102 prospective studies. *Lancet*, Volume 375, Issue 9733, 26 June 2010-2 July 2010, Pages 2215-2222.

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FDA Aug/09 Patients with diabetes who take therapeutic products containing nonglucose sugars (e.g., **peritoneal dialysis solution and some immunoglobulins**) can have falsely elevated readings from blood glucose test strips that use glucose dehydrogenase pyrroloquinoline quinone (**GDH-PQQ**) technology, according to an FDA public health notification. The strips are in wide use, and we have provided a link to a listing of the affected products. The FDA cites 13 deaths associated with hypoglycemia not detected by the test strips, which cannot distinguish between glucose and other sugars such as maltose and xylose. Ten patients were receiving icodextrin peritoneal dialysis solution. The FDA advises physicians to avoid using GDH-PQQ test strips in health care facilities and to rely, instead, on laboratory assays of glucose — especially in patients taking the therapeutic products listed in the alert. Interfering products containing nonglucose sugars include icodextrin peritoneal dialysis solution, certain immunoglobulins, abatacept (Orencia, Bristol-Myers Squibb), tositumomab (Bexxar, GlaxoSmithKline), and any product containing or metabolized into maltose, galactose, or xylose. Several test strips and associated monitors use GDH-PQQ methodology: ACCU-CHEK (Roche), FreeStyle (Abbott Diabetes Care), TRUEtest (Home Diagnostics), CoZmonitor blood glucose module (for use with the Deltac Cozmo insulin pump, Smiths Medical MD), and OmniPod insulin management system (Insulet).

FDA Sep/10 & Takeda, conducted a planned analysis of the study data at the five-year mark, and submitted their results to FDA. Overall, there was no statistically significant association between **Actos exposure and bladder cancer risk**. However, further analyses were also performed looking at how long patients were on Actos and the total amount of the drug they received during that time. An increased risk of bladder cancer was observed among patients with the longest exposure to Actos, as well as in those exposed to the highest cumulative dose of Actos. FDA notified healthcare professionals and patients that the Agency is reviewing data from an ongoing, ten-year epidemiological study designed to evaluate whether Actos (pioglitazone) is associated with an increased risk of bladder cancer.

FDA May/11 Updated risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (**REMS**) to restrict access to rosiglitazone-containing medicines including Avandia, Avandamet, and Avandaryl. May 18, 2011. <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm255005.htm>

FDA June/11 **Victoza** (liraglutide [rDNA origin]) Injection: REMS - Risk of **Thyroid C-cell Tumors, Acute Pancreatitis**. <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm258826.htm>

FDA June/11 drug safety communication: Update to ongoing safety review of **Actos (pioglitazone) and increased risk of bladder cancer**- use for more than 12 months linked to an increased risk of bladder cancer. <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm259150.htm>

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Health Canada Jan/06 & July/07 Association of **AVANDIA & 6 reports of parotid gland enlargement** http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/bulletin/carn-bcei_v16n1_e.html#2

Health Canada Apr/07 is warning consumers from The Hong Kong Department of Health found **Lanmei Keili Ji** to be adulterated with **gliclazide**, a hypoglycaemic agent (lowers blood sugar).

Health Canada May/07 is advising consumers not to use **Xiaokeshuping Jiangtangning Jiaonang** capsules in Hong Kong to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical drugs phenformin, rosiglitazone, and glibenclamide, which may be used in diabetes to lower blood sugar.

Health Canada May& June/07 is advising consumers & health professionals about heart risks with **Avandia** http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/public/2007/avandia_pc-cp_3_e.html

Health Canada Sept/07 is advising consumers not to use foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Jacaranda, Queenmer Fat Loss, Li Da Dai Dai Hua Jiao Nang, J-minus** and **Jelimel Slimming Capsules**. These products are promoted for weight loss and have been found to be adulterated with the prescription drug sibutramine. Sibutramine is used for treating obesity and should only be taken under the supervision of a health professional. **Junyu Jiaonanyihao** has been found to contain the undeclared prescription drugs sibutramine and dexamethasone, as well as phenolphthalein, which is currently prohibited in Canada.. **Heng Tong Jiangtangning Jiaonang** was found to contain the prohibited drug phenformin, and the prescription drug glibenclamide (glyburide) which should only be taken under the supervision of a health professional.

Health Canada Nov/07 Rosiglitazone (**AVANDIA®**) is no longer approved as monotherapy for type 2 diabetes, except when metformin use is contraindicated or not tolerated. Rosiglitazone is no longer approved for use in combination with a sulfonylurea, except when metformin is contraindicated or not tolerated. Treatment with all rosiglitazone products is now contraindicated in patients with any stage of heart failure (i.e., NYHA Class I, II, III or IV).

Health Canada April/08 warns that Singapore's Health Sciences Authority (HSA) advised the public not to use the product **Power 1 Walnut**, because it was found to contain the prescription drugs sildenafil and glibenclamide.

Health Canada April/08 is advising consumers not to use The Hong Kong Department of Health advised the public not to use the product **Tian Sheng Yi Bao** because it was found to contain two pharmaceutical products, glibenclamide and phenformin.

Health Canada June/08 **Nangen Zengzhangsu** (may also be known as Nangen or Nangeng), Sanbianwan, Jiu Bian Wang, Tian Huang Gu Shen Dan, Zui Xian Dan Gong Shi Zi, and Power Up. The Hong Kong Department of Health has warned consumers not to use these herbal/proprietary Chinese medicine products promoted for erectile dysfunction because they have been found to contain sildenafil and/or glibenclamide.

Health Canada June/08 **Zhong Hua Niu Bian**. Zhong Hua Niu Bian is an herbal/proprietary Chinese medicine product promoted for erectile dysfunction. Singapore's Health Sciences Authority has warned against the use of this product because it has been found to contain sildenafil, glibenclamide, tadalafil and sibutramine

Health Canada Nov/08 is advising consumers not to use foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Lu Quan** because it contains undeclared glibenclamide and sildenafil.

Health Canada Nov/10 AVANDIA®/AVANDAMET®/AVANDARYL® is now indicated only in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus for whom all other oral antidiabetic agents, in monotherapy or in combination, do not result in adequate glycaemic control or are inappropriate due to contraindications or intolerance. Prior to starting or renewing a prescription for **AVANDIA®/AVANDAMET®/ AVANDARYL®**, physicians should consider whether a rosiglitazone-containing product is an appropriate therapeutic choice, and if so: Document the eligibility of patients to meet the above criteria; Counsel each patient on the risks and benefits of AVANDIA®/AVANDAMET®/AVANDARYL® including the cardiovascular risks; and Obtain the patient's written informed consent to take the drug.

Health Canada Nov/11 **Pancre-Plus** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that this counterfeit Chinese medicine contains an unauthorized drug (phenformin) and a prescription drug (glyburide). **Tian Ma Tu Chung Seven Leave Ginseng, Vall-Boon Tongkat Al, and Pao Ni Kang** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned that these traditional herbal products contain prescription and over-the-counter drugs (dexamethasone, ketoconazole, repaglinide, pheniramine, and chlorpheniramine).

Health Canada Apr/12 has recently completed a safety assessment of the available data for **rosiglitazone-ACTOS**, an oral anti-diabetic drug, and the label was updated to reflect the potential risk of **bladder cancer** in treated patients.

Health Canada May/12 1. **Jin Yu Tang Tai Han Kang Pai Pu Ling Jiao Nang; TangBaoKouFuYiDaoSuJiaoNang; Tangren 365 Kangxunpai sangge huoyisu jiaonang; Tong Ren Xiu Fu Kou Fu Yi Dao Su**. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that these products contain a combination of prescription drugs (metformin, glibenclamide [also known as glyburide], rosiglitazone, glimepiride, hydrochlorothiazide) and unauthorized drugs (phenolphthalein, phenformin).

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AHRQ-USA: Patients Summary: http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/ehc/products/155/721/OralMedT2Diab_consumer.pdf

Mayo Clinic – **Shared Decision Making** – diabetes tools: <http://dev.shareddecisions.mayoclinic.org/decision-aids-for-diabetes/diabetes-medication-management/>

Health Canada – Advisory on rosiglitazone (Avandia) (June 01, 2007) http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2007/avandia_hpc-cps_4_e.html

Important Advice for Managing Your Patients

In Canada, Avandia® is NOT approved for use:

- with insulin therapy
- with the combination of metformin AND a sulfonylurea
- in patients with pre-diabetes.

Avandia® is contraindicated in patients with NYHA Class III and IV cardiac status.

Avandia® should be used with caution in any patient with NYHA Class I and II cardiac status.

All patients should be monitored for signs and symptoms of fluid retention, edema, and rapid weight gain.

The dose of Avandia® used in combination with a sulfonylurea should not exceed 4mg daily.

More links, information and a RxFiles Q&A Summary available at: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/Rosiglitazone-CV-Controversy.htm>

Background considerations:

- **Weighing the benefits & risks of intensive therapy:** [See also Diabetes - Landmark Outcome Trials Chart²⁴]
 - The results of clinical trials evaluating outcomes of intensive glycemic control have been somewhat disappointing. Achieving an A1C of less than 6.5% may ↓ microvascular endpoints, but over 100,000 patient years of RCT data have failed to show a benefit on CV endpoints.²⁵ {The 10 year observational follow-up to the UKPDS suggests CV benefit of intensive glycemic control (FBG <6; mean baseline A1Cs 7.9% vs 8.5%) especially with metformin.²⁶}
 - Individualization of antihyperglycemic therapy has become a common theme^{27,28} as some evidence & experience suggests that some patients may do worse with more intensive regimens (e.g. ↑ mortality (NNH=95/3.5yrs) in the ACCORD RCT n=10,251 in patients randomized to achieve an intensive A1c of 6% vs 7-8%; actual A1c achieved was 6.4% vs 7.5%)²⁹.
 - Although an A1C of <7% is suggested for most, individual patient & treatment regimen factors may result in acceptance of less aggressive targets. For example the American Geriatric Society³⁰ noted that an A1C of 8% may be more suitable in frail elderly & those with a life expectancy <5yrs.
 - A recent observational cohort trial found a "U" shaped curve for mortality related to A1C. An A1C of 7.5% was associated with the lowest mortality, with higher mortality seen at higher and lower A1C values.³¹

- **CADTH Exec Summary:** Within the limitations of available evidence, this report concludes:
 - Use of SMBG appears to be associated with improvements in glycemic control among patients with insulin-treated type 2 diabetes. Evidence was limited and of low quality.
 - Few studies compared different frequencies of SMBG for patients with either type 1 or insulin-treated type 2 diabetes, and the evidence from these studies was of low quality. Well-designed studies may prove beneficial in optimizing SMBG frequency for these individuals.
 - Use of SMBG in patients with type 2 diabetes who are not using insulin is associated with a statistically significant, albeit clinically modest, improvement in glycemic control. Performing SMBG may reduce the number of symptomatic hypoglycemic events in patients using sulfonylureas. There was little or no evidence that SMBG provides other benefits, such as improved quality of life, or greater patient satisfaction. Longer-term studies are needed to determine whether or not SMBG reduces diabetes related clinical endpoints (e.g., blindness, reduction in myocardial infarctions, end-stage renal disease) or mortality. Studies of specific subgroups within this population who may be more likely to benefit from SMBG are also warranted.
 - The effect of using SMBG in women with **gestational** diabetes requires further investigation.
- Estimated 40 year NNTs for SMBG in non-insulin T2DM: 266 for MI; 500 for stroke; 1,389 for end stage renal disease¹⁵

Comparison: CADTH & Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA).

- CADTH review includes detailed systematic review of the clinical evidence as well as cost evaluation. Significant effort goes into limiting, minimizing the possible effects of, and acknowledging conflicts of interest.
- CDA guidelines include clinical evidence only. Conflicts of interest are more extensive; however they are acknowledged.

Other Major Meta-analysis Reviews

- Poolsup et al SMBG Meta-analysis: suggests that SMBG in non-insulin T2DM may benefit those with a baseline A1C of >8%, but not < 8%.³²
- St John meta-analysis: suggests similar ↓ in A1C of -0.22 (95% CI: -0.34—0.11). St John A, Davis WA, Price CP, Davis TM. The value of self-monitoring of blood glucose: a review of recent evidence. J Diabetes Complications. 2009 Feb 19.
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Health Canada Related Alerts

- Possible interference of icodextrin, intravenous immunoglobulins, galactose and d-xylose with certain blood glucose meters - Notice to Hospitals http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2008/gluc_met_nth-aah-eng.php

Reagents: NOTE: (Adapted from Hamilton Family Health Team – Table)

Why consideration of reagents in test strips is important -e.g., peritoneal dialysis - use meters that are not affected by GDH-PQQ
 Rationale: drug products or therapies that contain certain non-glucose sugars, such as maltose, galactose, and xylose will produce falsely elevated glucose result if measuring your glucose using a GDH-PQQ test strip. This could result in insulin dosing errors or not detecting low (hypoglycemic) readings. Avoid use of these test strips in patients using interfering drug products or therapies. Glucose oxidase – may be important at certain altitudes, although very rare.

- Strips with glucose dehydrogenase (GDH) pyrroloquinolinequinone (PQQ) will have cross-reactivity with maltose, galactose or xylose but are unaffected by pO2.
- Strips with glucose oxidase are affected by pO2 in the blood but not by maltose, galactose and xylose
- Strips with glucose dehydrogenase (GDH) Flavin adenine dinucleotide (FAD) can be affected by xylose but unaffected by pO2, maltose and galactose.

Maltose: found in IV solutions (i.e. immunoglobulin) and other solutions containing dialysate icodextrin

Alternate site testing: not recommended if hypoglycemia suspected, especially if prone to hypoglycemic confusion. In these cases, the finger tip method is the best way to get an accurate result.

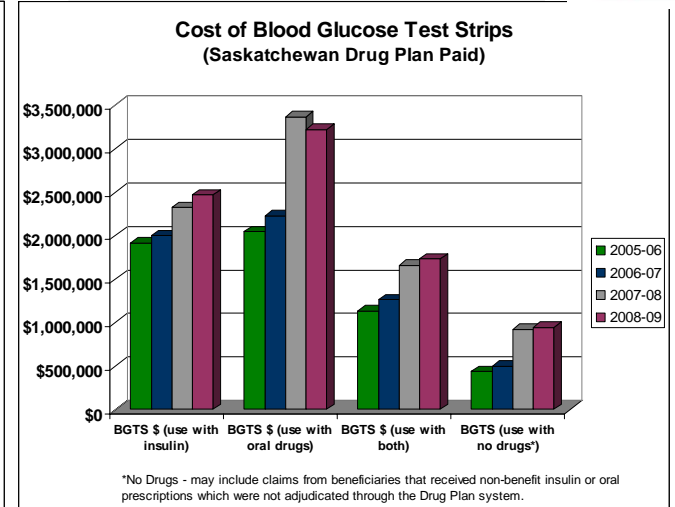
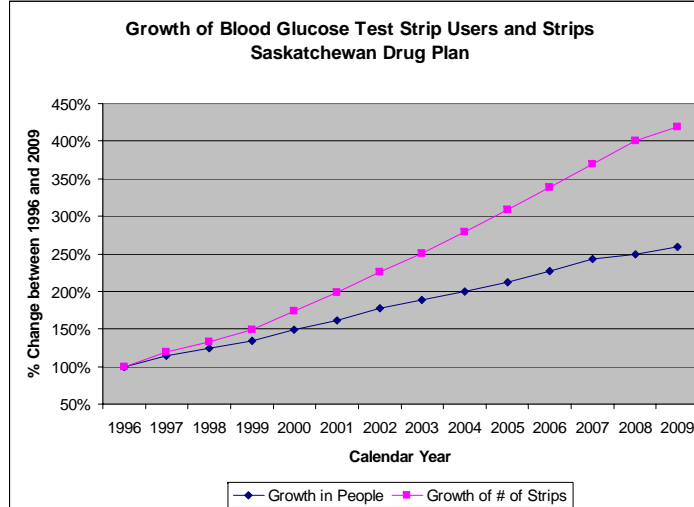
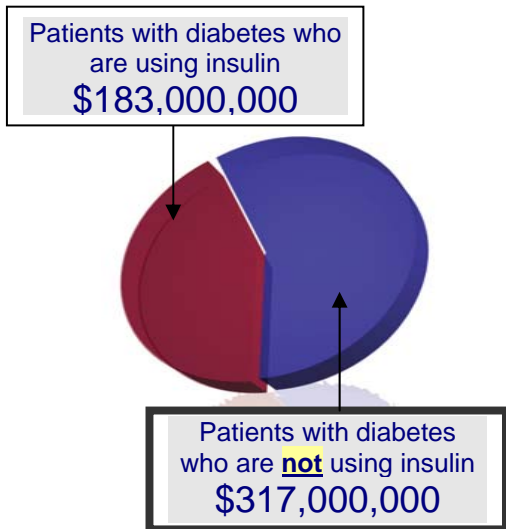
If practice changes to reflect the evidence, \$450 million to \$1.2 billion* could be freed up between 2012 and 2015 for spending on antidiabetes interventions that are proven effective. Patient health would not be affected negatively.

http://www.cadth.ca/media/compus/pdf/C1109-Prescribing-Aid-Web-e.pdf?utm_source=c1109&utm_medium=vo2-issue-8&utm_campaign=communiqu-03-13-12 Revised March 2012

[These results were prepared using data from Brogan Inc., a unit of IMS, PharmaStat®, Public and Private Drug Plans Databases, 2000-2011]

- Cost to drug plans public+private = \$330 million 2006 Canadian data
- Cost per QALY (quality adjusted life year) is estimated at \$113,643 for routine use of SMBG (at least 1 strip each day on average).
- Annual cost per patient: \$165 - \$2,400 (see Table below).

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Extras

Recently Discontinued Insulin Devices (within last 3 years): **HumaPen Ergo** (discontinued 2007) & **Novolin-Pen 3**

<p>AutoPen 24 (3ml penfill)</p> <p>A) green – up to 21 units 1-21 units in 1 unit increments</p> <p>B) blue – up to 42 units 2-42 units in 2 unit increments</p>		<p>LANTUS (glargine)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ free with Lantus insulin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ has side-mounted injection button♦ small white numbers on a dark background; does not have number window (e.g. number not magnified.)♦ does NOT have dial back capabilities, dose must be wasted if overdialled♦ if insufficient insulin in cartridge, number remaining on dial will show remaining dose to be given
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Clinical Therapeutics, Volume 33, Issue 3, March 2011, Pages 346-357

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CADTH: Starting Insulin in T2DM: <http://www.cadth.ca/media/pdf/c1109-guide-to-starting-insulin-final-e.pdf>

Temporary Extras:

- Pen devices: ↑ portability, convenience & ease of use; but ↑ potential for contamination, needle sticks, malfunction & cost
- T1DM: A1c difference between SAIA and HI is less than 1/10th of the difference between intensive and conventional tx groups in the DCCT; based on this, expected NNT for 1 less retinopathy = 650 / year
- Epidural Corticosteroids: expect ↑BG levels for a few days Even JL, Crosby CG, Song Y, McGirt MJ, Devin CJ. Effects of epidural steroid injections on blood glucose levels in patients with diabetes mellitus. Spine 2012; 37(1):E46-50.

- Insulin Pump (CSII): may allow for ↓A1C by 0.3-0.6%; ↓ insulin dose by 10-20%; potentially useful if ↑ A1C despite best attempt with MDI &/or who have continued disabling hypoglycemia. Also of use in 1st trimester of pregnancy, or before, if A1C <6.1% not achieved.

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Upcoming Trials in Diabetes/CV Risk Prevention:

- ◆ **NAVIGATOR** (Nateglinide and Valsartan in Impaired Glucose Tolerance Outcomes Research)- NEJM Mar/10; ◆ **TRANSCEND** (Telmisartan Randomized Assessment Study in aCE iNtolerant subjects with cardiovascular Disease); **RAPSODI** (rimonabant in diabetes prevention); **CANOE** (rosiglitazone 2mg bid & metformin 500mg bid in diabetes prevention);

Prediabetes ^{ADA}:

- Includes: 1) Impaired Fasting Glucose {8hr fasting BG between 5.6-6.9mmol/L} & 2) Impaired glucose tolerance {Postprandial BG of 7.8-11.0mmol/L 2hrs post 75g oral glucose challenge}
- Risk factors: family hx, obesity – especially around waist, age >45, hypertension, gestational diabetes hx, sedentary lifestyle. Screening recommendations vary; USPSTF recommends screening particularly if BP >135/80. Oral Glucose Challenge most recommended, but A1c screen also advocated by some.
- QDScore diabetes risk calculator: (UK Prediction Calculator for T2DM): <http://www.qdscore.org/>

Insulin Analogues Systematic Review/Reports, 2008: <http://www.cadth.ca/index.php/en/compus/insulin-analogs/reports>

Tight glucose control in critically ill hospitalized pts may ↑mortality & ↑↑risk of hypoglycemia. ^{JAMA'08; 31 Nice-Sugar NNH=38/90day}

Q&A: Limitations & Unanswered Questions Regarding A1C Control and Clinical Outcome - Benefits or Risks

There are some important qualifiers on the commonly quoted observational data that "with every 1% drop in A1C the risk of developing long-term diabetes complications decreases". (Concept originally based on observational data driven by an eye related microvascular endpoint in the UKPDS). **RCT evidence does not support this assumption!**

- Most recently the **ACCORD** trial (established, higher risk T2DM) was halted after looking at whether a A1C target of <6% would result in beneficial clinical outcomes compared to 7-7.9%. According to the preliminary results still awaiting publication, it would appear from this RCT, in this population group, the extra 1.1% drop in A1C seen in the intensive group was actually associated with increased all cause death compared to the standard group. Explanations for this are still pending; some possibilities noted with 5yr follow-up discussion below.
(See also; <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Diabetes-Targets-ACCORD-A1C.pdf>).
 - ◆ 5 year ACCORD^{7b} follow-up results published ^{Mar 2011 NEJM}: A1C lowering intensiveness relaxed for balance of study period; participants continued in BP or lipid lowering arms; A1C at 5 yrs ~ 7.2% vs 7.6%.
 - 1) ↑ death sustained in intensive glucose lowering group 5.5% vs 4.5% ^{NNH=100/5yr};
 - 2) ↓ non-fatal MI, but fatal CV ↑;
 - 3) severe hypoglycaemia equivalent in follow-up period;
 - 4) those most at risk of ↑ death were those with baseline A1C > 8%;
 - 5) possible explanations for harm with intensive glucose lowering:
 - A)** different outcomes associated with different drugs or drug combinations?;
 - B)** impact of ↑ wt gain?;
 - C)** impact of intense BG lowering.
 - With the current RCT evidence with rosiglitazone, there is some concern that lowering A1C does not necessarily result in CV event reductions? With the limited evidence, it appears to at best be neutral, and at worst, harmful in RCTs/durations studied so far (e.g. up to 5.5 year RCTs.) Patients studied, agents used & study limitations e.g. dropouts may affect the benefit/risk balance.
 - The UKPDS-33, ~ 10 year trial saw reductions predominantly in the microvascular events (predominantly photocoagulation), with stroke and heart related endpoints not significant, but trending favorably and contributing to the composite endpoint benefit. (Exception: metformin had all-cause death reduction in obese T2DM in UKPDS-34)
 - In UKPDS 34,^{p860} which noted a mortality benefit for metformin in obese T2DM, there is inconsistency in the association of A1C & outcomes (less A1C difference but more benefit UKPDS34 vs 33)
 - In UKPDS 34 Metformin + Sulfonylurea combination led to a lower A1C than Sulf alone (7.7 vs 8.2) but had higher incidence of DM death and all cause death (perhaps due to design issues and a several year delay in moving to combination therapy) .
 - The UKPDS epidemiologic evidence for the 1% drop in A1C did not control for obesity/BMI/waist circumference. ^{UKPDS 35}
 - In ADOPT, rosiglitazone decreased A1C more than metformin or glyburide, but glyburide had the lowest rate of CV outcomes.
 - In VADT, a 1.5% reduction (6.9% intensive vs 8.4% standard) in A1C for an average follow-up of 5.6 years resulted in no benefit (microvascular or macrovascular) but increased serious adverse events (predominantly hypoglycaemia).
 - **Meta-analysis** ²⁰¹¹ of Intensive ↓ BG RCTs in T2DM: 13 trials, n=34,500. **Endpoints:** mortality, no difference (RR=1.04, 99%CI 0.91-1.19); CV death, no difference (RR=1.11;0.86-1.43); non-fatal MI: ↓ (RR=0.85, 0.74-0.96); Severe hypoglycaemia: ↑↑ (RR=2.33, 1.62-3.36) 1.9-6.6% of patients required tx for severe hypoglycaemia over 5 years. If only high quality studies included, no longer a ↓ in non-fatal MI & there was an ↑ in HF. **Microvascular effects:** no difference, but heterogeneity; rate of retinopathy (0.85, 0.71-1.03); photocoagulation (0.91, 0.71-1.17), ↓ vision or blindness (1.00); neuropathy 0.99, 0.95-1.03; renal failure or 2x SCR (1.03, 0.98-1.08). **Microalbuminuria:** ↓ (0.90, 0.85-0.96), ARR 0.7%-3.1%; NNT=142-32. **OVERALL:** for hard clinical endpoints, no benefit, but increased severe hypoglycaemia requiring tx. However, note heterogeneity in trials, different tx approaches, different definitions of "intensive lowering", etc. Nevertheless, the more trials, the more evidence that just lowering BG does not equate automatically to beneficial clinical outcomes, but does carry hypoglycaemia risk.
- There is some discordance between randomized trial outcome evidence and the frequently reported "1% A1C..." benefit. One thing that has growing certainty is that the risks and benefits of drug regimens that lower A1C is more complex than what was previously commonly accepted. While a high A1C is not good, some methods of lowering A1C in some patient groups, are also harmful. While we do not want to be lazy in addressing glucose control, the evidence suggests that we not assume a net benefit for all A1C lowering interventions in all Type 2 diabetes patients. {Let the target serve the patient, and not the patient the target.}

See also: Yudkin JS, Lipska KJ, Montori VM. The idolatry of the surrogate. BMJ. 2011 Dec 28;343:d7995. <http://www.bmj.com/content/343/bmj.d7995>

Multifactorial intervention - blood pressure, lipids, possibly ASA, lifestyle – in addition to glucose control, is essential in reducing macrovascular endpoints!

See also RxFiles Landmark Trials Chart: Summary of **Lipid, BP & ASA diabetes related trials**: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/members/CHT-DIABETES-Landmark-Trials-Non-Glucose.pdf>

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FDA Aug/09 Patients with diabetes who take therapeutic products containing nonglucose sugars (e.g., peritoneal dialysis solution and some immunoglobulins) can have falsely elevated readings from blood glucose test strips that use glucose dehydrogenase pyrroloquinoline quinone (GDH-PQQ) technology, according to an FDA public health notification. The strips are in wide use, and we have provided a link to a listing of the affected products. The FDA cites 13 deaths associated with hypoglycemia not detected by the test strips, which cannot distinguish between glucose and other sugars such as maltose and xylose. Ten patients were receiving icodextrin peritoneal dialysis solution. The FDA advises physicians to avoid using GDH-PQQ test strips in health care facilities and to rely, instead, on laboratory assays of glucose — especially in patients taking the therapeutic products listed in the alert. Interfering products containing nonglucose sugars include icodextrin peritoneal dialysis solution, certain immunoglobulins, abatacept (Orencia, Bristol-Myers Squibb), tositumomab (Bexxar, GlaxoSmithKline), and any product containing or metabolized into maltose, galactose, or xylose. Several test strips and associated monitors use GDH-PQQ methodology: *ACCU-CHEK* (Roche), *FreeStyle* (Abbott Diabetes Care), *TRUEtest* (Home Diagnostics), *CoZmonitor* blood glucose module (for use with the *Deltac Cozmo* insulin pump, Smiths Medical MD), and *OmniPod* insulin management system (Insulet).

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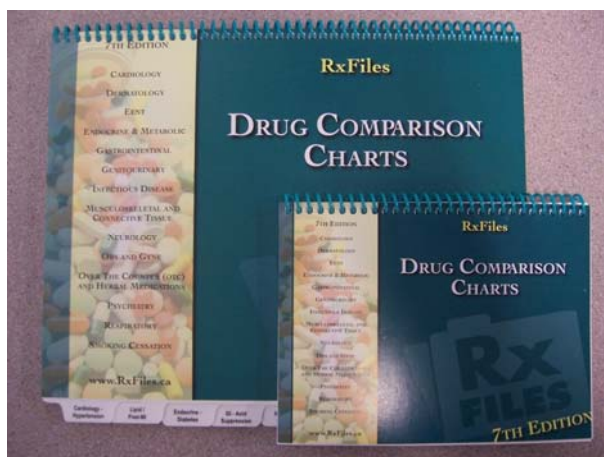
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Extras

- ASCEND (A Study of Cardiovascular Events in Diabetes) and ACCEPT-D (Aspirin and Simvastatin Combination for Cardiovascular Events Prevention Trial in Diabetes). These are large, ongoing studies that will enrol up to 15,000 participants with anticipated completion dates of 2011 and 2013, respectively.

<p>ETDRS 5 yrs, n=3,711</p>	<p>T1DM & T2DM plus diabetic retinopathy; ~50% of pts with hx of CV disease <small><10% hx of MI or stroke</small></p>	<p>aspirin 2 x 325mg/day vs placebo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1: all-cause mortality, 12.1 vs 14.9, RR 0.91 [99% CI, 0.75 to 1.11, p=0.24] ◆ 2: cardiovascular mortality, 9.3 vs 11.2, RR 0.87 [99% CI, 0.7 to 1.1, p=0.12] ◆ 2: fatal or non-fatal MI, 9.1 vs 12.3, RR 0.83 [99% CI, 0.66 to 1.04] ◆ 2: fatal or non-fatal stroke, 4.5 vs 3.8, RR 1.17 [99% CI, 0.79 to 1.28] -no evidence of harmful effects of aspirin
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- From Circulation 2010: Intervention patients experienced a decreased risk of nonfatal or fatal MI (RR 0.85, 95% CI 0.73–1.00). In contrast, stroke occurred more frequently with aspirin, although the difference was not statistically significant (RR 1.18, 99% CI 0.88 –1.58). Men appeared to derive more benefit from aspirin than women for prevention of MI (RR for men 0.74, 99% CI 0.54 –1.00; RR for women 0.91, 99% CI 0.65–1.28), but this difference was not statistically significant and could represent a chance finding.
- From CCS 2011: For the predetermined secondary endpoint of fatal or nonfatal MI, the difference was significant at 5 years (RR 0.72, 99% CI 0.55-0.95) but not at 7 years (RR 0.83, 99% CI 0.66-1.04).

Extras

NNTs in T2DM - (Standardized for 5 yrs)

- ↓ Mortality: Metformin 2550mg/d in obese NNT=7/5yrs ^{UKPDS-34}
- ↑ Mortality: intensive blood glucose control (A1C target=6); NNH=66/5yrs ^{ACCORD}
- Blood pressure control: ?HOT trial??
- Major CHD Event: Atorvastatin 10mg daily; NNT=26/5yrs ^{CARDS}

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We suggest a pathway for the management of weight gain and emerging metabolic disturbance.

FDA approves **Orlistat for OTC**, Pharmacist's Letter Mar 2007.

FDA Nov/08 Fashion Sanctuary announced a recall of **Zhen De Shou Fat Loss** Capsules because FDA analysis found the product to contain undeclared sibutramine, an FDA approved drug used as an appetite suppressant for weight loss.

FDA Jan/09 notified consumers not to take Venom **HYPERDRIVE 3.0**, a product sold as a dietary supplement but containing sibutramine.

FDA Mar/09 Herbal **Xenicol** (found to contain cetilistat, an obesity drug not approved in the U.S.) along with **Slimbionic** and **Xsvelten** (both containing sibutramine, a prescription-only weight loss drug) have been added to the list of tainted dietary supplements. There are now **72 products** on the list. <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2009/NEW01977.html>

FDA Apr/09: **ABC Beauty Supply** & FDA notified consumers and healthcare professionals of a recall of 34 dietary supplement products. FDA lab analyses identified undeclared **sibutramine**, an FDA-approved drug, used as an appetite suppressant for weight loss. http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/universallabc04_09.html (**34 products listed**)

FDA July/09 notified healthcare professionals that four weight loss dietary supplements sold and marketed by the firm (**Slimbionic, One Weight Loss Pill, SlimDemand Capsules, Botanical Weight Loss**) contain sibutramine.

FDA Aug/09 notified healthcare professionals and patients that it is reviewing new safety information regarding reports of liver-related adverse events in patients taking orlistat. **Orlistat** is marketed in the United States as a prescription product, Xenical, and as an over-the-counter (OTC) product, Alli. Between 1999 and October 2008, 32 reports of serious liver injury, including **6 cases of liver failure**, in patients using orlistat were submitted to FDA's Adverse Event Reporting System. The most commonly reported adverse events described in the 32 reports of serious liver injury were jaundice, weakness, and abdominal pain.

FDA Nov/09 & GMP Herbal Products notified consumers and healthcare professionals of a recall of **Pai You Guo**, a weight loss dietary supplement, due to the presence sibutramine & phenolphthalein.

FDA Jan/10 notified consumers and healthcare professionals about a counterfeit and potentially harmful version of **Alli 60 mg capsules** (120 count refill kit). The **counterfeit** version contained the controlled substance sibutramine and did not contain orlistat, the active ingredient.

FDA July/10 analysis of **Que She** found that it contains: fenfluramine – a stimulant drug withdrawn from the U.S. market in 1997 after studies demonstrated that it caused serious heart valve damage, propranolol – a prescription beta blocker drug that can pose a risk to people with bronchial asthma and certain heart conditions, sibutramine – a controlled substance and prescription weight loss drug, sibutramine was the subject of a recent study whose preliminary findings showed an association between sibutramine use and increased risk of heart attack and stroke in patients who have a history of heart disease, & ephedrine – a stimulant drug that is legally marketed over-the-counter for temporary relief of asthma but can pose a risk to people with certain cardiovascular conditions.

FDA Aug/10 lab analysis of **Solo Slim** was found to contain the undeclared drug ingredient Didesmethyl Sibutramine.

FDA July/10 lab analysis of **Slim-30** Herb Supplement distributed by the company was found to contain undeclared N-Desmethyl Sibutramine and traces of Sibutramine.

FDA July/10 lab analysis of this herb supplement, **Joyful Slim** Herb Supplement, was found to contain the undeclared drug, desmethyl sibutramine.

FDA Oct/10 notified consumers that **Slimming Beauty Bitter Orange Slimming Capsules** contain the active pharmaceutical ingredient sibutramine, a prescription-only drug which is a stimulant.

FDA Oct/10 Abbott Laboratories notified healthcare professionals and patients about the **voluntary withdrawal of Meridia (sibutramine)**, from the U.S. market because of clinical trial data indicating an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

FDA Dec/10 has received multiple reports of adverse events associated with the use of **Fruta Planta**, including several cardiac events and one death. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that Fruta Planta contains sibutramine.

FDA Jan/11 laboratory analysis confirmed that **Celerite Slimming Capsules** contain sibutramine

FDA Mar/11 lab analysis of **Svelte 30** orange & gray capsules determined that the product contains Sibutramine.

FDA Mar/11 notified Biotab Nutraceuticals, Inc. that two lots of counterfeit product purporting to be **Extenze** contain undeclared drug ingredients. Specifically, lot 0709241 contains tadalafil and sildenafil, and lot 0509075 contains tadalafil and sibutramine.

FDA Mar/11 laboratory analyses of **Celerite Slimming Tea**: Recall - were found to contain undeclared Sibutramine.

FDA May/11 laboratory analysis confirmed that "**Slim Xtreme Herbal Slimming Capsule**" contains sibutramine.

FDA July/11 is advising consumers not to purchase or use "**Slim Forte Slimming Capsules**," "**Slim Forte Slimming Coffee**," and "**Botanical Slimming Soft Gel & Slim Forte Double Power Slimming Capsules**."

FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that these products contain sibutramine.

FDA Dec/11 took joint action against several companies selling over-the-counter **hCG products** that falsely and illegally claim to promote weight loss. Labeled "homeopathic" by the seven companies who received the letters, the products contain human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG), a hormone produced during pregnancy by cells that form the placenta. 1. HCG Diet Direct LLC- HCG Diet Homeopathic Drops, 2. The hCG Drops LLC- Homeopathic HCG, 3. HCG Platinum LLC; RightWay Nutrition- HCG Platinum, HCG Platinum X-30, HCG Platinum X-14, 4. Nutri Fusion Systems LLC- HCG Fusion 30, HCG Fusion 43, 5. www.resetthebody.com; www.theoriginalhcgdrops.com-Homeopathic Original HCG, Homeopathic HCG, 6. Hcg-miracleweightloss.com- HCG Extra Weight Loss Homeopathic Drops, 7. Natural Medical Supply- Alcohol Free hCG Weight Loss Formula.

FDA Feb/12 **Healthy People Co.** notified the public of a recall of the company's dietary supplements sold under the brand names Healthy People Co. FDA lab analysis confirmed the presence of Sibutramine and Tadalafil, making these products unapproved new drugs. (**Mince Belle Dietary Supplement, PERFECT Men Dietary Supplement, EVERLAX Dietary Supplement, EVER Slim Dietary Supplement, Herbal Drink Acai-man Mangosteen Dietary Supplement, EVER SLIM Shake Mix Dietary Supplement**)

FDA Feb/12 is advising consumers not to purchase or use “**Japan Weight Loss Blue**,” a product for weight loss sold on various websites, laboratory analysis confirmed that “Japan Weight Loss Blue” contains sibutramine, analogs of sibutramine, and ephedrine alkaloids.

FDA Apr/12 laboratory analysis confirmed that “**Japan Rapid Weight Loss Diet Pills Yellow**” contains sibutramine and phenolphthalein.

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Health Canada Apr/07 is warning consumers about **Bitter orange** & cardiovascular reactions in the Canadian Adverse Reactions April 2007 Newsletter.

Health Canada Apr/07 is warning consumers from the Hong Kong Department of Health found **Lexsel Fat Rapid Loss capsules to be adulterated with sibutramine** and thyroid hormones.

Health Canada via July/07 Medsafe also advised the public not to use the product **Dai Dai Hua Jiao Nang** because it was found to contain sibutramine.

Health Canada Aug/07 is advising Canadians of a recall in the United States of one lot of **Metaboslim Apple Cider Vinegar**, which is marketed as a dietary supplement, because it has been found to contain sibutramine, a prescription medication that should only be taken under medical supervision.

Health Canada Sept/07 is advising consumers not to use foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Jacaranda, Queenmer Fat Loss, Li Da Dai Dai Hua Jiao Nang, J-minus and Jelimel Slimming Capsules**. These products are promoted for weight loss and have been found to be adulterated with the prescription drug sibutramine. Sibutramine is used for treating obesity and should only be taken under the supervision of a health professional.

Junyu Jiaonanyihao has been found to contain the undeclared prescription drugs sibutramine and dexamethasone, as well as phenolphthalein, which is currently prohibited in Canada.. **Heng Tong Jiangtangning Jiaonang** was found to contain the prohibited drug phenformin, and the prescription drug glibenclamide (glyburide) which should only be taken under the supervision of a health professional.

Health Canada Jan/08 is warning Canadians not to use the unauthorized product **Physio Care Lida Dai Dai Hua Jiao Nang Slimming Capsules** (batch number 28012007 / expiration date: Jan 2009). This product is promoted for weight loss and has been found to contain a derivative of the prescription drug sibutramine.

Health Canada April/08 is advising consumers not to use **Xian Zhi Wei II** was found to contain sibutramine and phenolphthalein, which are not meant for self-care and may cause serious side effects.

Health Canada Aug/08 is advising consumers not to use 9 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Dan Bai Shou Shen Su** was found to contain undeclared thyroid hormones and sibutramine. **Karntien and Karntien Easy to Slim** were adulterated with sibutramine and a compound that is similar in structure to sibutramine (N-desmethylsibutramine). **More Slim** was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient sibutramine. **Soloslim** was found to contain an undeclared substance similar in structure to the prescription drug sibutramine. It also contains the prescription drug L-carnitine, as well as synephrine, which is not authorized for sale in weight loss products in Canada.

Health Canada Aug/08 is advising consumers not to use 8 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of Natural (Xin Yi Dai) and Lasmi because Natural (Xin Yi

Dai) was found to contain sibutramine and phenolphthalein, and Lismi was found to contain sibutramine and spironolactone. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of AA Qu Feng Shu Jin Wan because it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient dexamethasone. Apisate contained fenfluramine and Energy II contained sibutramine. Obat Asam Urat and Asam Urat both contained dexamethasone, phenylbutazone and piroxicam. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of Slim 3in1 (Xiao Nan zhi Bao) because it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients sibutramine and phenolphthalein.

Health Canada Sep/08 is advising consumers not to use 2 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of **Hanguo shoushen yihao** (meiti xing) because it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient sibutramine. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of **ARMA - Sin Gang San** and New ARMA - Sin Gang San because they were found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients sibutramine and fenfluramine.

Health Canada Nov/08 is advising that the Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Fat Killer, Carbohydrate Cut and Sugar-Carbohydrate Cut** because they contain sibutramine and an unauthorised substance similar in structure to sibutramine.

Health Canada Jan 2009 is advising consumers not to use 4 foreign products: **Zhuang Tjar Gere** because it contains the undeclared prescription drugs sildenafil & tadalafil, **Zhixhuc** Capsules manufactured by Vital Pharmaceutical Holdings Ltd. due to concerns of serious side-effects including liver dysfunction, **Tonik Warisan Banjar** because it contains undeclared dexamethasone & **Healthily Slim** because it contains sibutramine.

Health Canada Mar/09 Foreign Product: **68 Weight Loss Products**: Best-life Fat Burning Capsules; Bevidan; Huiji Yin Chiao Chieh Tu Pien & Relacore. Plus Lami, Linglongquxian, Menergy M-Essence, Nyal Day & Night Cold & Flu Fighter (AUST L 146264), Nyal Cold & Flu Fighter (AUST L 146263), 999 Radix Notoginseng, Batch no. 0807021, Slim Pure, Carbohydrate, Kalomee, K Carbohydrate, K Tighten Slim, & K Slimming Pills. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/_fpa-ape_2009/index-eng.php

Health Canada June/09 Foreign Product Alerts: **Jia Yi Jian** (undeclared sibutramine & tadalafil); **Shan Dian Qiang Xiao Shou** (undeclared sibutramine & phenolphthalein).

Health Canada June/09 is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized product **Slim Magic Herbal**, which is promoted as a weight-loss product, as it was found to contain an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the prescription drug sibutramine.

Health Canada is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized product **Natural Slim**, which is promoted as a weight-loss product, as it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient sibutramine and also an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to sibutramine.

Health Canada June/09 warns of foreign Product Alerts: **Herbal Xenicol** because it contains undeclared cetilistat. **BioEmagrecim**, which the FDA had previously warned contained sibutramine, was also found to contain fluoxetine, furosemide and fenproporex. Products: *Slimbionic, Xsvelten, 999 Fitness Essence, 24" ince, Light Some, Paiyouji, Pearl White Slimming, & Reducing Weight Easily* contain undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients (sibutramine and/or phenolphthalein) and/or excessive levels of lead, and may cause serious health effects.

Health Canada Aug/09 is advising via Singapore Health Sciences Authority (HSA) that **Delima Raja Urat** contains undeclared dexamethasone, chlorpheniramine, pheniramine and sibutramine.

Health Canada Dec/09 is advising Canadians not to use certain Acai Berry products after a large number of shipments of adulterated products were stopped at the border. The product names include: **Anti-Aging Acai Berry, Guarana Blast, Brazillian Pure, Anti-aging Vital Rez V, Weight Loss VitalAcai, Dietary Supplement Acai Power Blast and Muscle Mass**. These products for anti-aging and weight loss were found to contain undeclared sildenafil.

Health Canada Dec/09 is warning consumers not to use "**RevolutionDS Weight Loss**", an unauthorized health product promoted for weight loss, because it contains benzyloperazine (BZP), and may pose serious health risks.

Health Canada Jan/10 informs that U.S. FDA: **Pai You Guo** contains sibutramine and phenolphthalein. Hong Kong Department of Health: **Ku Xiu Ba Xiang Jian Fei Wan** contains sibutramine and an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine; **Super Slim (Yani)** contains sibutramine and phenolphthalein; **SHoufsy** contains sibutramine & MIGAC (sic) **FAT BURMING (sic) FACTOR** contains sibutramine.

Health Canada Jan/10 is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized product "**The Slimming Coffee**," which was previously sold as "**Lose Weight Coffee**," because it was found to contain sibutramine.

Health Canada Mar/10 is warning Canadians that an unauthorized health product, "**Herbal Diet Natural**" has been found on the Canadian market and contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the prescription drug sibutramine.

Health Canada is warning Canadians that an unauthorized health product, "**West Pharm Therma Lean Fat Burner Energizer**" was found on the Canadian market. West Pharm Therma Lean Fat Burner Energizer contains Ephedrine and caffeine, which combined together, may cause serious and possibly fatal adverse effects.

Health Canada Apr/10 is warning Canadians that an unauthorized health product, "Slim-30" distributed in Ontario and Quebec by Duxx Enterprises Inc., contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the prescription drug, sibutramine.

Health Canada May/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Ba Bao Xiao Ke Dan** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use Ba Bao Xiao Ke Dan after it was found to contain undeclared glibenclamide. 2. **Seven Slim 7 Seshou** (Qingchun Shaonüxing, Jiexixing, Guifurenxing, Songchixing), Shoushen Jiaoguan-Tinei Yundong Wan (Jian Xiabanshen, Jian Quanshen Feipang) The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use the six products listed above after they were found to contain undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein.

Health Canada May/10 is advising consumers not to use 1. **Botanical Slimming 100% Natural Soft Gel, also sold as Meizitang** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned consumers not to buy or use this product after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine. 2. **Marsha Slim Plus** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use Marsha Slim Plus after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine, an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine and phenolphthalein. 3. **S&S Super Slender** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use S&S Super Slender after two samples were found to contain agent similar to sibutramine. One of the tested samples also contained undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein.

Health Canada June/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **COMESCO, ZHONGCAOYAO-JIANKANGJIANFEI** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume these two products after they were found to contain undeclared phenolphthalein, sibutramine and two unauthorized substances similar to sibutramine. 2. **Qingzhi Santian Shou** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume Qingzhi Santian Shou after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine and an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine.

Health Canada July/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health product(s) 1.. **Po Chai Pills** (capsule form) The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use this product after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein. Sibutramine is a prescription drug and should only be used under the supervision of a health care practitioner while phenolphthalein is no longer authorized for sale in Canada because it may cause cancer. Po Chai Pills (capsule form) has been recalled by the manufacturer. 2. **LiPO-8 Cap and Glucomi 600 Cap** Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use these products because they contain undeclared sibutramine.

Health Canada July/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1 **Body Beautiful** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume *1 Body Beautiful* after it was found to contain undeclared phenolphthalein and sibutramine. 2. **USA Yaku Cell Slimming Capsules, Dong Gua Pai You Su, Qing Gua Pai You Su, and Mu Gua Pai You Su** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume these four products after they were found to contain undeclared phenolphthalein, sibutramine and an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine.

Health Canada Aug/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health product(s): **Que She** The U.S. FDA warned consumers not to buy or use Que She after it was found to contain undeclared fenfluramine, propranolol, sibutramine and ephedrine. **Sheng Yuan Fang** The Hong Kong Department of Health (HKDH) warned consumers not to buy or use Sheng Yuan Fang after it was found to contain undeclared phenolphthalein and sibutramine.

Health Canada Sep/10 is advising consumers not to use : **Joyful Slim Herb** Supplement The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a recall of one lot (#101408) of Joyful Slim Herb Supplement after FDA tests found it to contain undeclared desmethyl sibutramine. The lot is being voluntarily recalled nationwide in the U.S. by the company J & H Besta Corp.

Health Canada Oct/10 is informing healthcare practitioners and Canadians that Abbott Laboratories is **voluntarily withdrawing the prescription weight-loss drug sibutramine**, which is marketed as Meridia®, from the Canadian market.

Health Canada Nov/10 **Amana Care Seven Slim Herbal Capsules**: The Israel Ministry of Health informed consumers that it found the product Amana Care Seven Slim Herbal Capsules to contain undeclared sibutramine and residue of sildenafil.

Health Canada Nov/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Goya-Bitter Melon - Miyura Fit'x Capsules** contained undeclared phenolphthalein and sibutramine 2. **Solo Slim Extra Strength - Revivexxx Extra Strength** contained undeclared didesmethyl sibutramine.

Health Canada Nov/10 "**Fat Burner No. 1**" (labelled in Chinese characters translated as "**Qian Mei Yin Zi**", an unauthorized Chinese herbal weight loss medicine, is being voluntarily recalled by Ying Tai TCM Supplying Ltd. after Health Canada lab tests revealed the product contains two pharmaceutical ingredients: a chemical similar to sibutramine (N,N- didesmethylsibutramine), and sildenafil.

Health Canada Dec/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Slimming Beauty Bitter Orange Slimming Capsule (Slimming Beauty)** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned consumers not to buy or use Slimming Beauty after FDA lab tests revealed that this product contains undeclared sibutramine.

Health Canada Jan/11 The product **Synerate**, manufactured for Strive and distributed by Upper 49th, is being voluntarily recalled from the Canadian market because of the risk of serious, potentially fatal adverse effects from the combination of the ingredients in the product. Synerate, a product used for weight loss or body building, contains caffeine and synephrine, which is similar to ephedrine.

Health Canada Feb/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: **1. Fruta Planta, Reduce Weight Fruta Planta** The U.S. FDA warned consumers not to buy or use Fruta Planta and Reduce Weight Fruta Planta after FDA lab tests revealed that this product contains undeclared sibutramine. **2. Slimming Factor** The Australian TGA warned consumers not to buy or use Slimming Factor after TGA lab tests confirmed the presence of the undeclared substances sibutramine, fenfluramine and phenolphthalein. According to the TGA release, the product is sold over the Internet.

Health Canada Mar/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: **1. Celerite Slimming Capsules**: The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a company recall of Celerite™ Slimming Capsules after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine. **2. Herbal Flos Lonicerae** (Herbal Xenicol) Natural Weight Loss Formula: The product was found to contain undeclared sibutramine at more than twice the dose that was normally prescribed before sibutramine was removed from the UK market in 2010.

Health Canada May/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: **1. Dr. Health Series CM Factor** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use this product after it was found to contain an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine that may pose similar health risks.

Health Canada July/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: **1. Slim Xtreme Herbal Slimming Capsules** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed consumers of a voluntary recall after *Slim Xtreme Herbal Slimming Capsules* was found to contain undeclared sibutramine.

Health Canada Aug/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: **1. Celerite Slimming Tea** The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a company recall of Celerite Slimming Tea after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine. **2. Pink Lady for Women Capsules, St Nirvana Herbal Slimming Capsules** The Australian TGA warned consumers not to use these products after Pink Lady for Women Capsules was found to contain undeclared tadalafil while St Nirvana Herbal Slimming Capsules was found to contain undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein. According to the TGA advisories, these products are sold over the Internet. **3. Fifteen products promoted for weight loss** The Hong Kong Department of Health (HKDH) warned consumers not to buy or use these 15 products after they were found to contain at least one of the following undeclared substances: phenolphthalein, sibutramine, and/or an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine.

Health Canada Oct/11 is advising Canadians not to use these foreign health products as they may pose a health risk. **Slim Forte Slimming Capsules, Slim Forte Double Power Slimming Capsules, Slim Forte Slimming Coffee and Meizitang Botanical Slimming Soft Gel**-The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that these weight loss products contain an unauthorized drug (sibutramine). **OxyELITE Pro capsules and Pure Fat Three Days Reduce Weight capsules**-The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these weight loss products contain an unauthorized drug (sibutramine), or a prescription drug (yohimbine).

Health Canada Nov/11 is advising Canadians not to use these foreign health products as they may pose a health risk. **1. Metabolic Advantage** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned that this weight-loss product contains prescription drugs (thyroid hormones). **2. Tian Ma Tu Chung Seven Leave Ginseng, Vall-Boon Tongkat Al, and Pao Ni Kang** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned that these traditional herbal products contain prescription and over-the-counter drugs (dexamethasone, ketoconazole, repaglinide, pheniramine, and chlorpheniramine). **3. Slimming Kapsul** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that this weight-loss product contains an unauthorized drug (sibutramine) and a prescription drug (spironolactone). **4. Pancre-Plus** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that this counterfeit Chinese medicine contains an unauthorized drug (phenformin) and a prescription drug (glyburide).

Health Canada Jan/12 advises: **1)17 weight loss products (see Alert for a complete list)** A-Slim 100% Natural Slimming Capsule, Acai Berry Soft Gel ABC, Advanced Slim 5 >DaiDaiHuaJiaoNang, Dream Body Slimming Capsule, Fruit Plant Losing Fat Capsule, Health Slimming Coffee, Ja Dera 100% Natural Weight Loss Supplement, Leisure 18 Slimming Coffee, Lishou, Magic Slim Tea, Magic Slim Weight Reduction Capsule, P57 Hoodia, Pai You Guo Slim Tea, PenTraBum Slimming Capsules, Slender Slim 11 Tengda. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that these weight loss products contain unauthorized drugs (sibutramine, phenolphthalein). **2. Slimina weightloss capsules, S-shape slim capsules** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these weight loss products contain prescription drugs (propranolol, nifedipine) and/or unauthorized drugs (sibutramine, fenfluramine, phenolphthalein). **3. Cardiotium, Paidusu, SlimEasy Herbs Capsule, Tianran Zuanshi Xianweisu** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that these health products contain prescription drugs (losartan, atorvastatin, thyroxine) and/or unauthorized drugs (sibutramine, phenolphthalein).

Health Canada May/12 **1. CanSui; Lexasl Fat Rapid Loss Capsule; The Extreme-thin Fat Burning Bomb; Xiu Zhi Su L-Carnitine Slimming Capsule** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that these weight loss products contain unauthorized drugs (sibutramine, phenolphthalein). **2. Lipro Diet Pills; Xiyouji Qingzhi weight loss capsules** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these weight loss products contain an unauthorized drug (sibutramine).

Health Canada June/12 **1. Japan Weight Loss Blue, Japan Rapid Weight Loss Diet Pills Green; Japan Rapid Weight Loss Diet Pills Yellow**: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that these weight loss products contain prescription drugs (sibutramine, ephedrine alkaloids) and unauthorized drugs (phenolphthalein, and substances similar to sibutramine). **2. Mince Belle; Everlax; Ever Slim; Ever Slim Shake Mix (Strawberry); Ever Slim Shake Mix (Chocolate); Acai-Man Mangosteen Herbal Drink; Perfect Men**: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed of a recall because these weight loss and sexual enhancement products contain prescription drugs (sibutramine or tadalafil).

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MHRA Feb/12 Herbal slimming products found to contain potentially dangerous undeclared pharmaceuticals: **Expelling Grease Slimming Abdomen, V12 Fruit Slimming, 100% Natural Weight Loss Coffee, Leisure 18 Slimming Orange Juice, Fashion Slimming Milk Shake, Langli, Ya Buk & Fruit and vegetables lose weight**. MHRA has received advice from the Danish Medicines Agency that these unlicensed products have been tested and found to contain the Prescription Only Medicine Sibutramine.

MHRA Feb/12 Following a safety alert issued in October 2010 about slimming products containing Paiyouji the Agency has received a further complaint about a product called '**Paiyouji Plus - Fast Acting Slimming Tea**'. This product has been tested by the Agency and, as in the case of other Paiyouji products, found to contain sibutramine.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Overweight and Obesity www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/obesity/index.htm
Cochrane reviews www.cochrane.org
www.changeforlifeonline.com
Lifestyle changes week by week plan for patients taking sibutramine www.changeforlifeonline.com
Heart Healthy Diet(s): <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/mediterranean-diet/CL00011> ; <http://www.cfp.ca/content/57/8/894.full#ref-20>
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute: Aim for a Healthy Weight! www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/lose_wt/index.htm
Obesity drug news www.obesity-news.com

Surgeon General: **Physical activity and health**: A report of the Surgeon General www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/sgr/sgr.htm

Rimonabant support site www.itswhatyougain.co.uk

UK multicentre obesity management project www.counterweight.org

Extras (RxFiles Herbal Weight Loss)

Energy Drinks

Health Canada: Safe Use of Energy Drinks. Accessed online at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/food-aliment/boissons-energ-drinks-eng.php>. {Excessive drinking of energy drinks or [mixing them with alcohol](#) can have serious health effects. Energy drinks are meant to supply mental and physical stimulation for a short period of time. They usually contain [caffeine](#), taurine (an amino acid, one of the building blocks of protein), vitamins and glucuronolactone, a carbohydrate. Energy drinks should not be confused with sports drinks such as Gatorade® or Powerade®. Sports drinks re-hydrate the body and provide sugars, which the body burns to create energy and replenish electrolytes.}

Glucomannan (in PGX PolyGlycolex)

Plant fibre ^{water-soluble}; unabsorbable polysaccharide (glucose + mannose). May ↓LDL, ↓gastric emptying & improve BG control. Conflicting evidence. SE: gas, bloating, etc.

WEIGHT LOSS – “HERBAL / NATURAL” PRODUCTS

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- FDA Dec/08 alerted consumers nationwide not to purchase or consume more than **25 different products** marketed for weight loss because they contain undeclared, active pharmaceutical ingredients that may put consumers' health at risk. The undeclared active pharmaceutical ingredients in some of these products include sibutramine (a controlled substance), rimonabant (a drug not approved for marketing in the United States), phenytoin (an anti-seizure medication), and phenolphthalein (a solution used in chemical experiments and a suspected cancer causing agent). The weight loss products, some of which are marked as "dietary supplements," are promoted and sold on various web sites and in some retail stores. FDA advises consumers who use the products to stop taking them and consult their healthcare professional immediately as the health risks posed by these products can be serious (for

example, high blood pressure, seizures, tachycardia, palpitations, heart attack or stroke). FDA also encourages consumers to seek guidance from healthcare professional before purchasing weight loss products. See the FDA News Release for a listing of the names of the 25 referenced products. Read the MedWatch 2008 safety summary, including links to <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2008/safety08.htm#Weight>

- FDA May/09 warned consumers to immediately stop using **Hydroxycut products by Iovate Health Sciences, Inc.** Hydroxycut products are associated with a number of **serious liver injuries**. Hydroxycut products are dietary supplements that are marketed for weight-loss, as fat burners, as energy-enhancers, as low carb diet aids, and for water loss under the Iovate and MuscleTech brand names. FDA has received 23 reports of serious health problems ranging from jaundice and elevated liver enzymes, an indicator of potential liver injury, to liver damage requiring liver transplant. One death due to liver failure has been reported to FDA. Other health problems reported include seizures; cardiovascular disorders; and rhabdomyolysis, a type of muscle damage that can lead to other serious health problems such as kidney failure.
- FDA Jan/10 notified consumers and healthcare professionals about a counterfeit and potentially harmful version of **Alli 60 mg capsules** (120 count refill kit). The **counterfeit version** contained the controlled substance sibutramine and did not contain orlistat, the active ingredient.
- FDA July/10 analysis of **Que She** found that it contains: fenfluramine – a stimulant drug withdrawn from the U.S. market in 1997 after studies demonstrated that it caused serious heart valve damage, propranolol – a prescription beta blocker drug that can pose a risk to people with bronchial asthma and certain heart conditions, sibutramine – a controlled substance and prescription weight loss drug, sibutramine was the subject of a recent study whose preliminary findings showed an association between sibutramine use and increased risk of heart attack and stroke in patients who have a history of heart disease, & ephedrine – a stimulant drug that is legally marketed over-the-counter for temporary asthma relief but can pose a risk to people with cardiovascular disease.
- FDA Aug/10 lab analysis of **Solo Slim** was found to contain the undeclared drug ingredient Didesmethyl Sibutramine.
- FDA July/10 lab analysis of **Slim-30** Herb Supplement distributed by the company was found to contain undeclared N-Desmethyl Sibutramine & Sibutramine.
- FDA July/10 lab analysis of this herb supplement, **Joyful Slim** Herb Supplement, was found to contain the undeclared drug, desmethyl sibutramine.
- FDA Oct/10 notified consumers that **Slimming Beauty Bitter Orange Slimming Capsules** contain sibutramine, a prescription-only drug which is a stimulant.
- FDA Dec/10 has received multiple reports of adverse events associated with the use of **Fruta Planta**, including several cardiac events and one death. FDA lab analysis confirmed that Fruta Planta contains sibutramine.
- FDA Jan/11 laboratory analysis confirmed that **Celerite Slimming Capsules** contain sibutramine
- FDA Mar/11 lab analysis of **Svelte 30** orange & gray capsules determined that the product contains Sibutramine.
- FDA Mar/11 notified Biotab Nutraceuticals, Inc. that two lots of counterfeit product purporting to be **Extenze** contain undeclared drug ingredients. Specifically, lot 0709241 contains tadalafil and sildenafil, and lot 0509075 contains tadalafil and sibutramine.
- FDA Mar/11 laboratory analyses of **Celerite Slimming Tea**: Recall - were found to contain undeclared Sibutramine.
- FDA May/11 laboratory analysis confirmed that “**Slim Xtreme Herbal Slimming Capsule**” contains sibutramine.
- FDA July/11 is advising consumers not to purchase or use “**Slim Forte Slimming Capsules**,” “**Slim Forte Slimming Coffee**,” and “**Botanical Slimming Soft Gel & Slim Forte Double Power Slimming Capsules**.” FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that these products contain sibutramine.
- FDA Dec/11 took joint action against several companies selling over-the-counter **hCG products** that falsely and illegally claim to promote weight loss. Labeled "homeopathic" by the seven companies who received the letters, the products contain human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG), a hormone produced during pregnancy by cells that form the placenta. 1. HCG Diet Direct LLC- HCG Diet Homeopathic Drops, 2. The hCG Drops LLC- Homeopathic HCG, 3. HCG Platinum LLC; RightWay Nutrition- HCG Platinum, HCG Platinum X-30, HCG Platinum X-14, 4. Nutri Fusion Systems LLC- HCG Fusion 30, HCG Fusion 43, 5. www.resetthebody.com; www.theoriginalhcgdrops.com-Homeopathic Original HCG, Homeopathic HCG, 6. Hcg-miracleweightloss.com- HCG Extra Weight Loss Homeopathic Drops, 7. Natural Medical Supply- Alcohol Free hCG Weight Loss Formula.
- FDA Feb/12 is advising consumers not to purchase or use “**Japan Weight Loss Blue**,” a product for weight loss sold on various websites, laboratory analysis confirmed that “Japan Weight Loss Blue” contains sibutramine, analogs of sibutramine, and ephedrine alkaloids.
- FDA Apr/12 laboratory analysis confirmed that “**Japan Rapid Weight Loss Diet Pills Yellow**” contains sibutramine and phenolphthalein.
- Finucane MM, Stevens GA, Cowan MJ. **National, regional, and global trends in body-mass index since 1980**: systematic analysis of health examination surveys and epidemiological studies with 960 country-years and 9.1 million participants. Lancet 2011; DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(10)62035-5.
- Health Canada April 2007: The **Safe Use of Health Products** for Weight Loss. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/iyh-vsv/med/weight-amaigr_e.html
- Health Canada Apr/07 is warning consumers about **Bitter orange** & cardiovascular reactions in the Canadian Adverse Reactions April 2007 Newsletter.
- Health Canada Apr/07 is warning consumers from the Hong Kong Department of Health found **Lexscl Fat Rapid Loss capsules to be adulterated with sibutramine** and thyroid hormones.
- Health Canada via July/07 Medsafe also advised the public not to use the product **Dai Dai Hua Jiao Nang** because it was found to contain sibutramine.
- Health Canada Aug/07 is advising Canadians of a recall in the United States of one lot of **Metaboslim Apple Cider Vinegar**, which is marketed as a dietary supplement, because it has been found to contain sibutramine, a prescription medication that should only be taken under medical supervision.
- Health Canada Sept/07 is advising consumers not to use foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Jacaranda, Queenmer Fat Loss, Li Da**

Dai Dai Hua Jiao Nang, J-minus and **Jelimel Slimming Capsules**. These products are promoted for weight loss and have been found to be adulterated with the prescription drug sibutramine. Sibutramine is used for treating obesity and should only be taken under the supervision of a health professional. **Junyu Jiaonanyihao** has been found to contain the undeclared prescription drugs sibutramine and dexamethasone, as well as phenolphthalein, which is currently prohibited in Canada. **Heng Tong Jiangtangning Jiaonang** was found to contain the prohibited drug phenformin, and the prescription drug glibenclamide (glyburide) which should only be taken under the supervision of a health professional.

Health Canada Jan/08 is warning Canadians not to use the unauthorized product **Physio Care Lida Dai Dai Hua Jiao Nang Slimming Capsules** (batch number 28012007 / expiration date: Jan 2009). This product is promoted for weight loss and has been found to contain a derivative of the prescription drug sibutramine.

Health Canada April/08 is advising consumers not to use **Xian Zhi Wei II** was found to contain sibutramine and phenolphthalein, which are not meant for self-care and may cause serious side effects.

Health Canada Aug/08 is advising consumers not to use 9 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Dan Bai Shou Shen Su** was found to contain undeclared thyroid hormones and sibutramine. **Karntien and Karntien Easy to Slim** were adulterated with sibutramine and a compound that is similar in structure to sibutramine (N-desmethylsibutramine). **More Slim** was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient sibutramine. **Soloslim** was found to contain an undeclared substance similar in structure to the prescription drug sibutramine. It also contains the prescription drug L-carnitine, as well as synephrine, which is not authorized for sale in weight loss products in Canada.

Health Canada Aug/08 is advising consumers not to use 8 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of Natural (Xin Yi Dai) and Lasmi because Natural (Xin Yi Dai) was found to contain sibutramine and phenolphthalein, and Lasmi was found to contain sibutramine and spironolactone. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of AA Qu Feng Shu Jin Wan because it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient dexamethasone. Apisate contained fenfluramine and Energy II contained sibutramine. Obat Asam Urat and Asam Urat both contained dexamethasone, phenylbutazone and piroxicam. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of Slim 3in1 (Xiao Nan zhi Bao) because it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients sibutramine and phenolphthalein.

Health Canada Sep/08 is advising consumers not to use 2 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of **Hanguo shoushen yihao** (meiti xing) because it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient sibutramine. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of **ARMA - Sin Gang San** and New ARMA - Sin Gang San because they were found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients sibutramine and fenfluramine.

Health Canada Nov/08 is advising that the Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Fat Killer, Carbohydrate Cut and Sugar-Carbohydrate Cut** because they contain sibutramine and an unauthorised substance similar in structure to sibutramine.

Health Canada Jan 2009 is advising consumers not to use 4 foreign products: **Zhuang Tjar Gere** because it contains the undeclared prescription drugs sildenafil & tadalafil, **Zhixhue Capsules** manufactured by Vital Pharmaceutical Holdings Ltd. due to concerns of serious side-effects including liver dysfunction, **Tonik Warisan Banjar** because it contains undeclared dexamethasone & **Healthily Slim** because it contains sibutramine.

Health Canada Mar/09 Foreign Product: **68 Weight Loss Products**; Best-life Fat Burning Capsules; Bevidan; Huiji Yin Chiao Chieh Tu Pien & Relacore. Plus Lami, Linglongquxian, Menergy M-Essence, Nyal Day & Night Cold & Flu Fighter (AUST L 146264), Nyal Cold & Flu Fighter (AUST L 146263), 999 Radix Notoginseng, Batch no. 0807021, Slim Pure, Carbohydrate, Kalomee, K Carbohydrate, K Tighten Slim, & K Slimming Pills.
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/fpa-ape_2009/index-eng.php

Health Canada June/09 Foreign Product Alerts: **Jia Yi Jian** (undeclared sibutramine & tadalafil); **Shan Dian Qiang Xiao Shou** (undeclared sibutramine & phenolphthalein).

Health Canada June/09 is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized product **Slim Magic Herbal**, which is promoted as a weight-loss product, as it was found to contain an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the prescription drug sibutramine.

Health Canada is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized product **Natural Slim**, which is promoted as a weight-loss product, as it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient sibutramine and also an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to sibutramine.

Health Canada June/09 warns of foreign Product Alerts: **Herbal Xenicol** because it contains undeclared cetilistat. **BioEmagrecim**, which the FDA had previously warned contained sibutramine, was also found to contain fluoxetine, furosemide and fenproporex. Products: **Slimbionic, Xsvelten, 999 Fitness Essence, 24" ince, Light Some, Paiyouji, Pearl White Slimming, & Reducing Weight Easily** contain undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients (sibutramine and/or phenolphthalein) and/or excessive levels of lead, and may cause serious health effects..

Health Canada Aug/09 is advising via Singapore Health Sciences Authority (HSA) that **Delima Raja Urat** contains undeclared dexamethasone, chlorpheniramine, pheniramine and sibutramine.

Health Canada Dec/09 is advising Canadians not to use certain Acai Berry products after a large number of shipments of adulterated products were stopped at the

border. The product names include: **Anti-Aging Acai Berry, Guarana Blast, Brazillian Pure, Anti-aging Vital Rez V, Weight Loss VitalAcai, Dietary Supplement Acai Power Blast and Muscle Mass**. These products for anti-aging and weight loss were found to contain undeclared sildenafil. Health Canada Dec/09 is warning consumers not to use "**RevolutionDS Weight Loss**", an unauthorized health product promoted for weight loss, because it contains benzyloxypropylamine (BZP), and may pose serious health risks.

Health Canada Dec/09 is advising consumers not to use **Show Party**: Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume [shou-shen pai] after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein.

Health Canada Jan/10 informs that U.S. FDA: **Pai You Guo** contains sibutramine and phenolphthalein. Hong Kong Department of Health: **Ku Xiu Ba Xiang Jian Fei Wan** contains sibutramine and an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine; **Super Slim (Yani)** contains sibutramine and phenolphthalein; **SHoufsy** contains sibutramine & **MIGAC (sic) FAT BURMING (sic) FACTOR** contains sibutramine.

Health Canada Jan/10 is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized product "**The Slimming Coffee**," which was previously sold as "**Lose Weight Coffee**," because it was found to contain sibutramine.

Health Canada Mar/10 is warning Canadians that an unauthorized health product, "**Herbal Diet Natural**" has been found on the Canadian market and contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the prescription drug sibutramine.

Health Canada is warning Canadians that an unauthorized health product, "**West Pharm Therma Lean Fat Burner Energizer**" was found on the Canadian market. West Pharm Therma Lean Fat Burner Energizer contains Ephedrine and caffeine, which combined together, may cause serious and possibly fatal adverse effects.

Health Canada Apr/10 is warning Canadians that an unauthorized health product, "**Slim-30**" distributed in Ontario and Quebec by Duxx Enterprises Inc., contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the prescription drug, sibutramine.

Health Canada May/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Ba Bao Xiao Ke Dan** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use Ba Bao Xiao Ke Dan after it was found to contain undeclared glibenclamide. 2. **Seven Slim 7 Seshou** (Qingchun Shaonüxing, Jieshixing, Guifurenxing, Songchixing), Shoushen Jiaoguan-Tinei Yundong Wan (Jian Xiabanshen, Jian Quanshen Feipang) The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use the six products listed above after they were found to contain undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein.

Health Canada May/10 is advising consumers not to use 1. **Botanical Slimming 100% Natural Soft Gel, also sold as Meizitang** Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned consumers not to buy or use this product after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine. 2. **Marsha Slim Plus** Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use Marsha Slim Plus after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine, an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine and phenolphthalein. 3. **S&S Super Slender** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use S&S Super Slender after two samples were found to contain agent similar to sibutramine. One of the tested samples also contained undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein.

Health Canada June/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **COMESCOO, ZHONGCAOYAO-JIANKANGJIANFEI** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume these two products after they were found to contain undeclared phenolphthalein, sibutramine and two unauthorized substances similar to sibutramine. 2. **Qingzhi Santian Shou** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume Qingzhi Santian Shou after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine and an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine.

Health Canada July/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health product(s) 1. **Po Chai Pills** (capsule form) The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use this product after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein. Sibutramine is a prescription drug and should only be used under the supervision of a health care practitioner while phenolphthalein is no longer authorized for sale in Canada because it may cause cancer. Po Chai Pills (capsule form) has been recalled by the manufacturer. 2. **LiPO-8 Cap and Glucomi 600 Cap** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use these products because they contain undeclared sibutramine.

Health Canada July/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **1 Body Beautiful** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume *1 Body Beautiful* after it was found to contain undeclared phenolphthalein and sibutramine. 2. **USA Yaku Cell Slimming Capsules, Dong Gua Pai You Su, Qing Gua Pai You Su, and Mu Gua Pai You Su** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume these four products after they were found to contain undeclared phenolphthalein, sibutramine and an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine.

Health Canada Aug/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health product(s): **Que She** The U.S. FDA warned consumers not to buy or use Que She after it was found to contain undeclared fenfluramine, propranolol, sibutramine and ephedrine. **Sheng Yuan Fang** The Hong Kong Department of Health (HKDH) warned consumers not to buy or use Sheng Yuan Fang after it was found to contain undeclared phenolphthalein and sibutramine.

Health Canada Sep/10 is advising consumers not to use : **Joyful Slim** Herb Supplement The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a recall of one lot (#101408) of

Joyful Slim Herb Supplement after FDA tests found it to contain undeclared desmethyl sibutramine. The lot is being voluntarily recalled nationwide in the U.S. by the company J & H Besta Corp.

- Health Canada Nov/10 **Amana Care Seven Slim Herbal Capsules**: The Israel Ministry of Health informed consumers that it found the product Amana Care Seven Slim Herbal Capsules to contain undeclared sibutramine and residue of sildenafil.
- Health Canada Nov/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: **1. Goya-Bitter Melon - Miyura Fit'x Capsules** contained undeclared phenolphthalein and sibutramine **2. Solo Slim Extra Strength - Revivexxx Extra Strength** contained undeclared didesmethyl sibutramine
- Health Canada Nov/10 "**Fat Burner No. 1**" (labelled in Chinese characters translated as "**Qian Mei Yin Zi**", an unauthorized Chinese herbal weight loss medicine, is being voluntarily recalled by Ying Tai TCM Supplying Ltd. after Health Canada lab tests revealed the product contains two pharmaceutical ingredients: a chemical similar to sibutramine (N,N- didesmethylsibutramine), and sildenafil.
- Health Canada Dec/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: **1. Slimming Beauty Bitter Orange Slimming Capsule (Slimming Beauty)** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned consumers not to buy or use Slimming Beauty after FDA lab tests revealed that this product contains undeclared sibutramine.
- Health Canada Jan/11 The product **Synerate**, manufactured for Strive and distributed by Upper 49th, is being voluntarily recalled from the Canadian market because of the risk of serious, potentially fatal adverse effects from the combination of the ingredients in the product. Synerate, a product used for weight loss or body building, contains caffeine and synephrine, which is similar to ephedrine.
- Health Canada Feb/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: **1. Fruta Planta, Reduce Weight Fruta Planta** The U.S. FDA warned consumers not to buy or use Fruta Planta and Reduce Weight Fruta Planta after FDA lab tests revealed that this product contains undeclared sibutramine. **2. Slimming Factor** The Australian TGA warned consumers not to buy or use Slimming Factor after TGA lab tests confirmed the presence of the undeclared substances sibutramine, fenfluramine and phenolphthalein. According to the TGA release, the product is sold over the Internet.
- Health Canada Mar/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions:
1. Celerite Slimming Capsules: The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a company recall of Celerite™ Slimming Capsules after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine. **2. Herbal Flos Loniceræ (Herbal Xenicol) Natural Weight Loss Formula**: The product was found to contain undeclared sibutramine at more than twice the dose that was normally prescribed before sibutramine was removed from the UK market in 2010.
- Health Canada May/11 is advising consumers not to use: **1. Dr. Health Series CM Factor** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use this product after found to contain substance similar to sibutramine.
- Health Canada July/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions:
1. Slim Xtreme Herbal Slimming Capsules The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed consumers of a voluntary recall after Slim Xtreme Herbal Slimming Capsules was found to contain undeclared sibutramine.
- Health Canada Aug/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions:
1. Celerite Slimming Tea The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a company recall of Celerite Slimming Tea after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine. **2. Pink Lady for Women Capsules, St Nirvana Herbal Slimming Capsules** The Australian TGA warned consumers not to use these products after Pink Lady for Women Capsules was found to contain undeclared tadalafil while St Nirvana Herbal Slimming Capsules was found to contain undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein. According to the TGA advisories, these products are sold over the Internet. **3. Fifteen products promoted for weight loss** The Hong Kong Department of Health (HKDH) warned consumers not to buy or use these 15 products after they were found to contain at least one of the following undeclared substances: phenolphthalein, sibutramine, and/or an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine.
- Health Canada Oct/11 is advising Canadians not to use these foreign health products as they may pose a health risk. **Slim Forte Slimming Capsules, Slim Forte Double Power Slimming Capsules, Slim Forte Slimming Coffee and Meizitang Botanical Slimming Soft Gel**-The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that these weight loss products contain an unauthorized drug (sibutramine). **OxyELITE Pro capsules and Pure Fat Three Days Reduce Weight capsules**- The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these weight loss products contain an unauthorized drug (sibutramine), or a prescription drug (yohimbine).
- Health Canada Nov/11 is advising Canadians not to use these foreign health products as they may pose a health risk. **1. Metabolic Advantage** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned that this weight-loss product contains prescription drugs (thyroid hormones). **2. Tian Ma Tu Chung Seven Leave Ginseng, Vall-Boon Tongkat Al, and Pao Ni Kang** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned that these traditional herbal products contain prescription and over-the-counter drugs (dexamethasone, ketoconazole, repaglinide, pheniramine, and chlorpheniramine). **3. Slimming Kapsul** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that this weight-loss product contains an unauthorized drug (sibutramine) and a prescription drug (spironolactone). **4. Pancre-Plus** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that this counterfeit Chinese medicine contains an unauthorized drug (phenformin) and a

prescription drug (glyburide).

Health Canada Jan/12 advises: 1) **17 weight loss products (see Alert for a complete list)** A-Slim 100% Natural Slimming Capsule, Acai Berry Soft Gel ABC, Advanced Slim 5 >DaiDaiHuaJiaoNang, Dream Body Slimming Capsule, Fruit Plant Lossing Fat Capsule, Health Slimming Coffee, Ja Dera 100% Natural Weight Loss Supplement, Leisure 18 Slimming Coffee, Lishou, Magic Slim Tea, Magic Slim Weight Reduction Capsule, P57 Hoodia, Pai You Guo Slim Tea, PhentraBurn Slimming Capsules, Slender Slim 11 Tengda. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that these weight loss products contain unauthorized drugs (sibutramine, phenolphthalein). 2. **Slimina weightloss capsules, S-shape slim capsules** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these weight loss products contain prescription drugs (propranolol, nifedipine) and/or unauthorized drugs (sibutramine, fenfluramine, phenolphthalein). 3. **Cardiotium, Paidusu, SlimEasy Herbs Capsule, Tianran Zuanshi Xianweisu** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that these health products contain prescription drugs (losartan, atorvastatin, thyroxine) and/or unauthorized drugs (sibutramine, phenolphthalein).

Health Canada May/12 1. **CanSui; Lexsel Fat Rapid Loss Capsule; The Extreme-thin Fat Burning Bomb; Xiu Zhi Su L-Carnitine Slimming Capsule** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that these weight loss products contain unauthorized drugs (sibutramine, phenolphthalein). 2. **Lipro Diet Pills; Xiyouji Qingzhi** weight loss capsules The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these weight loss products contain an unauthorized drug (sibutramine).

Health Canada June/12 1. **Mince Belle; Everlax; Ever Slim; Ever Slim Shake Mix (Strawberry); Ever Slim Shake Mix (Chocolate); Acai-Man Mangosteen Herbal Drink; Perfect Men:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed of a recall because these weight loss and sexual enhancement products contain prescription drugs (sibutramine or tadalafil). 2. **Japan Weight Loss Blue, Japan Rapid Weight Loss Diet Pills Green; Japan Rapid Weight Loss Diet Pills Yellow:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that these weight loss products contain prescription drugs (sibutramine, ephedrine alkaloids) and unauthorized drugs (phenolphthalein, and substances similar to sibutramine).

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MHRA Feb/12 Herbal slimming products found to contain potentially dangerous undeclared pharmaceuticals: **Expelling Grease Slimming Abdomen, V12 Fruit Slimming, 100% Natural Weight Loss Coffee, Leisure 18 Slimming Orange Juice, Fashion Slimming Milk Shake, Langli, Ya Buk & Fruit and vegetables lose weight**. MHRA has received advice from the Danish Medicines Agency that these unlicensed products have been tested and found to contain the Prescription Only Medicine Sibutramine.

MHRA Feb/12 Following a safety alert issued in October 2010 about slimming products containing Paiyouji the Agency has received a further complaint about a product called '**Paiyouji Plus - Fast Acting Slimming Tea**'. This product has been tested by the Agency and, as in the case of other Paiyouji products, found to contain sibutramine.

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FDA Propylthiouracil-Induced Liver Failure June/09 FDA has identified 32 AERS cases (22 adult and 10 pediatric) of serious liver injury associated with propylthiouracil use. Of the adult cases, 12 deaths and 5 liver transplants occurred. Among the pediatric patients, 1 case resulted in death and 6 in liver transplants. In contrast, for methimazole 5 AERS cases of serious liver injury were identified. All five cases were in adult patients and 3 resulted in death. (**April 21, 2010**: Propylthiouracil: FDA has added a Boxed Warning to the label for propylthiouracil, to include information about reports of severe liver injury and acute liver failure, some of which have been fatal, in adult and pediatric patients using this medication. A boxed warning has been added to the hyperthyroidism drug propylthiouracil (PTU) to alert clinicians about the drug's risk for severe liver injury, the FDA announced on Wednesday. The new labeling is based in part on postmarketing safety reports of severe liver injury — including 15 deaths — in 23 adult and 11 pediatric patients taking PTU. A warning about the potential dangers of the drug was issued by the agency last June. The FDA recommends that PTU only be used in patients who cannot tolerate methimazole or other treatments for hyperthyroidism and in women just before and during their first trimester of pregnancy. Patients will now receive a medication guide upon filling a prescription for PTU. [FDA drug safety communication](#))

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Given these potential adverse effects, the FDA issued an alert on June 4, 2009 that noted the risk of serious liver injury, including liver failure and death, with the use of PTU in adult (1:10,000) and pediatric (1:2,000) patients. These conferences focused on the relative safety of methimazole compared with PTU.^[11-14,16] Approximately 30% of patients treated with PTU will have 1- to 2-fold elevations of serum aminotransferase levels. The liver disease associated with PTU can be severe. In the Adverse Event Reporting System (AERS), approximately 22 adult (12 deaths, 5 hepatic transplants) and 10 pediatric (1 death, 6 hepatic transplants) cases of serious hepatic injury associated with PTU treatment were reported. Methimazole, by contrast, was associated with 5 adult cases of serious hepatic injury with 3 deaths. In a system that may overlap with AERS, the United Network for Organ Sharing reported 23 hepatic transplants from 1990 to 2007 (16 adult, 7 children) related to PTU-associated hepatic failure.^[11-13,16] Concurrently, no liver transplants related to the use of methimazole were reported. The average PTU dose in children and adults requiring liver transplant was 300 mg daily. Liver failure occurred between 6 and 450 days after starting treatment (median 120 days). Furthermore, there were 2 reports of serious maternal liver disease during pregnancy and 2 reports of liver injury in fetuses of mothers who ingested PTU during pregnancy.^[11-14,16]

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Web Sites:

Access information for patients with hypothyroidism prepared by the American College of Physicians.
www.acponline.org/patients_families/diseases_conditions/hypothyroidism/

Access information for patients with hypothyroidism prepared by the National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health.
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000353.htm

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www.thyroid.org/patients/patient_brochures/hypothyroidism.html

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Other Agents	Prednisone (Glucocorticoid) 1, 5, 50mg tab; 1mg/ml soln	-Suppresses adrenal function	Classic & Nonclassic congenital adrenal hyperplasia (NCCAH)	-Less effective compared to OCPs or anti-androgens ¹	Uncontrolled diabetes, Obesity	Changes typical of Cushing syndrome (weight gain, bone loss), adrenal atrophy	5-7.5mg po daily \$8 (5mg tab)
	Ketoconazole NIZORAL 200mg tab	-Adrenal enzyme inhibitor	For patients with Cushing's syndrome while waiting definite therapy	-Similar efficacy to CPA 2-50mg ²⁰	Hepatic dysfunction Pregnancy, BF	Gynecomastia, dry skin, hepatotoxicity, adrenocortical suppression	200mg po daily \$38 (200mg tab)
	Leuprolide acetate depot (GnRH analog) LUPRON & DEPOT 5mg/ml vial ^x ; Depot: 3.75,7.5,11.25,22.5 ^x & 30 ^x mg	-Potent inhibitor of ovarian steroidogenesis by suppressing LH & FSH	Severe hyperandrogenism of ovarian origin that does not respond to other drugs	-Similar efficacy to CPA 2-50mg, but more adverse effects ²⁰	Pregnancy, BF Osteoporosis	Osteoporosis Reversible induced menopause	3.75-7.5mg monthly IM, with 25-50ug transdermal estradiol \$445 ^{\$415 + \$24-30}
	Metformin GLUCOPHAGE 500, 850mg tab	-improves insulin sensitivity	Used in polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). Not effective for idiopathic hirsutism	-Small benefit compared to placebo ²³ -Inferior to OC or anti-androgen therapy for idiopathic hirsutism ²³	Renal failure	Gastrointestinal upset (minimize by starting low dose 250mg daily, then titrate)	500-2000mg/day (given 250-1000mg BID) \$21-33 (500mg tab)

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<http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/members/Hirsutism-Treatment-Figure-Drug-Chart.pdf>

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Cochrane reviews CD:

- TNF-a for induction: data not combined. One RCT indicates single infusion may induce remission. CDP571 may induce remission; no evidence for etanercept. Need longer f/u to assess SE such as TB & lymphoma.
- MTX for induction: data not combined. Evidence from a single large trial suggests benefit of MTX 25 mg IM weekly for induction of remission & complete withdrawal from steroids in refractory disease. No evidence supports lower dose PO MTX.
- CsA for induction: low dose PO CsA does not induce remission. Higher PO or IV doses not adequately evaluated, but ↑risk SE such as nephrotoxicity. One study found clinical improvement on unvalidated scale, but remission not assessed.
- AZA and 6-MP effective for inducing remission (NNT=5); OR increases after 17 weeks of tx; NNT=3 for steroid sparing effect; NNT for SE=14.
- Budesonide: superior to placebo for induction & superior to mesalamine; budesonide was inferior to prednisone/prednisolone, but fewer SE. Note: in disease limited to ileum or ascending colon.
- Natalizumab: superior to placebo for induction, but trials halted after 2 cases fatal progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy in MS.
- Corticosteroids superior to enteral nutrition therapy for induction.
- 5-ASA not superior to placebo in maintaining remission in CD.
- PO budesonide 6 mg/day not effective in maintaining remission.
- Anti-tubercular tx for maintaining remission: may be effective when remission induced by corticosteroids combined with anti-TB tx; however, this is based on subgroup analyses of 2 trials with small numbers
- Corticosteroids (maintenance): not effective and increased AE.
- Probiotics (maintenance): Lactobacilli GC, E. coli strain Nissle 1917, VSL#3, Saccharomyces boulardii-all not effective, but may be due to small sample size
- AZA (maintenance): effective NNT=7 for maintenance; NNT=3 for steroid sparing; NNH=19.

Cochrane reviews UC:

- 5-ASA superior to placebo to induce remission in UC & trended towards benefit over sulfasalazine (SSZ). However, cost an issue, therefore SSZ generally preferred. 5-ASA has fewer SE than SSZ. 5-ASA not associated with male infertility, but SSZ is.
- 5-ASA superior to placebo in maintaining remission for UC (NNT=6). 5-ASA NOT superior to SSZ (NNT= -19), indicating SSZ superior. HOWEVER, many trials required tolerance of SSZ as part of inclusion criteria (Bergman 2006)
- Transdermal nicotine superior to placebo for inducing remission in UC, however no benefit was seen when compared to standard therapy (oral prednisone or mesalamine). More patients on transdermal nicotine withdrew due to AE than placebo or standard therapy.
- Only 2 small trials identified for CsA; could not be pooled as major differences in design & patients involved. Quick response rates in severe disease appear beneficial, but long-term effects unknown.
- In moderate-severe, refractory disease, infliximab induces remission. NNT=5 at 8 weeks (based on ACT studies alone)
- Systematic review: Combination topical & oral 5ASA superior to oral 5ASA for induction of remission of mild-mod UC. Intermittent topical 5ASA superior to oral for prevention of relapse of quiescent UC.^{Ford et al.}

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The Rx Files - H. pylori Eradication

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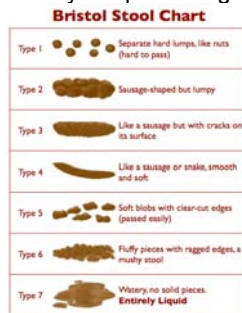
Extras:

Discontinued Drugs: Alosetron **LOTROXEX** (2000 -severe constipation & ischemic colitis) avail. in USA ♀ special access 5HT₃ antagonist. Not avail. in Canada.

Tegaserod **ZELNORM**: Mar07- suspended due to CV ischemic events; but Apr08-FDA for Emergency IND situations only use in IBS-constipation & chronic idiopathic constipation in ♀ <55yr with no hx of heart problems. 6 mg po bid \$160 (NNT=14) 5HT₄ agonist Not avail in Canada.

Notes:

- Children with IBS or functional abdominal pain: probiotic *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG 3 billion colony forming units twice daily reduced # of pain episodes & pain intensity by ≥50% more in Tx vs PI group (8wks; ave age 6).⁵³
- A high-fiber diet and increased frequency of bowel movements may not protect against diverticulosis.⁷²



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N&V EXTRAS:

NHS – CKS: Nausea and Vomiting in Pregnancy - management: http://www.cks.library.nhs.uk/nausea_vomiting_in_pregnancy; NGC: ACCC Netherlands: http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?doc_id=11793
CINV Guidelines: 1) MASCC: <http://www.mascc.org/content/1.html>; 2) ASCO: <http://www.asco.org/portal/site/ASCO/>
BWH-Overtreatment of PONV: 1) low doses of ondansetron, 1mg iv q6h, adequate; 2) allow for onset, 30 minutes <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/pharmacoepid/Research/EduMaterials/antiemetics3.05.04-web.pdf>
Other: Fosopreitant: Injectable form of **EMEND**, 150mg vial in Canada.

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- FDA Dec/09 The Texas Department of State Health Services and FDA notified healthcare professionals and consumers, especially pregnant or breastfeeding women, to avoid consuming a product called "Nzu", taken as a traditional remedy for morning sickness, because of the potential health risks from high levels of lead and arsenic, noted on laboratory analysis by Texas DSHS. Nzu, which is sold at African specialty stores is also called Calabash clay, Calabar stone, Mabele, Argile and La Craie. It generally resembles balls of clay or mud and is usually sold in small plastic bags with a handwritten label identifying it as "Nzu" or "Salted Nzu."
- FDA Dec/10 The injectable form of dolasetron mesylate (Anzemet) should not be used to prevent nausea or vomiting related to chemotherapy because the drug increases the risk for torsade de pointes. The FDA recommends against using Anzemet injections in patients with congenital long-QT syndrome. The warning does not apply to Anzemet tablets because the risks for developing an abnormal heart rhythm are not as high as with the injections. [FDA MedWatch alert](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) (Free)
- FDA Sep/11 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is informing the public of an ongoing safety review of the anti-nausea drug Zofran (ondansetron, ondansetron hydrochloride and their generics). Ondansetron may increase the risk of developing abnormal changes (QT prolongation & torsades) in the electrical activity of the heart
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RA - EXTRAS

Approach & Considerations for Drug Tx in RA

- **Initial:** DMARD + NSAID +/- Corticosteroid for symptoms. MTX often the DMARD of choice, however, HCQ is safer but suitable only for mild cases.
 - NSAIDs now used primarily for bridging and pain management.
 - Oral corticosteroids associated with complications, so use controversial. Short courses &/or low doses for ≤ 2 yrs sometimes used (\downarrow joint pain & systemic symptoms). Intra-articular injections useful & few AEs.
 - Earlier combo DMARD or biologic tx warranted for those with high disease activity & poor prognostic factors.
{Features of poor prognosis include: functional limitation, extraarticular disease (rheumatoid nodules, RA vasculitis, Felty's syndrome, +ve rheumatoid factor, anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies, bony erosions radiographic.)}
- **TNF inhibitors** - 1st line biologics after an inadequate response to a DMARD. They are given +/- MTX (synergistic). Note, infliximab given with MTX (not recommended for monotherapy).
 - ♦ Initial TNF inhibitor choice: varies with clinician (often etanercept rapid onset, short t_{1/2} or infliximab)
 - ♦ Relative to other agents, TNF-inhibitors may be more effective in relieving symptoms & limiting joint destruction. They often also act more rapidly.
 - ♦ AEs:
 - 1) **Injection site reactions** (back pain, fever, urticaria, dyspnea, \downarrow BP): common with etanercept, golimumab, certolizumab, & adalimumab.
 - 2) **Cytopenia:** uncommon, but can occur with any anti-TNF tx. Monitor CBC.
 - 3) The potential for **Serious Infections:** (eg. bacterial sepsis, TB reactivated & disseminated, fungal, viral & opportunistic unusual eg. *p. jirovecii*) are important; screen for active infection, latent TB, etc.
 - 4) **Malignancies (esp. lymphomas):** reported but causality not established. The condition of RA \uparrow lymphoma risk on its own. Avoid anti-TNF tx in patients with recent ca.
 - 5) **Other AEs:** (rare) – CHF, reversible lupus-like syndrome, demyelinating conditions eg. M.S. (avoid if hx), hepatotoxicity (caution with infliximab).
 - ♦ If 1st TNF inhibitor is not effective, switching to a 2nd TNF inhibitor may be effective; however, many specialists will opt for a non-TNF biologic for a different mechanism of action.
- **Non-TNF Biologics** – include rituximab co-admin with a DMARD; pre-treat to prevent infusion reaction, abatacept +/- a DMARD, tocilizumab may work in ≥ 2 wks, AEs (many; severe complications reported), anakinra less effective.
- Aggressive early therapy with MTX &/or a biologic \Rightarrow longer remissions, less joint destruction & improved quality of life.
- **Combination Tx with 2-3 DMARDs (or a DMARD + biologic):** often more effective than monotherapy without more toxicity.
 - ♦ **Triple DMARD Tx:** MTX +SSZ + HCQ (+/- prednisone low-dose $\leq 7.5-10$ mg/day) effective. ♦ **MTX + Biologic** more efficacious than either alone. ♦ **Combination of 2+ Biologics NOT recommended** as \uparrow toxicity!
- **Comorbidity & biologics** ^{ACR RA 2012:}
 - 1) Hepatitis
 - a) Hep C \Rightarrow potentially recommend etanercept;
 - b) Hep B: untreated chronic or treated chronic with Child-Pugh class B or higher: **avoid** any biologic!
 - 2) Malignancy
 - a) treated solid malignancy >5 yrs or non-melanoma skin ca >5 yrs ago – recommend any biologic;
 - b) treated solid malignancy <5 yr or treated non-melanoma skin ca within 5 yr – recommend rituximab;
 - c) treated skin melanoma, & treated lymphoproliferative malignancy – recommend rituximab;
 - 3) CHF
 - a) NYHA class III-IV with ejection fraction $\leq 50\%$: **avoid** anti-TNF biologics!

Vaccinations: before DMARD or biologic, immunize for influenza, pneumococcal, hep-B & HZV. Live vaccines should not be given to patients on biologics (should be given ≥ 1 month prior to starting tx).

Pain Management in RA:

- Neuromodulators: Cochrane Review RCT, placebo controlled - few trials, all short term ($\sim 2-5$ weeks) with high risk of bias (ie. Weak evidence)
 - 1) Nefopam (ACUPAN): not in Canada; 5HT, NE & DA receptor blocking; NNT=2 for pain relief, offset by significant SE's
 - 2) Topical capsaicin: reasonable add-on option; NNT=2-3 for pain relief, offset by some burning at application site
 - 3) Oromucosal cannabis: small reduction in pain, highly offset by SE's leading to withdrawal (NNH=3) including dizziness 26%, dry mouth 13% & lightheadedness (10%)
 - 4) Lack of data for other agents included: anticonvulsants, ketamine, bupropion, methylphenidate

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: DMARD Comparison Chart References (www.RxFiles.ca):

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See also: Sexual Dysfunction Chart: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/members/CHT-Sexual-Dysfx-Drugs-Overview.pdf>

Erectile Dysfunction Comparison Chart (ED) Treatment Chart

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Apomorphine (CR sublingual tabs) ApoKyn (USA)	Centrally acting agent stimulates dopamine sites in the hypothalamus 	SE: nausea (↓with time, CR SL tabs);headache, dizziness, sedation, yawning Not affected by food or alcohol	Onset <30min Peak ~1h Duration ~1-2h Safe with nitrates so may be preferred in select cardiac patients Can be used in combination with PDE5 inhibitors for increased effect Limited efficacy compared to PDE5 inhibitors generally ³⁹	2-3mg 6mg	
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- FDA May 2007 FDA chemical analysis revealed that **Energy Max** contains thione analog of sildenafil, a substance with a structure similar to sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra, an FDA-approved drug for ED. Substances like this are called analogs because they have a structure similar to another drug and may cause similar side effects and drug interactions. **True Man** contains a thione analog of sildenafil or piperadino vardenafil, an analog of vardenafil, the active ingredient in Levitra, another FDA-approved prescription drug for ED. Neither the thione analog of sildenafil nor piperadino vardenafil are components of approved drug products.
- FDA: Sept 21, 2007 -- TWC Global LLC, Inc., issued nationwide recall of **Axcil** and **Desirin**, both marketed as dietary supplements, because they contain potentially harmful, undeclared ingredients. FDA laboratory analysis of **Axcil and Desirin** found that the lot of 02B07 contained 3mg/g of sildenafil, the active ingredient of a FDA approved drug used for erectile dysfunction (ED).
- FDA Feb/08 Palo Alto Labs and FDA notified consumers and healthcare professionals of a voluntary nationwide recall of two dietary supplements, **Aspire36** and **Aspire Lite**. The products were recalled because they were found to contain Aildenafil in trace amounts and Dimethyl sildenafil thione, an analog of Sildenafil, a drug used to treat erectile dysfunction.
- FDA May/08 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers not to purchase or use "**Blue Steel**" or "**Hero**" products, marketed nationally as dietary supplements, because these products contain undeclared ingredients similar to sildenafil.
- FDA May/08 is requesting that the manufacturer of **Xiadafil** — an "all natural" dietary supplement sold to treat erectile dysfunction — recall all its stock from natural food stores & discontinue marketing it on the Web since it contains an analog of sildenafil.
- FDA May/08 notified consumers and healthcare professionals that supplement products sold under the brand name of **Viril-ity Power (VIP)** Tablets is being recalled because one lot was found to contain a potentially harmful undeclared ingredient, hydroxyhomosildenafil, an analog of sildenafil.
- FDA July/08 Jack Distribution, LLC issued a voluntary nationwide recall of selected lots of **Rize 2 The Occasion Capsules** and **Rose 4 Her Capsules**, marketed as dietary supplements. The products were recalled because certain lots contained thiomethisosildenafil, an undeclared analog of sildenafil, a FDA-approved drug used for Erectile Dysfunction.
- FDA July/08 not to buy or use **Viapro** 375mg Capsules because one lot of the product was found to contain a potentially harmful undeclared ingredient, thio-methisosildenafil, an analog of sildenafil.
- FDA Aug/08 chemical analysis of **Xiadafil VIP** tablet lots 6K029 and 6K029-SEI found that the product contained an undeclared ingredient, hydroxyhomosildenafil
- FDA Mar/09- Bodee LLC and FDA notified consumers and healthcare professionals of a nationwide recall of all the company's supplement product sold under the name **Zencore Plus**. FDA lab analysis of Zencore Plus samples found the product contains benzamidenafil, an undeclared drug product and a PDE5 inhibitor.
- FDA Apr/09 Nature & Health Co. and FDA notified healthcare professionals of a recall of a supplement product, **Libimax**. FDA analysis found the product contains tadalafil.
- FDA July/09 and Haloteco notified healthcare professionals and consumers of a nationwide voluntary recall of Libipower Plus. Lab analysis of **Libipower Plus** samples were found to contain undeclared Tadalafalil.
- FDA July/09 found **Steam** (Nutracoastal Trading LLC's dietary supplement) product contains sulfoildenafil, an analog of sildenafil.
- FDA Nov/09 notified consumers that **Stiff Nights**, a product sold as a dietary supplement, contains sulfoildenafil, a chemical similar to sildenafil (Viagra).
- FDA Nov/09 & RockHard Laboratories notified consumers that **RockHard Weekend**, a product sold as a dietary supplement, contains sulfoildenafil, an analogue of sildenafil.
- FDA Dec/09 warned that **Atlas Operations, Inc.** notified consumers of a nationwide recall of the company's dietary supplements for sexual enhancement. These products are sold as dietary supplements throughout the USA. FDA lab analyses found that the products tested from certain batches contain Sulfoildenafil.
- FDA Mar/10 & Natural Wellness notified consumers that **MasXtreme**, a product sold as a dietary supplement contains aildenafil close in structure to sildenafil and is expected to possess a similar pharmacological and adverse event profile as well as the drug phenotolamine which is an alpha-adrenergic blocker.
- FDA Apr/10 & Kanec USA notified healthcare professionals of a nationwide recall of **Stud Capsule For Men** [Lot #060607-01/060108-01, Exp 6-2013], after being informed by FDA that laboratory analysis of a sample found the product to be adulterated with sildenafil, an FDA approved drug.
- FDA June/10 **Magic Power Coffee**: Product marketed as a dietary supplement for sexual enhancement contains the drug ingredient hydroxythiohomosildenafil.
- FDA Aug/10 lab analysis of **Revivexxx Extra Strength** was found to contain undeclared tadalafil.
- FDA Aug/10 notified Novacare LLC that certain products appear to contain sulfoildenafil: **Stiff Nights, Aziffa, Size Matters, Erex, Mojo, Hard Drive, Eyeful, Red Magic, Straight Up, Zotrex, Monster Excyte, WOW, Xaitrex, Verect, Prolatis, Xytamax, Maxyte, Libidinal, OMG, OMG45, and Zilex (with Golden Spear) summers.**
- FDA July/10 & Good Health, Inc. is conducting a voluntary recall after FDA lab analyses found that the product tested from certain batches of **Vialipro** contain Sulfoildenafil.
- FDA July/10 notified consumers that lab analysis of lots of ejaculoid **XXXTREME** and **stimuloid II** found that the products, sold as dietary supplements, contain sulfoildenafil
- FDA Aug/10 had Lab analysis of **Mr. Magic** to contain hydroxythiohomosildenafil and sulfoildenafil.
- FDA Aug/10 analyzed **TimeOut** and determined that it contains hydroxythiohomosildenafil.
- FDA Nov/10 ISSUE: Lab analysis has found **Duro Extend Capsules for Men** to contain Sulfoildenafil, an analogue of Sildenafil
- FDA Dec/10 warned consumers not to use **Man Up Now** capsules, marketed as a dietary supplement for sexual enhancement, because FDA analysis determined that the product contains sulfoildenafil
- FDA Dec/10 notified the public that testing determined that **RockHard Weekend** Lot Numbers 100159 and 100260 sold as blister packs, 3ct bottles and 8ct bottles & **Pandora** Lot Numbers 100378 sold as blister packs & **Passion Coffee** contain an

analogue of sildenafil.

FDA Mar/11 notified Biotab Nutraceuticals, Inc. that two lots of counterfeit product purporting to be **Extenze** contain undeclared drug ingredients. Specifically, lot 0709241 contains tadalafil and sildenafil, and lot 0509075 contains tadalafil and sibutramine.

FDA Mar/11 laboratory analysis confirmed that **Black Ant** contains sildenafil.

FDA Mar/11 ISSUE: FDA lab analysis of **X-Hero** found the product contains sulfoildenafil, the analogue of the active ingredient of an FDA-approved drug. In addition, FDA analysis of **Male Enhancer** sample found the product contains tadalafil.

FDA Apr/11 Lab analyses of **Best Enhancer** found that the products to contain Sulfoildenafil.

FDA May/11 **Regenect**: Recall - Undeclared Drug Ingredient of lab confirmed the presence of Sulfoildenafil.

FDA June/11 lab analyses found **Via Xtreme Ultimate Sexual Enhancer Dietary Supplement** for Men to contain sulfoildenafil methanesulfonate.

FDA Nov/11 lab analysis for Lot 10090571 found **Virility Max** to contain sulfoildenafil.

FDA Feb/12 Healthy People Co. notified the public of a recall of the company's dietary supplements sold under the brand names Healthy People Co. FDA lab confirmed presence of Sibutramine & Tadalafil, making these products unapproved new drugs. (Mince Belle Dietary Supplement, PERFECT Men Dietary Supplement, EVERLAX Dietary Supplement, EVER Slim Dietary Supplement, Herbal Drink Acai-man Mangosteen Dietary Supplement, EVER SLIM Shake Mix Dietary Supplement)

FDA Feb/12 Regeneca, Inc. notified the public of a nationwide recall of **RegenArouse**, Lot Number 130100. FDA lab analysis confirmed the presence of Tadalafil.

FDA Feb/12 is advising consumers not to purchase or use "**Hard Ten Days**," & "**Man King**" a product for sexual enhancement sold on various websites. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "Hard Ten Days" contains sildenafil

FDA Apr/12 laboratory analysis confirmed that "**France T253**" contains sildenafil.

FDA Apr/12 is advising consumers not to purchase or use "**X-Rock**," a product for sexual enhancement manufactured by CRM Laboratories and sold on various websites, including www.xrockme.com. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "X-Rock" contains sildenafil and hydroxythiohomoildenafil.

FDA Apr/12 laboratory analysis confirmed that "**Instant Hard Rod**" contains aminotadalafil. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "**ZenMaxx**" contains aminotadalafil. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "**RigiRx Plus**" contains aminotadalafil.

FDA May/12 is advising consumers not to purchase or use "**VMaxx Rx**," a product for sexual enhancement sold on various websites, including www.vmaxxrx.com. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "VMaxx Rx" contains the undeclared ingredient sulfoildenafil. FDA is also advising consumers not to purchase or use "**Boost — Ultra Sexual Enhancement Formula**." This product is promoted and sold on various websites, including www.boostultra.biz. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "Boost—Ultra Sexual Enhancement Formula" contains sildenafil. FDA is also advising consumers not to purchase or use "**Firminite**," a product for sexual enhancement sold on various websites, including www.firminite.com. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "Firminite" contains tadalafil.

FDA May/12 West Coast Nutritionals, Ltd. is conducting a recall of all lots of their dietary supplements **Firminite, Extra Strength Instant Hot Rod, & Libidron** to the consumer. FDA lab analysis of Firminite was found to contain undeclared Tadalafil.

FDA May/12 is advising consumers not to purchase or use "**EreXite**," a product for sexual enhancement sold on various websites, including www.amazon.com. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "EreXite" contains tadalafil.

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Gupta BP, Murad MH, Clifton MM, et al. The effect of **lifestyle modification and cardiovascular risk factor reduction** on erectile dysfunction: a systematic review and meta-analysis [Sept 12, 2011]. *Arch Intern Med*. 2011

Health Canada Jan/06 Natural health product **Libidfit** may pose health risks (promoted for sexual enhancement and erectile dysfunction, but contains an undeclared amount of a pharmaceutical ingredient similar to sildenafil) http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_02_e.html

Health Canada May/06 is warning consumers not to use the product **Nasutra** because it has been found to contain the undeclared ingredient sildenafil (chemical name for Viagra) that could lead to serious health risks, especially for patients with existing medical conditions such as heart problems, those who may be taking heart medications, or those who may be at risk for strokes.

Health Canada Feb/07 is advising consumers not to use the following product listed in the table below due to concerns about possible side-effects. More info **Power 58; Platinum Power 58; Ehanix; Jolex; Onyo; Deguozechengtianxia** because they contained acetildenafil. Acetildenafil is an analogue of sildenafil, a prescription medication indicated for treatment of erectile dysfunction.

Health Canada Mar/07 is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized natural health product **XOX For Men**, because it contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient, tadalafil, an ingredient found in the prescription drug Cialis. The use of XOX For Men could pose serious health risks, especially for patients with existing medical conditions such as heart problems, those taking heart medication, or those at risk of stroke.

Health Canada Mar/07 is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized product **Vigorect Oral Gel Shooter**, because it contains an undeclared drug substance tadalafil, which should only be available by prescription.

Health Canada Apr/07 is warning consumers from the United States FDA found **V.MAX and Rhino Max (Rhino V Max) to contain undeclared amounts of aminotadalafil**, an analogue of tadalafil, used to treat erectile dysfunction.

Health Canada May/07 is warning consumers **Urat Madu** capsules are marketed for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. The product is adulterated with **sildenafil**, a prescription drug that has been associated with serious side effects including sudden vision loss, penile tissue damage and urinary tract infection.

Health Canada May/07 is advising consumers that **HS Joy of Love** product is marketed as a dietary supplement and was found to contain piperadino **vardenafil**.

Health Canada May/07 is advising consumers not to use 6 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Power 58 Extra, Platinum Power 58 Extra, Enhenix New Extra Men's Formula, Valentino, King Power Oral Solution, and Stretch Up Capsules** are marketed as treatments for erectile dysfunction. The products contain analogues of **sildenafil** and **vardenafil**, which are prescription drugs used for the treatment of erectile dysfunction.

Health Canada June/07 is warning consumers not to use the product **Encore Tabs for Men**, because it contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the approved drug tadalafil.

Health Canada July/07 is warning consumers not to use **Zencore Tabs**, a product advertised as a dietary supplement for sexual enhancement, because it contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the approved drug tadalafil.

Health Canada July/07 & the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found **Liviro3** to contain tadalafil, a prescription drug that should only be taken under the guidance of a health professional.

Health Canada Aug/07 via Medsafe, the New Zealand health regulatory authority, advised the public not to use the products **Darling Capsules, Dali Capsules, Spanish Fly Capsules**, and an unnamed product, because they were found to contain sildenafil.

Health Canada Aug/07 Consumers who use **Excite for women or Ultimates for men** may be at risk of serious side effects similar to those associated with sildenafil.

Health Canada Sept/07 is advising consumers not to use **Satis 60 Hours Ever Lasting Formula** is used for the treatment of erectile dysfunction/sexual enhancement. It was found to contain piperildenafil an analogue of vardenafil. **True Man** and **Energy Max** are used as sexual enhancement/ erectile dysfunction products and were found to contain an analogue of sildenafil or vardenafil.

Health Canada Sept/07 is advising consumers not to use 5 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Top Gun for Men Herbal Extracts** has been found to contain a substance similar to tadalafil. **Oyster Plus** has been found to contain tadalafil. **Deguozechangjiang** contains sildenafil and tadalafil, prescription drugs used for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. **Chongcaoliubian Jiaonang** and **Santi Scalper Penis Erection Capsule** contain sildenafil.

Health Canada Nov/07 is advising consumers not to use **Axcil** and **Desirin**, are promoted as natural sexual enhancement/ erectile dysfunction products. Consumers are warned not to use Axcil and Desirin because both products were found to contain the prescription drug sildenafil.

Health Canada Mar/08 is warning consumers not to use **ADAM**, an unauthorized product that contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the prescription drug sildenafil.

Health Canada Mar/08 is warning consumers not to use **Libidus**, an unauthorized product promoted on the web site of the manufacturer for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. The product may pose serious health risks, as it was found to contain the undeclared prescription drug sildenafil.

Health Canada April//08 warns that Singapore's Health Sciences Authority (HSA) advised the public not to use the product **Power 1 Walnut**, because it was found to contain the prescription drugs sildenafil and glibenclamide

Health Canada April/08 is advising consumers not to use 2 foreign health products, **Aspire 36** and **Aspire Lite**, because they were found to contain undeclared sildenafil analogues.

Health Canada April/08 is warning consumers not to use **Vigoureux**, an unauthorized product promoted for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. The product may pose serious health risks, as it was found to contain the prescription drug sildenafil

Health Canada April/08 is advising consumers not to use 2 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Tian Li** was found to contain tadalafil and hydroxyhomosildenafil. Xian Zhi Wei II was found to contain sibutramine and phenolphthalein, which are not meant for self-care and may cause serious side effects.

Health Canada May/08 is advising consumers not to use **vpxl No1** Dietary Supplement for Men was found to contain tadalafil

Health Canada May/08 is warning consumers not to use **Desire**, an unauthorized product promoted to enhance male sexual performance as this product may pose serious health risks in certain patients. Lot 0070263 of the product was found to contain the prescription drug phenolamine.

Health Canada June/08 **Nangen Zengzhangsu** (may also be known as Nangen or Nangeng), Sanbianwan, Jiu Bian Wang, Tian Huang Gu Shen Dan, Zui Xian Dan Gong Shi Zi, and Power Up. The Hong Kong Department of Health has warned consumers not to use these herbal/proprietary Chinese medicine products promoted for erectile dysfunction because they have been found to contain sildenafil and/or glibenclamide.

Health Canada June/08 **Zhong Hua Niu Bian**. Zhong Hua Niu Bian is an herbal/proprietary Chinese medicine product promoted for erectile dysfunction. Singapore's Health Sciences Authority has warned against the use of this product because it has been found to contain sildenafil, glibenclamide, tadalafil and sibutramine

Health Canada July/08 Foreign Product Alerts: **Super Shangai, Strong Testis, Shangai Ultra, Shangai Ultra X, Lady Shangai, Shangai Regular (also known as Shangai Chaojimengnan), Actra-Sx, An unknown product containing the plant Lycium barbarum L., Adam Free, NaturalUp, Erexta, Yilishen, Blue Steel, Hero, & Natural Super Plus**. These products have been found to contain sildenafil or an unapproved substance similar to sildenafil.

Health Canada July/08 is advising consumers not to use foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: Wodibo. **Wodibo** is promoted as an all-natural Chinese potency-enhancing product for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. The Danish Medicines Agency has warned against the use of Wodibo because it was found to contain sildenafil and tadalafil, prescription drugs authorized for treatment of erectile dysfunction. **Viril-Itly-Power (VIP)** Tabs. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has warned consumers not to use Viril-Itly-Power (VIP) Tabs because it was found to contain an undeclared ingredient similar to the prescription drug sildenafil.

Health Canada Aug/08 is warning consumers not to use **Rize 2 The Occasion** capsules (Rize2), an unauthorized product promoted for the treatment of erectile dysfunction, because it may pose serious health risks. Rize 2 contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the prescription drug sildenafil.

Health Canada Aug/08 is advising consumers not to use 5 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Oyster Extract** Caps. The Hong Kong Department of Health has recalled Oyster Extract Caps because they were found to contain an undeclared ingredient similar to the prescription drug sildenafil. **Xiadafil** VIP Tabs. At the request of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, U.S. federal authorities seized all Xiadafil VIP Tabs sold in 8 tablet bottles (Lot #6K029) and blister cards of 2 tablets (Lot #6K029-SEI) because they were found to contain an undeclared ingredient similar to the prescription drug sildenafil. **Herb Vigour, Natural Vigour and China Vigour**. The Netherlands Health Care Inspectorate, the U.K. Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, and the Danish Medicines Agency has warned against the use of Herb Vigour, Natural Vigour and China Vigour because they were found to contain undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients used for the treatment of erectile dysfunction that should only be taken under the supervision of a health care professional.

Health Canada Aug/08 is advising consumers not to use 9 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Armstrong Natural Herbal Supplement, Enhenix New Extra Men's Formula, Power 58 Extra, and Platinum Power 58 Extra** were adulterated with tadalafil or unapproved substances with structures similar to tadalafil and vardenafil.

Health Canada Sep/08 is advising consumers not to use 3 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Lover Liquid Nutriment Herbal Supplement and Onyo** because they were found to contain undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients. Lover Liquid Nutriment Herbal Supplement was found to contain sildenafil while Onyo was found to contain sildenafil, as well as unapproved substances with structures similar to sildenafil and vardenafil. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned consumers not to use the product **Rose 4 Her** because it was found to contain an undeclared ingredient similar to the prescription drug sildenafil.

Health Canada Sep/08 is advising consumers not to use 6 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Dr. Life or Chong Cao Ju Wang** because they were found to contain undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients. Dr. Life contains an unauthorised substance similar in structure to tadalafil while Chong Cao Ju Wang contains sildenafil.

Health Canada Oct/08 is advising consumers not to use 2 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: Swissmedic warned consumers not to buy or use the product **Powertabs** because it contains an unauthorised substance similar in structure to sildenafil. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Sweet Energizer Vitality** Candy because it was found to contain an unauthorised substance similar in structure to tadalafil.

Health Canada Oct/08 is warning consumers not to use **Eros Fire**, a product promoted to enhance sexual performance, as this product may pose serious health risks. The product was found to contain xanthoanthrafil (also known as benzamidenafil), which is not indicated on the label.

Health Canada Nov/08 is advising consumers not to use 5 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Lu Quan** because it contains undeclared glibenclamide and sildenafil. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Fat Killer, Carbohydrate Cut and Sugar-Carbohydrate Cut** because they contain sibutramine and an unauthorised substance similar in structure to sibutramine, and **Zhuang Yao Gu Shen** Capsule because it contains sildenafil.

Health Canada Nov/08 is warning consumers not to use **Firm Dose** and **Granite Rooster**, two products promoted to enhance male sexual performance, as these products may pose serious health risks. Firm Dose was found to contain an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to sildenafil, while the product Granite Rooster was found to contain an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to tadalafil.

Health Canada Jan 2009 is advising consumers not to use 4 foreign products: **Zhuang Tjar Gere** because it contains the undeclared prescription drugs sildenafil & tadalafil, **Zhixhue** Capsules manufactured by Vital Pharmaceutical Holdings Ltd. due to concerns of serious side-effects including liver dysfunction, **Tonik Warisan Banjar** because it contains undeclared dexamethasone & **Healthily Slim** because it contains the undeclared prescription drug sibutramine.

Health Canada Mar/09 Foreign Product Alerts: 68 Weight Loss Products; Best-life Fat Burning Capsules; Bevidan; Huiji Yin Chiao Chieh Tu Pien; Relacore
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/fpa-ape_2009/index-eng.php

Health Canada June/09 Foreign Product Alerts: **Jia Yi Jian** (undeclared sibutramine & tadalafil); **Zencore Plus** (undeclared benzamidenafil) & **Zhong Guo Shen Fang** (undeclared med like sildenafil).

Health Canada July/09 is warning that the Singapore Health Sciences Authority (HSA) warned consumers to not buy or use **XP Tongkat Ali Supreme** after it was found to contain undeclared tadalafil.

Health Canada Oct/09: **Dynasty Worldwide Jinglida So Young Formula**- The Singapore Health Sciences Authority (HSA) warned consumers to not buy or use since contained undeclared aminotadalafil.
STEAM lot#80214, 90260 -The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a voluntary manufacturer recall of two lots of STEAM after FDA testing found these lots to contain undeclared sulfoildenafil (lot# 80214) & undeclared tadalafil (lot# 90260).
Syntrex Fyre (contained Yohimbine), Kam Yuen Brand Wan Ying Yang Gan Wan (contained sildenafil) - The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use these products.

Health Canada Nov/09 is warning consumers not to use Herblex "**Once More**" since it was found to contain sildenafil.

Health Canada Dec/09 is advising Canadians not to use certain Acai Berry products after a large number of shipments of adulterated products were stopped at the border. The product names include: **Anti-Aging Acai Berry, Guarana Blast, Brazillian Pure, Anti-aging Vital Rez V, Weight Loss VitalAcai, Dietary Supplement Acai Power Blast and Muscle Mass**. These products advertised for anti-aging and weight loss were found to contain undeclared sildenafil.

Health Canada Dec/09 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products: 1. **Power-Plus P**: The Singapore Health Sciences Authority issued a recall notice for Power-Plus P (expiry date 03/03/2011) after it was found to contain undeclared tadalafil. 2. **Zeng Da Yan Shi Wan**: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use after it was found to contain undeclared sildenafil.

Health Canada Jan/10 informs that Finish Food Safety Authority: **Full Contact Max Potency** contains thio-sildenafil and thio-homosildenafil; Singapore Health Sciences Authority: **M-Action** contains desmethylacetildenafil and acetic acid. U.S. FDA: **RockHard Weekend** contains sulfoildenafil.

Health Canada Jan/10 is advising consumers not to use the unauthorized product "**Stiff Nights**" after the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found that this product contains an undeclared substance similar to the prescription drug sildenafil.

Health Canada Feb/10: **2H & 2D-** Hong Kong Department of Health (HKDH) warned consumers not to buy or use 2H & 2D after it was found to contain undeclared tadalafil. Products distributed by **Atlas Operations Inc.** The FDA informed consumers of a voluntary recall by Atlas Operations Inc. of certain lots of some products that were found to contain undeclared sulfoildenafil, which is an unauthorized substance similar to sildenafil. **STRO Emperor Capsules** The Irish Medicines Board warned consumers not to buy or use STRO Emperor Capsules after it was found to contain undeclared tadalafil.

Health Canada Mar/10 is warning Canadians that an unapproved health product, **POWER-MAX** that contains sildenafil.

Health Canada May/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Man Power** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use Man Power product after it was found to contain undeclared tadalafil.

Health Canada June/10 is warning Canadians that the unauthorized health products **"Vigofit"** and **"Once More,"** which are promoted to enhance male sexual performance, have been seized by Health Canada inspectors from retail stores in Abbotsford and Surrey, British Columbia. These two products contain sildenafil.

Health Canada July/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health product(s) due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Stud Capsule For Men** The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a voluntary recall of one lot (Lot #060607-01/060108-01 Exp 6-2013) after it was found to contain undeclared Sildenafil.

Health Canada July/10 is advising Canadians about **"UP Ultimate Performance for Men"**, an unauthorized health product containing undeclared sildenafil.

Health Canada July/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Body Beautiful** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume 1. **Atlas Operations Inc. expands its U.S. recall of over 30 sexual enhancement supplements** The U.S. FDA informed consumers of an expanded recall of certain lots of products after some were found to contain undeclared sulfoildenafil. The products are being voluntarily recalled nationwide in the U.S. by the company Atlas Operations Inc. 2. **Stallion, SZM Formula for Men, Tomcat Ali and Volcanic** New Zealand's Medsafe warned consumers not to buy or use these four products after they were found to contain undeclared tadalafil. 3. **Vitalex for men and Vitalex for women** The U.S. FDA informed consumers that the *Vitalex* products were found to contain acetildenafil, which is an unauthorized substance similar to sildenafil.

Health Canada Aug/10 is advising **Magic Power Coffee** The U.S. FDA warned consumers not to buy or use Magic Power Coffee after it was found to contain undeclared hydroxythiohomosildenafil.

Health Canada Aug/10: **"SeXXX DRIVE"**, promoted as a herbal supplement to enhance male sexual performance, was tested by Health Canada and found to contain undeclared hydroxyhomosildenafil.

Health Canada Aug/10 has seized the unauthorized sexual enhancement supplements **"Male Enhancement ExtenZe"** and **"Women ExtenZe"** imported and sold by the Happy Paradise Adult Store in Burnaby, British Columbia. The labels of each of these unauthorized products list the prescription ingredient pregnenolone and the controlled drug, DHEA dehydroepiandrosterone). The labels of the unauthorized "Male Enhancement ExtenZe Nutritional Supplements" list the ingredient yohimbe extract (bark).

Health Canada Sep/10 **E.O.D. Erection on Demand"** being promoted as a herbal to enhance male sexual performance, the product was tested by Health Canada and found to contain tadalafil.

Health Canada Sep/10 is advising consumers not to use : 1. **Golden aryuru, Baisheng wei ge, Zhonghua niubian, Ten ka dai 1 bou, Kuai gan bei zeng chao yue zi wo (Happy felling doubly increase [sic]), Ling tou lang, SkyFruit, Chu bi ho ken, Jinbolang, Suika Koso, Lov, I ka ou (2009 nen sin hoso) and/or I ka ou (saisinsui shutsu hoso)** The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare warned consumers not to buy or use the 12 products listed above because they were found to contain undeclared sildenafil and/or other unauthorized substances similar to sildenafil that may pose similar health risks (norhongenafil, acetyl acid, and tioqinapiperifil). 2. **Vialipro** The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a recall of certain lots of Vialipro after FDA tests found product samples to contain undeclared sulfoildenafil, which is an unauthorized substance similar to sildenafil and may pose similar health risks.

Health Canada Nov/10 **Amana Care Seven Slim Herbal Capsules:** The Israel Ministry of Health informed consumers that it found the product Amana Care Seven Slim Herbal Capsules to contain undeclared sibutramine and residue of sildenafil.

Health Canada Nov/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **MasXtreme** contains undeclared aminotadalafil while the other (#911035) contains undeclared aildenafil and phentolamine 2. **Mr. Magic Male Enhancer from Don Wands** contained hydroxythiohomosildenafil and sulfoildenafil 3. **So Hard for Men - Pulse8 for Women - The Rock - Tonic 66** contained the undeclared pharmaceutical substances tadalafil, sildenafil, and/or hydroxyhomosildenafil 4. **TimeOut** contained undeclared hydroxythiohomosildenafil.

Health Canada Nov/10 **"Fat Burner No. 1"** (labelled in Chinese characters translated as **"Qian Mei Yin Zi"**, an unauthorized Chinese herbal weight loss medicine, is being voluntarily recalled by Ying Tai TCM Supplying Ltd. after Health Canada lab tests revealed the product contains two pharmaceutical ingredients: a chemical similar to sibutramine (N,N- diethylmethylethylsibutramine), and sildenafil.

Health Canada Dec/10 **"Durazest"** and **"Once More"**: Certain lots of two male sex enhancement products recalled as they may pose serious health risks. Certain lots (listed below) of two health products promoted for male sexual enhancement, "Durazest for Men" and "Once More," have been voluntarily recalled by Natural Performance Products Ltd. Health Canada laboratory tests identified the presence of a chemical similar to tadalafil (nortadalafil) in one lot of each product.

Health Canada Dec/10 is informing Canadians that NorthRegentRx has begun to voluntarily recall its product, **ResurreXX** from the Canadian market. NorthRegentRx is requesting that wholesalers, distributors and retailers stop sale of this product since contained an undeclared substance "hydroxyhomosildenafil".

Health Canada Dec/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Shaguar, Signature Signergy, VIGRX (green capsule), VIGRX (white capsule), VigRx, VigRX Plus** New Zealand's MedSafe warned consumers to not buy or use these products after they were found to contain undeclared sildenafil, hydroxyhomosildenafil, thiosildenafil, and/or tadalafil. .

Health Canada Feb/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products promoted for sexual enhancement due to the presence of unauthorized substances (PDE5 derivatives eg. sildenafil): 1. **Aziffa, Erex, Eyeful, Hard Drive, Libidinal, Maxyte, Mojo, Monster Excyte, OMG, OMG45, Prolatis, Red Magic, Size Matters, Stiff Nights, Straight Up, Verect, WOW, Xaitrex, Xytamax, Zilex (with Golden Spear), Zotrex 2. Prolatis' Duro Extend Capsules For Men 3. Tiger King 4. Vigor-25, Man Up Now**

Health Canada Feb/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health product **RockHard Weekend (lots 100159 and 100260 sold as blister packs, 3-count bottles and 8-count bottles)** The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a nationwide voluntary recall of certain lots (see above) of RockHard Weekend and Pandora after lab tests confirmed the products contain an unauthorized substance similar to sildenafil.

Health Canada Mar/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Nite Rider Maximum Sexual Enhancer for Men - STUD Capsule for Men:** The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a company recall of these products after they were found to contain undeclared sildenafil.

Health Canada May/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Gold Seagull Long Zhi Wan, Venergy** The Hong Kong Department of Health advised consumers not to buy or use these products after Gold Seagull Long Zhi Wan was found to contain undeclared glibenclamide, while Venergy was found to contain undeclared sildenafil. 2. **Rock Hard Extreme, Passion Coffee** The U.S. FDA advised consumers not to buy or use these products after they were found to contain undeclared sulfoildenafil, which is an unauthorized substance similar to sildenafil and may pose similar health risks.

Health Canada July/11 **"Man Up Now"** Removed From Sale at Delta and Surrey Stores: May Pose Serious Health Risks to Canadians, was removed from sale at "O! Behave" retail stores in Delta and Surrey, B.C. after Health Canada's testing identified undeclared sildenafil.

Health Canada July/11 is advising Canadians that we have updated our list of unauthorized health products. These products were also removed from sale at Male and Female Harmony retail stores in Richmond and Burnaby, B.C., along with the Happy Paradise Adult Store in Burnaby. {**Sildenafil: in BAOLONG Switzerland Rolex 168 Prolong Time, BAOLONG Yilishen, Black Gold, Herbal Viagra, "Jin Chong Chao – Golden Cordyceps", Lubiangaowansu, MAGNA-RX, MAXMAN II capsules, Shenrong dabuwan, Traditional Chinese Medicine Viagra, V100, VIGER, VigRX for Men, VINIX capsules, Wolf, "XiongBaTian", Zang Gong Mi Lian Nan Bao} & Zeng Bei Jiu Zhan-Tadalafil.**

Health Canada July/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Black Ant** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned consumers to immediately stop using *Black Ant* after it was found to contain undeclared sildenafil at an amount three times the starting dosage for the approved prescription drug product. 2. **Natural Vigra VIAGRA Tablets and Satibo Capsules** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) advised consumers to stop using *Natural Vigra VIAGRA Tablets* after it was found to contain undeclared sildenafil, and *Satibo Capsules* after it was found to contain undeclared tadalafil and hydroxyhomosildenafil. 3. **X-Hero and Male Enhancer** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed consumers of a voluntary recall after *X-Hero* was found to contain undeclared sulfosildenafil while *Male Enhancer* was found to contain undeclared tadalafil.

Health Canada July/11 is advising Canadians that we have updated our list of unauthorized health products to include a new product, **Tibet Babao**, which was found to contain undeclared sildenafil, a prescription erectile

dysfunction drug. This product and several others have been removed from sale at the **Happy Paradise Adult Store in Burnaby, B.C.**

Health Canada Aug/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: **1. Pink Lady for Women Capsules, St Nirvana Herbal Slimming Capsules**

The Australian TGA warned consumers not to use these products after Pink Lady for Women Capsules was found to contain undeclared tadalafil while St Nirvana Herbal Slimming Capsules was found to contain undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein. According to the TGA advisories, these products are sold over the Internet.

Health Canada Oct/11 is advising Canadians not to use these foreign health products as they may pose a health risk. **SXL Sexcellence sachets**- The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that this sexual enhancement product contains an unauthorized drug (sulfosildenafil).

Health Canada Nov/11 is advising Canadians not to use these foreign health products as they may pose a health risk. **1. Maxidus capsules, Chao Jimengnan SuperPowerful Man tablets, Fu Yuan Chun capsules, and Qing Tian Zhu tablets** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these sexual enhancement products contain prescription drugs (sildenafil, tadalafil) and/or unauthorized drugs (sulfohydroxyhomosildenafil, sulfosildenafil).

Health Canada Nov/11: An unauthorized health product, "**Stiff One Hard 169**" is being voluntarily recalled from the Canadian market after Health Canada's testing identified an undeclared prescription medication in the product (thiodimethylsildenafil, an undeclared substance similar to the prescription medication sildenafil).

Health Canada Dec/11 is advising "**Yanshiwang**", "**Jin Kong Fu**" and "**Chong Cao She Bian Zhuang Yang Dan**". These products were removed from sale at Male and Female Harmony retail stores in Richmond and Burnaby, B.C., along with the Happy Paradise Adult Store in Burnaby. These contained sildenafil.

Health Canada Jan/12 advises: **1. Get Stiff, Maxi Mize** New Zealand's Medsafe warned that these sexual enhancement products contain prescription drugs (tadalafil, vardenafil, yohimbine) and/or unauthorized drugs (hydroxyhomosildenafil, hydroxythiohomosildenafil). **2. Ying Da Wang tablets** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that this sexual enhancement product contains sildenafil.

Health Canada seized a variety of **Stiff4Ever** and **PurePillz** products from The Love Shop retail outlets located in Ontario. These products are unauthorized drugs and are considered potentially dangerous to the health and safety of Canadians. Health Canada tested the Stiff4Ever products, advertised as male sexual stimulants, and identified sildenafil. The labels of the PurePillz products (see below) state that they contain BZP and TFMPP.

Health Canada Mar/12 **Power-X**" has been removed from a Canadian retail location after Health Canada's testing identified undeclared thiodimethylsildenafil which is similar to the prescription medication sildenafil.

Health Canada May/12: Unauthorized health products, "**X-Rock**", "**Kaboom**" and "**One For Her**" have been removed from sale from various retail outlets in British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Health Canada's testing identified undeclared prescription drugs sildenafil and tadalafil, and an undeclared substance, hydroxythiohomosildenafil, which is similar to sildenafil.

Health Canada May/12 **1. AdvanceMen capsules; Miraculous Evil Root tablets** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these sexual enhancement products contain either a prescription drug (sildenafil) or an unauthorized drug (sulfoildenafil).

Health Canada June/12 **1. African Black Ant; France T253; Hard Ten Days; Man King; Stree Overlord** : The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that these sexual enhancement products contain prescription drugs (sildenafil). One product also contains tadalafil). **2. RegenArouse; RegenErect**: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed of a recall because these sexual enhancement products contain a prescription drug (tadalafil). **3. Mince Belle; Everlax; Ever Slim; Ever Slim Shake Mix (Strawberry); Ever Slim Shake Mix (Chocolate); Acai-Man Mangosteen Herbal Drink; Perfect Men**: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed of a recall because these weight loss and sexual enhancement products contain prescription drugs (sibutramine or tadalafil).

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MHRA Feb/12 has received advice from AGES PharmMed in Austria and the Danish Medicines Agency, warning that these unlicensed products have been tested and found to contain Tadalafil and/or Sildenafil:

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Recommendation 2: The American College of Physicians recommends that clinicians base the choice of a specific PDE-5 inhibitor on the individual preferences of men with erectile dysfunction, including ease of use, cost of medication, and adverse effects profile (Grade: weak recommendation; low-quality evidence).

Recommendation 3: The American College of Physicians does **not recommend for or against routine use of hormonal blood tests or hormonal treatment** in the management of patients with erectile dysfunction (Grade: insufficient evidence to determine net benefits and harms).

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Reviewers: Dr. K. Knox (SHR Rehabilitation), C Bell (UofS-SDIS), A Kuntz (SK Health), M Jin (PharmD, Hamilton), & the RxFiles Advisory Committee.

Extras:
in Europe dapoxetine *Priligy* has official indication for Premature Ejaculation

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Extras:

- 1) ACs, Other: **propantheline** -less effective & ↑ SE than flavoxate & oxybutynin. ¹¹ NICE states not to use!; Adult: 7.5mg tid, 7.5-30mg 3-5x/day, 60mg qid; Geriatric: 7.5mg tid; Peds: 7.5-15mg q4-6h;
- 2) Adrenoreceptor agonists (**phenylpropanolamine** ^{predominantly studied} but use extended to **ephedrine, pseudoephedrine**): studied for SUI. But cardiac arrhythmias & HTN outweigh benefits ³¹.
- 3) **Belladonna & opium suppositories**-used to relieve **pain of uretal spasms** & pain associated with bladder tenesmus that can occur post-op³². Some report use in nocturnal diuresis¹¹
dicyclomine -insufficient data to recommend over other agents, dose 20-40mg qid.¹¹
- 4) **Flavoxate**: Not used for OAB currently¹ but may be used in discomfort associated with BPH. Efficacy might be comparable to propantheline according to older, short-term studies¹¹.
Dose: Adult: 100-200mg tid-qid. May reduce dose with Sx improvement. One trial found 1200mg to be superior to 600mg/day. May be effective in children from 6-12 y/o experiencing nocturnal enuresis (33% vs 17% response in placebo)¹¹. Pediatrics > 12y/o: 100-200mg tid-qid. May reduce dose with Sx improvement¹¹.
- 5) **Phenazopyridine**¹¹: used strictly as a **urinary analgesic**. The necessity of this medication would suggest pathology different from UI. Dose: Adult: 200mg tid after meals. If renal GFR > 50ml/min 200mg q8-16h. Avoid if GFR < 50ml/min. ¹¹ Geriatrics: ↑risk of accumulation & toxicity. SE: discolor urine
- 6) **Propiverine** ⁵³: tertiary amine with anticholinergic & calcium channel antagonist activity; has active metabolites; dose: 15mg IR bid or 30mg ER daily; available United Kingdom ²⁰⁰⁶.

Oxybutynin (Oxy) vs Tolterodine in OAB

- **OBJECT**: Oxy ER 10mg daily vs Tolt IR 2mg BID; 12 week; ♂ & ♀; Oxy ER slightly more effective (e.g. Total incontinence episodes/wk: **NNT=45**); no difference in overall AEs (dry mouth, CNS effects).⁵²
- **OPERA**: Oxy ER 10mg vs Tolt ER 4mg daily; 12 week; ♀ only with severe symptoms; Oxy ER somewhat more effective (e.g. 23 vs 16.8% no UI; NNT=16); but also more dry mouth (Any 29.7% vs 22.3%; NNH=13; mod-severe 7.4% vs 5.0%, NS).⁵⁰
- **ACET**: Oxy ER 5 or 10mg vs Tolt ER 2 or 4mg daily; 8 week; ♂ & ♀; Tolt 4mg more effective than Oxy 10 ^{70 vs 60% improvement; but lower doses efficacy still ~60% & less dry mouth but similar for Tolt 4 vs Oxy 5}; **open label trial** & subjective assessments subject to bias.⁵¹

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170. Health Canada Mar/12 is informing health professionals and the public that the prescription drugs **finasteride and dutasteride** may be associated with an increased risk of developing a serious form of prostate cancer known as **high-grade prostate cancer**.
171. **FDA: Apr/12** The labels of the alopecia drug Propecia (**finasteride** 1 mg) and the benign prostatic hyperplasia drug Proscar (**finasteride** 5 mg) are being updated with an expanded list of adverse **sexual effects**, the FDA has announced. Propecia label will include libido, ejaculation, and orgasm disorders that persist after treatment ends; Proscar label will include decreased libido that persists posttreatment & both labels will note reports of male infertility or poor semen quality that improved after drug discontinuation.
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Other Urinary Incontinence Patient Resources:

- Bladder Retraining: http://www.fmpe.org/en/documents/doc_aids/UI-Patient-Handout-4.pdf ; or http://www.fmpe.org/en/documents/handouts/handout_ui_retraining.pdf
- Pelvic Muscle Exercises (Kegel Exercises): http://www.fmpe.org/en/documents/doc_aids/UI-Patient-Handout-3.pdf
- Voiding Diary: http://www.fmpe.org/en/documents/doc_aids/UI-Patient-Handout-2.pdf
- Patient Information - Urinary Incontinence: http://www.fmpe.org/en/documents/doc_aids/UI-Patient-Handout-1.pdf
- CFPC: www.cfpc.ca/English/cfpc/programs/patient%20education/urinary%20incontinence
- American (ACOG): www.acog.com/publications/patient_education/bp081.cfm

1) Breaking the "cold chain"

Canadian Guidelines: Refrigerated vaccines should be stored between +2°C and +8°C. Frozen vaccines should be stored at -15°C or colder. Store light sensitive vaccines away from light. Follow manufacturer recommendations for storage & transport. Administration requires someone trained to give im/sc injections.

Fridges:

-Fridge used should be dedicated to the storage of vaccines only.

-**Use of bar fridges for vaccine storage is the leading cause of cold chain breaks in Canada. Bar fridges are not recommended for the purpose of storing vaccines.

- Keeping temperature of fridge stable (2-8° C): Avoid opening refrigerator door unnecessarily, store containers of water in refrigerators, or ice packs in the freezer

NEVER store vaccines in the vegetable bin section of the refrigerator. Ideal storage location for vaccine: In the middle compartment, away from floor, coils, walls, and venting for the freezer or cold air.

-Temperature of the compartments of the refrigerator where the vaccine is stored should be checked and logged at least twice a day. Fridge temperatures outside of the 2 to 8 degree C range must be reported immediately to obtain recommendation on the stability of the affected product.

-Fridge temperature recording logs should be retained for 2 years.

-Min-Max thermometer batteries should be routinely changed twice a year: December 1 and June 1 and the date of changing noted on the device.

Transporting Refrigerated Vaccines: Avoid breaking the cold chain

- 1) Transport vaccines in insulated containers at all times. Hard sided plastic insulated containers, or Styrofoam containers with walls at least 2 inch thick walls should be used. Icepacks should be placed inside the transport container to maintain the cold chain. To prevent freezing the vaccine should never be placed directly onto an ice pack. Instead an insulating barrier (i.e. bubble wrap, Styrofoam peanuts) should be placed between vaccine and ice pack.
- 2) Make sure vaccine is never placed in trunk of vehicle, or in direct contact with sunlight. Also the vaccine should not be placed in line with the air from the vehicles heater or air conditioner. Vaccine should never be left in a vehicle unattended.
- 3) If a break in the cold chain identified prior to administration of the vaccine, contact your local public health authority about the appropriate course of action. While waiting for a decision, ensure that the vaccine is stored in appropriate cold chain conditions. The vaccine should not be administered until a decision has been reached.
- 4) If a break in the cold chain is identified after administration of the vaccine, contact your local public health authority. The type of vaccine, duration and temperature of the exposure will be taken into account in order to determine the course of action. Serological testing or revaccination may be suggested.

Further information: available from the Public Health Agency of Canada's Website. References:

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2) Anaphylaxis Management with vaccine administration:

- 1) Patients should be kept under supervision for 15 minutes (JE-VAX: 30 minutes) following administration.
- 2) In order to treat anaphylaxis perform the following steps (note steps a-d should be performed rapidly or simultaneously, however the priority is to complete step a):
 - a) Promptly administer 0.01 mL/kg (maximum 0.5 mL) of aqueous epinephrine 1:1000 by intramuscular (or subcutaneous) injection in the opposite limb to that in which the vaccination was given (or the vastus lateralis). Prompt administration is essential.
 - b) Call for an ambulance
 - c) Place the patient in a recumbent position, and elevate their feet.
 - d) If necessary, establish an oral airway.
 - e) Patients with severe reactions such as cyanosis, dyspnea, should be given oxygen if it is available. Pulse oximetry can be used to monitor if available.
 - f) If the vaccine was administered subcutaneously, an additional dose of 0.005 mL/kg (maximum 0.3 mL) of aqueous epinephrine 1:1000, can be injected into the vaccination site to slow down absorption. This should be done shortly after administration of the first dose of epinephrine in moderate to severe cases, and generally should not be repeated. Local injection of epinephrine into an intramuscular vaccination site is contraindicated, as it speeds up absorption of the vaccine.
 - g) A dose of diphenhydramine hydrochloride (Benadryl®) can be given as an adjunct to epinephrine. The oral route of diphenhydramine is preferred for conscious patients who are not seriously ill (as the intramuscular injection is painful). Oral dose: 1-2 mg/kg to a maximum single dose of 50 mg.
 - h) An inhaled β-agonist should be considered if there is a bronchospasm resistant to an adequate dose of epinephrine (e.g., nebulized salbutamol 2.5-5.0 mg in 3 mL of saline or 1 puff per 3 kg to a maximum of 10 puffs by metered dose inhalers).
 - i) Vital signs should be monitored continuously.
 - j) Patient should be transported to emergency department for long term monitoring.

•Epinephrine dosing can be repeated twice at 5-minute intervals if necessary, for a total of three doses. The limb in which the vaccination was given should be avoided. A different limb is preferred for each dose to maximize drug absorption.

- 3) **Breastfeeding and Vaccinations:** Immunizations for actively breastfeeding women are considered safe, with the exception of smallpox vaccine and yellow fever, by both the CDC and the American academy of pediatrics. Breastfeeding does not appear to influence the maternal immune response. Vaccines do not appear to affect the safety of breast milk for infants.^{10,11}

See www.RxFiles.ca for more information on our academic detailing service, newsletters, charts & RxFiles Drug Comparison Charts – 8th Ed. book.



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Anti-inflammatory properties of topical antifungal preparations:

It is difficult to determine the anti-inflammatory effects of topical antifungals in humans as the majority of studies are completed as *in vitro* studies or in animal models. Some studies compared antifungal drugs alone to a combination of antifungal plus steroid combination and had similar efficacies in treatment. A small study (n=20) assessed and compared *in vivo* anti-inflammatory effects of terbinafine, ciclopirox, ketoconazole and other antifungals (econazole, oxiconazole- not commonly used in Canada) with hydrocortisone 2.5%. This study looked at the ability to decrease erythema due to UVB exposure which is thought to mimic the response in dermatophyte infections. It did not study the effects in an actual dermatophyte-induced inflammatory reaction. Terbinafine, ciclopirox, and ketoconazole all demonstrated anti-inflammatory effects. Terbinafine and ciclopirox exhibited statistically significant difference in erythema when compared to control than ketoconazole, econazole, oxiconazole, and hydrocortisone. Ketoconazole exhibited intermediate anti-inflammatory effects. May consider use of these antifungals if there is an inflammatory component to the fungal infection.

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- ◆ **AOM:** Prophylactic tx no longer recommended
- ◆ **Conjunctivitis:** 85% viral in adults. Suggest antibiotics if there's no improvement within 5 days or sooner (if the school or daycare requires treatment to come back). Handwashing important to help prevent spread. Bacterial infections are infectious for 24-48 hours after ABX initiation, viral are infectious until the eye clears. Consider washing contact case and replacing contacts if disposable, replace bottle of eye drops if any are used (eg glaucoma). Bacterial=Purulent discharge, swelling of the eye, and a burning sensation, usually persisting throughout the day, red or pink colour of the eye and pts often complain of waking up with eyes "glued shut". Red flag sx: a great deal of discomfort and pain, changes in vision, nausea, vomiting, or severe headache, eyelid edema, severe, continuous, copious, purulent discharge or whose symptoms have persisted for longer than 72 hours should be examined by a medical practitioner. A mild, watery discharge, with itching associated with a concurrent upper respiratory infection signals viral-if only one eye affected, other eye becomes involved in half of the cases. Corticosteroid eyedrops may quickly relieve symptoms, but should be avoided as they can worsen or mask accompanying conditions such as herpetic keratitis.
- ◆ **Impetigo:** [Retapamulin ^{Altargo} topical ^{USA}; for impetigo if resistance]
- ◆ **Pharyngitis:** *Fusobacterium necrophorum* just as common as GAS (~10%) in ages **15-24** and can cause Lemierre syndrome, a life-threatening condition. ABX tx can shorten symptom duration by ~16 hours.

STI

- ◆ **EPT or Expedited Partner Treatment :** a practice where a second prescription is given for chlamydia or gonorrhea, often to the index patient, for the partner
- ◆ **External Genital Warts (EGW) - adult:** caused by human papilloma virus (HPV) especially types 6 & 11; Tx options : 1) Imiquimod 5% cream Apply HS 3x/week; 2) Podofilox 0.5% soln Apply BID x3 days, then no tx x4 days; repeat cycle up to 3x.; 3) Cryotherapy Physician to apply liquid nitrogen q1-2 weeks for maximum 8 weeks.; 4) Podophylline 10-25% resin in tincture of benzoin Apply small amount, allow to dry, repeat weekly if necessary (may wash resin off after 1-4hrs application); 5) Trichloroacetic acid 80-90% in 70% alcohol Apply small amount to warts, allow to dry, repeat weekly if necessary (5% EMLA cream pre-application may be used to ↓ burning); 6) Laser tx; 7) Surgical removal.
- ◆ **Follow-up testing for Chlamydia & gonorrhea:** retesting recommended at 3 months after tx.

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26. Little P, Rumsby K, et al. Information leaflet & antibiotic prescribing strategies for acute lower respiratory tract infection: an RCT. *JAMA*. 2005 Jun 22;293(24):3029-35. CONCLUSION: No offer or a delayed offer of antibiotics for acute uncomplicated lower respiratory tract infection is acceptable, associated with little difference in symptom resolution, and is likely to considerably reduce antibiotic use and beliefs in the effectiveness of antibiotics.
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- time trend analysis. *BMJ*. 2005 Aug 6;331(7512):328-9. A fall of 50% in the prescribing of antibiotics to children in English general practice has not been accompanied by an increase in hospital admissions for peritonsillar abscess or rheumatic fever. (InfoPOEMs: More judicious prescribing of antibiotics for childhood respiratory infections has not increased the number of episodes of peritonsillar abscess or rheumatic fever. The effect on mastoidectomy is unclear, but a clinically important increase appears unlikely. (LOE = 2c))
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 40. [Paradise JL, Campbell TF, Dollaghan CA, et al. Developmental outcomes after early or delayed insertion of tympanostomy tubes. *N Engl J Med* 2005; 353:576-86.](#) (InfoPOEMs: Early insertion of tympanostomy tubes does not improve long-term clinical outcomes of importance (speech acquisition and hearing) in children with persistent otitis media with effusion. Delaying 6 months for bilateral effusion and 9 months for unilateral effusion before revisiting the decision to insert tubes is the preferred approach to management, since it results in fewer procedures with equivalent outcomes. (LOE = 1b))
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Health Canada February, 2006 advises diabetic patients not to use the antibiotic Tequin http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_09_e.html
(Park-Wyllie LY, et al. Outpatient Gatifloxacin Therapy and Dysglycemia in Older Adults. N Engl J Med. 2006 Mar 1; [Epub ahead of print] Conclusions As compared with the use of other broad-spectrum oral antibiotics, including other fluoroquinolones, the use of gatifloxacin among outpatients is associated with an increased risk of in-hospital treatment for both hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia)
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Health Canada Oct/06 http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2006/ketek_hpc-cps_e.html (see also Pharmacist's Letter: Ketek safety info. Dec/06)
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Extras

Combos to Avoid: Early virologic failure: abacavir + lamivudine (or emtricitabine) + tenofovir ; didanosine + lamivudine (or emtricitabine) + tenofovir; didanosine + tenofovir + NNRTI; didanosine + emtricitabine(lamivudine) + atazanavir; Caution: emtricitabine(or lamivudine) + tenofovir + nevirapine ⁶⁹ (early virologic failure in small clinical trials; [ARTEN](#) ⁷⁰ trial: may be okay)

↑SE: Didanosine + stavudine (peripheral neuropathy, pancreatitis & lactic acidosis); ATV + IDV ^{↑ bilirubin}; 2 NNRTI regimen Antagonism: stavudine + zidovudine

- ♦ Oral contraceptives + non-ritonavir boosted atazanavir (may ↑ hormone levels; ⇨use lowest dose OC)⁷¹ or indinavir (will maintain hormone levels)

{Refractory large volume diarrhea, HIV related: octreotide (50-500mcg sc tid)^{\$\$\$}}^{72,73}

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Extras:

1) Clinical Decision Rule for Point of Care Testing of Influenza Patients: *fever* (2 points), *myalgia* (2 points), *symptoms <48hrs* (1 point), *chills/sweats* (1 point). **0-2points = 8%; 3 points = 30%; 4-6 points = 59%.**

Rx Files – Drugs for Influenza

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New York Times reports. A small percentage of **influenza A/H1N1** — the predominant flu virus infecting people this season — is affected by the **H274Y mutation**. Norway appears to be hardest hit, with 75% (12 of 16) of the isolated viruses showing **resistance to oseltamivir**. In the U.S., Britain, Denmark, and France, roughly 3% to 5% of tested viruses showed resistance (data on Canada were not provided, but reported in Pharmacy Bulletin Board Feb 4/08 at **10%**). "We don't know right now if this is a trend on the upswing or just a small blip," the CDC's chief of epidemiology and prevention told the Associated Press. Officials from the U.S. and World Health Organization told the *Times* they do not currently advise changes in Tamiflu use. In addition, the flu vaccine is still effective against the mutant virus.

Dec/08: Clinicians should remain alert for changes in recommendations that might occur as the 2008-09 influenza season progresses. Recommendations regarding the use of antiviral medications might be revised if surveillance data indicate a substantial and widespread increase in the prevalence of oseltamivir-resistant influenza viruses in the United States. In fact, the [interim CDC guidance](#) provides advice for clinicians on how to treat patients with influenza antiviral medications this season. Clinicians can use influenza test results and information, if available, about which viruses are circulating, to help decide which antiviral(s) should be used. If H1N1 viruses are circulating in the community, or it's not clear which viruses are circulating, health care providers are recommended to use an alternative antiviral, zanamivir (Relenza®), or to use combination therapy of oseltamivir and rimantadine. Use of zanamivir or dual therapy with oseltamivir and rimantadine would provide effective treatment against all circulating influenza viruses. In some instances, oseltamivir alone can still be used, such as when influenza B is diagnosed, or H1N1 viruses are not circulating.

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- FDA April /08 GlaxoSmithKline informed healthcare professionals of changes to the WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS sections of prescribing information for **Relenza** regarding information from postmarketing reports (mostly from Japan) of **delirium and abnormal behavior** leading to injury in patients with influenza who are receiving neuraminidase inhibitors, including Relenza. These events were reported primarily among pediatric patients and often had an abrupt onset and rapid resolution. The contribution of Relenza to these events has not been established. Influenza can be associated with a variety of neurologic and behavioral symptoms which can include seizures, hallucinations, delirium, and abnormal behavior, in some cases resulting in fatal outcomes. These events may occur in the setting of encephalitis or encephalopathy but can occur without obvious severe disease.
- FDA June/10 notified consumers and healthcare professionals about a potentially harmful product represented as “**Generic Tamiflu**” **sold over the Internet**. FDA tests revealed that the fraudulent product does not contain Tamiflu’s active ingredient, oseltamivir, but cloxacillin, an ingredient in the same class of antibiotics as penicillin.
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Lancet Infectious Diseases, Volume 11, Issue 1, January 2011

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WEBSITES & Updates:

Update: Influenza Activity --- United States, September 28--November 29, 2008

During September 28--November 29, 2008, influenza activity remained low in the United States. Of the few influenza viruses characterized thus far this season, **most are antigenically** related to the strains included in the 2008--09 influenza **vaccine**. Oseltamivir-resistant influenza A (H1N1) viruses have been detected, but currently available data are insufficient to predict their prevalence for the 2008--09 season. This report summarizes U.S. influenza activity* since the last update (1) and reviews new influenza vaccine recommendations for the current season. During September 28--November 29, 2008, approximately 150 World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System collaborating laboratories in the United States tested 24,657 respiratory specimens for influenza viruses; 365 (1.5%) were positive (Figure 1). Of these, 282

(77.3%) were influenza A viruses, and 83 (22.7%) were influenza B viruses. One hundred twenty-eight (45.4%) of the 282 influenza A viruses were subtyped; 112 (87.5%) of these were influenza A (H1) viruses, and 16 (12.5%) were influenza A (H3) viruses. Influenza-positive tests have been reported from 26 states in eight of the nine surveillance regions since September 28.

Enhanced surveillance for oseltamivir-resistant viruses is ongoing at CDC. Alternatives for antiviral treatment in the context of widely circulating **oseltamivir-resistant** viruses have been suggested. These treatment options, which might include preferential use of zanamivir or therapy with a combination of antivirals for certain patients, have been outlined in the ACIP 2008 influenza recommendations.^{††} Currently, the neuraminidase inhibitors oseltamivir and zanamivir remain the recommended medications for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza. Clinicians should **remain alert for changes in recommendations** that might occur as the 2008--09 influenza season progresses. Recommendations regarding the use of antiviral medications might be revised if surveillance data indicate a substantial and widespread increase in the prevalence of oseltamivir-resistant influenza viruses in the United States. http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5749a3.htm?s_cid=mm5749a3_e

CDC Flu Update:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/index.htm>

Public Health Agency of Canada- FluWatch:

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

Swine Flue Outbreak – 2009 (Mexico & worldwide extension)

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2009/h1n1_20090427/en/index.html

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

Primaquine 26.3mg tab (= 15mg base) X	Pediatric Dosing age >5yrs for prevention; any age for tx Prophylaxis: 0.5 mg(base)/kg/day Terminal Prophylaxis: 0.5 mg/kg/day x14d Adult Dosing Prophylaxis: 52.6 mg (30 mg base) OD \$9 Terminal Proph.: 30 mg base/d x 14d \$9 For prophylaxis: begin 1-2d prior to entering MRZ, continue during stay, & 1 wk after leaving Primaquine eradicates latent parasites in the liver.	Comments Second-line for chloroquine resistant areas • 85- 95% effective against <i>P. falciparum</i> & <i>P. vivax</i> • Only therapy to prevent relapse from P. vivax & P. ovale due to dormant hypnozoites in liver (relapse may occur within 5 years of exposure) CI: G6PD deficiency/favism, pregnancy, rh. arthritis, lupus SB: Well tolerated. GI upset; Take with food. Missed Dose: Take next dose ASAP. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose & go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not double doses. Take with food; not grapefruit juice
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Drug Treatment of Malaria: Tx will vary depending on species of malaria. For severe: (IV quinine or artesunate) + (Atovaquone/proguanil or doxycycline or clindamycin)

Other Investigational Drugs: **IV artesunate:** investigational in the USA for treatment of severe malaria. (May be accessed in Canada through the Canadian Malarial Network. It is an alternative to quinine with less side effects, although limited long term experience with potential side effects from recurrent use.)

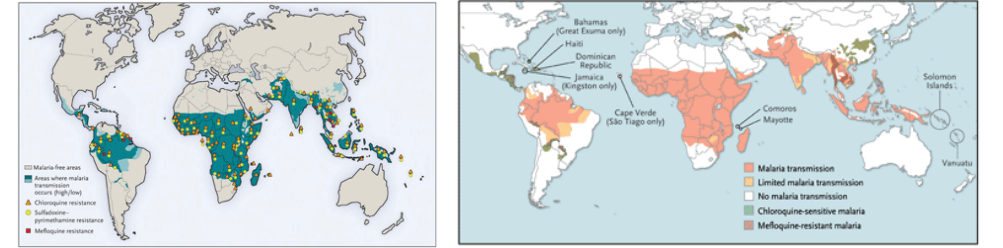
Recent historical resistance trends: (chloroquine sensitive areas: travel to Caribbean including Haiti and rural areas of Dominican Republic; travelers visiting resort areas not generally at risk travel to Central America except Panama, Mexico, Argentina; parts of China / Middle east; geographic risk and resistance trends change over time.)

Approximate malaria risk (1 month stay without chemoprophylaxis): (source: CCDR 2000 Malaria Recommendations, p.3)

Oceania (Papua New Guinea, Irian Jaya, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu)	1:30 or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk also ↑'d with >6month stay, in part due to underuse of protection measures. • Stand-By Emergency Treatment (self-admin) may be recommended in select cases.
Sub-Saharan Africa	1:50	
Indian Subcontinent	1:250	
Southeast Asia	1:1000	
South America	1:2,500	
Central America	1:10,000	

References – Malaria Prophylaxis – [www.RxFiles.ca](#)

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Thumbnails: Areas of Malaria Transmission and Antimalarial Drug Resistance. Data on malaria transmission are for 2007 and are from the World Health Organization. Data on drug resistance are for 2004 and are from the Roll Back Malaria partnership. NEJM June 5, 2008. 2nd Map Thumbnail: NEJM July 4, 2008. CDC Map: [http://cdc.malaria.nes.uic.edu/](#)

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Hydroxychloroquine PLAQUENIL.g 200mg tab (Not used very often! Licensed for malaria in USA)	Pediatric: 5 mg base/kg weekly (200 mg tab = 155 mg base) (Do not exceed adult dose) *Adult: 400 mg weekly	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caution: pts with hepatic failure, G6PD deficiency, pre-existing auditory damage; psoriasis, retinal risk (Pregnancy: considered safe) (May have lower retinal risk than chloroquine.) • SB: N/V/D (↓ by giving with food or milk), pruritus, fatigue, seizures, headache & dizziness. Uncommon: alopecia, hair depigmentation, skin eruptions & seizures. • DI: antacids, cimetidine, digoxin (increase dig level) • Vaccine Interaction?? Assume same as chloroquine
Second-line: chloroquine sensitive malaria PL Only in chloroquine-sensitive P. falciparum malaria prevention (Ophthalmological exam periodically if used weekly long term; risk very low in first 5yrs. (SB) (BMJ, CDC) or high risk (ASCP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin 2 wks prior to entering MRZ, continue during stay & 8 wks after leaving MRZ 		

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COMMUNITY ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA – Empiric Antibiotic Selection

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National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

<http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/topics/pneumonia/default.htm> (English)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/default.htm (pneumococcal vaccine)

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/flu/default.htm (influenza vaccine)

National Foundation for Infectious Disease

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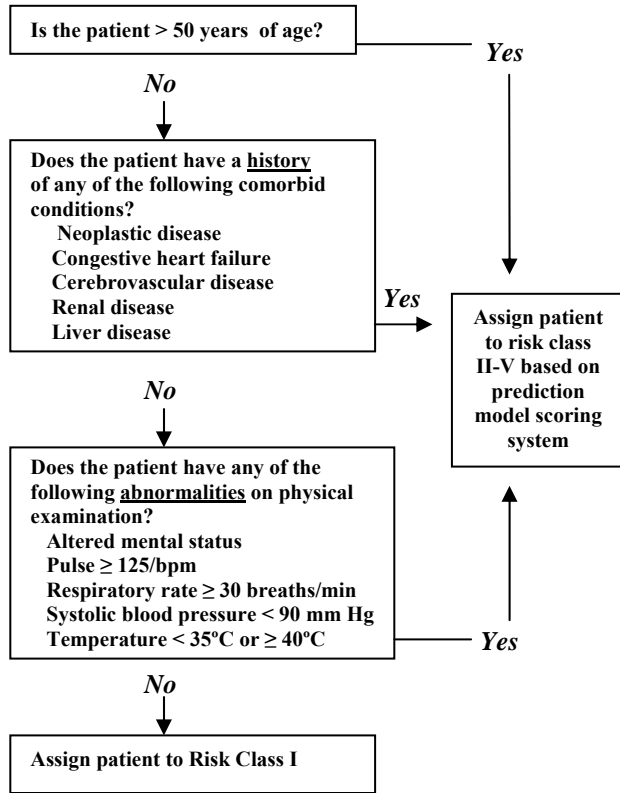
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Pneumonia Risk Score Option #1:

Prediction Model for Identification of Patient Risk for Person with COMMUNITY-ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA (CAP) Pneumonia Severity Index (PSI) Algorithm



This model may be used as a guide in conjunction with clinical judgement in the decision on the most appropriate site of care for patients with CAP.

Adapted from: 1. Fine MJ et al. A prediction rule to identify low risk patients with CAP. N Engl J Med 1997;336:243-50. 2. Mandell LA et al. Canadian guidelines for initial management of community acquired pneumonia. Clin Infect Dis 2000;31:383-421. 3. Bartlett JG et al. Practice guidelines for the management of community acquired pneumonia in adults. Clin Infect Dis 2000; 31: 347-82. 4. Lim WS, et al. Defining community acquired pneumonia severity on presentation to hospital: an international derivation and validation study. Thorax. 2003 May;58(5):377-82. Kollef KE, et al. The modified APACHE II Score outperforms CURB65 Pneumonia Severity Score as a predictor of 30day mortality in MRSA pneumonia. Chest. 2007 Oct 20). PSI: <http://pda.ahrq.gov/clinic/psl/psicalc.asp>
CURB-65: <http://www.mdcalc.com/curb-65-severity-score-community-acquired-pneumonia>

Pneumonia-Specific Severity of Illness Scoring System		
Patient's Characteristics	Points Assigned	Your Pt
DEMOGRAPHIC FACTOR		
Age, yr		
Male	(age)	
Female	(age-10)	
Nursing home resident	+10	
COMORBID ILLNESS		
Neoplastic disease	+30	
Liver disease	+20	
Congestive heart failure	+10	
Cerebrovascular disease	+10	
Renal disease	+10	
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FINDING		
Altered mental status	+20	
Respiratory rate>30/min	+20	
Systolic BP<90 mm Hg	+20	
Temperature<35°C or>40°C	+15	
Pulse>125/min	+10	
LABORATORY FINDING		
pH<7.35	+30	
BUN>10.7 mmol/L	+20	
Sodium<130 mmol/L	+20	
Glucose>13.9 mmol/L	+10	
Hematocrit<30%	+10	
PO ₂ <60mm Hg ² or O ₂ sat <90%	+10	
Pleural effusion	+10	
Total Score		

Stratification of Risk Score			
Score ≤90: send home; score ≥91: admit to hospital (possible short-course admission of those with 71-90 points)			
Risk	Risk Class	Based on Algorithm	Mortality
Low	I	0 total points	~0.1%
	II	≤70 total points	~0.6%
	III	71-90 total points	~0.9-2.8%
Moderate	IV	91-130 total points	~9%
High	V	>130 total points	~28%

Above may underestimate risk in young otherwise healthy pts. May overestimate dx severity in elderly. Does not consider for example COPD, HIV or social factors.

SMART-COP

-an ICU intensive respiratory or vasopressor support (IRVS) prediction score when CAP is confirmed on X-ray.

	Point
-low Systolic BP <90 mmHg	2
-Multilobar chest Xray involvement	1
-low Albumin level <3.5g/dl *	1
-high Respiratory rate (age adjusted)	1
-If age ≤ 50yr then ≥ 25 breaths/min	
-If age > 50yr then ≥ 30 breaths/min	
-Tachycardia ≥ 125 beats/min	1
-Confusion (new onset)	1
-poor Oxygenation (age adjusted)	2

Age	≤ 50yr	> 50yr
PaO ₂ *	< 70 mmHg	<60 mmHg
Or O ₂ saturation	≤ 93%	≤ 90 %
Or (if on O ₂)	< 333	<250
PaO ₂ / FiO ₂ *		

-low arterial pH < 7.35 * 2

Total Score=

Interpretation: (This is not a predictor of mortality)

- 0-2 Points Low risk of needing IRVS
- 3-4 Points Moderate risk (1 in 8) of needing IRVS
- 5-6 Points High risk (1 in 3) of needing IRVS
- ≥7 Points Very high risk (2 in 3) of needing IRVS

* For primary care doctors, results for albumin, arterial pH, & PaO₂ can be overlooked & the following interpretation can be used:

- 0 Points Very low risk of needing IRVS
- 1 Point Low risk (1 in 20) of needing IRVS
- 2 Points Moderate risk (1 in 10) of needing IRVS
- 3 Points High risk (1 in 6) of needing IRVS
- ≥4 Points High risk (1 in 3) of needing IRVS

(Adapted from Charles et al. Used with permission.)

Option #2:

CURB-65

1 point for Any of:

- Confusion *
- Urea >7mmol/l
- Respiratory rate ≥30/min
- Blood pressure (SBP <90 or DBP ≤60
- Age ≥65years

Point
1
1
1
1
1
Total=

CURB-65 Score:

Mortality @30days:
Treatment options:

0-1

Group 1

Low
<2%
Outpatient if support

2

Group 2

Intermediate
~9%
Inpatient or hospital supervised outpatient

3 or more

Group 3

High
>19%
Inpatient; or ICU esp. if CURB-65 score= 4 or 5

* defined as a Mental Test Score of 8 or less, or new disorientation in person, place or time.

This scoring does not take into account comorbidities or extent of the pneumonia. (The **CRB-65** is another version which does not incorporate the Urea into the score).

1. Highlights

- ◆ **Acute uncomplicated cystitis in otherwise healthy ♀**
 - Short course - **3 day** therapy – suitable for cotrimoxazole (\$10), trimethoprim & fluoroquinolones (~\$20)
 - Nitrofurantoin (e.g. Macrobid) – a minimum of **5-7 days** treatment is recommended.
- ◆ **Fluoroquinolones** have excellent activity against most urinary pathogens; however concern that overuse is leading to increasing antimicrobial resistance. *Preserve them for those who really need them!*
- ◆ **Asymptomatic bacteriuria** in the institutionalized elderly is common. However, antimicrobial treatment offers no benefit and increases the prevalence of resistant bacteria. *Don't culture asymptomatic residents.*

2. Oral Antimicrobials for Urinary Tract Infections

Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole or Cotrimoxazole (SMX/TMP) {Alternately consider monotherapy with Trimethoprim}

Coverage	◆ <i>E. coli, P. mirabilis, K. pneumonia, S. aureus</i>
Adverse effects	◆ diarrhea, rash, hematologic abnormalities (rare); (May use trimethoprim alone in sulpha allergic patients) (other less common effects: blood dyscrasias, diarrhea, pancreatitis, nephrotoxicity, urolithiasis, hepatotoxicity, hypersensitivity reactions, skin rash, toxic epidermal necrolysis & Stevens-Johnson syndrome. In patients with AIDS, cotrimoxazole produces an increased incidence of toxicity including a syndrome of fever, malaise, nausea and headache. Cotrimoxazole is also associated with disulfiram-like reactions.)
Drug interactions	◆ cyclosporine ↑cyclosp levels & ↑nephrotoxicity, digoxin ↑dig levels, methotrexate ↑MTX toxicity, metronidazole disulfiram reaction, phenytoin ↑phenytoin toxicity, sulfonyleureas ↑hypoglycemic effect, warfarin ↑warf effect
Comments	◆ resistance is a problem especially in recurrent UTI; average reported resistance in SK is ~15%, however, higher in some institutional situations. Other antibiotics should be used when resistance ≥20%. ◆ maintain hydration

Nitrofurantoin {Macrobid 100mg BID: well tolerated and convenient}

Coverage	◆ <i>E. coli, K. pneumonia, S. aureus, Enterococcus faecalis</i> ; (not <i>proteus, pseudomonas</i>)
Adverse effects	◆ rash, GI upset, increased LFTs; (other less common effects: pneumonitis and other pulmonary reactions, eosinophilia, hemolytic anemia, leukopenia, agranulocytosis, methemoglobinemia, peripheral neuropathy, pseudotumor cerebri, pseudomembranous colitis, nausea, vomiting, pancreatitis, parotitis, hepatitis, systemic lupus erythematosus and cutaneous and allergic reactions)
Drug Interactions	◆ Mg ⁺⁺ antacids ↓absorption, norfloxacin ↓norfloxacin effect; Food ↑'s absorption
Comments	◆ maintains excellent activity against <i>E. coli, Enterococci, & Staph</i> ◆ avoid in renal dysfunction (CrCl <40-60ml/min); limited tissue penetration; <u>not</u> useful in complicated UTI

Ciprofloxacin {Alternately, norfloxacin & levofloxacin; not moxifloxacin as lower concentration in urine}

Coverage	◆ <i>E. coli, P. mirabilis, K. pneumonia, P. aeruginosa, +/- S. aureus</i> (very broad coverage & effective agent)
Adverse effects	◆ headache, GI upset; (Other less common effects: CNS side effects, including seizures; increases in transaminases and in some cases severe and fatal hepatitis have developed. Additionally, hematuria and anaphylactic reactions have been described)
Drug Interactions	◆ antacids ↓absorption; may use a PPI / H2-antagonist; clozapine, glyburide ↑hypoglycemia, iron ↓cipro absorption, metoprolol ↑metop level, phenytoin ↑↓pheny levels, theophylline ↑theoph toxicity, warfarin ↑warf effect, zinc ↓cipro absorption; 1A2 substrates inhibited by ciprofloxacin & levofloxacin ∴ ↑ effect of olanzapine, haloperidol, imipramine, cyclobenzaprine, fluvoxamine, zolmitriptan...
Comments	◆ other fluoroquinolones also effective; <u>pseudomonal</u> coverage with ciprofloxacin & norfloxacin. ◆ lower doses suitable for uncomplicated UTI; higher doses for complicated UTI & pyelonephritis

Amoxicillin/Clavulanic Acid (Amox/Clav)

Coverage	◆ <i>E. coli, P. mirabilis, K. pneumonia, S. aureus, Enterococcus faecalis</i>
Adverse effects	◆ rash, GI upset (diarrhea, more with q8h dosing ~25% formulations than with q12h formulations ~10%) (Other less common effects: eosinophilia, leukopenia and thrombocytosis; superinfections resulting in candidal vaginitis and pseudomembranous colitis may occur. Caution in patients with a sensitivity to penicillin.)
Drug Interactions	◆ oral contraceptives ↓contraceptive effect, methotrexate ↓MTX clearance & ↑toxicity; Lab: false +ve Coomb's test
Comments	◆ good coverage for more resistant organisms including enterococcus.

Fosfomycin - single dose

Comments (D/C 2010) ◆ usually less effective than SMX/TMP, esp for *S. saprophiticus*; however *E. Coli* resistance uncommon
Note: other beta-lactams (amoxicillin, 1st gen cephalosporins) are alternatives although generally less effective clinically than SMX/TMP.

3. Urban Outpatient Susceptibility Patterns (SK) – local susceptibility variation should be considered

- ◆ C&S results reflect patients with recurrent/more complicated infections as these patients getting are cultured most frequently
- ◆ **Frequency & susceptibility** of pathogens found vary depending on inpatient vs outpatient and complicating factors
- ◆ **Probable organisms:** Acute Cystitis ⇒ *E. coli, S. saprophiticus*; Complicated UTI ⇒ *E. coli, Enterococci, Klebsiella, Proteus, P. aeruginosa, Pylonephritis* ⇒ *E. coli, Klebsiella, Enterobacter, Proteus mirabilis*; Prostatitis ⇒ *E. coli, Gm -ve bacilli, Staph, enterococcus*
- ◆ *E. coli* (most common uropathogen): ≥83-87% S to SMX/TMP; ≥99% S to NTF; ≥94% S to Cipr; ≥82% S to Amox/Clav
- ◆ *Enterococcus*: Resistant to SMX/TMP ≥99% S to NTF; ≥74% S to Cipr; ≥98% S to Amp

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URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS (UTI), ADULT – TREATMENT OPTIONS

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Pharmacist's Letter: Treatment of Uncomplicated UTI June 2006

Pharmacists's Letter. **Cystoplus** (sodium citrate) for Cystitis. Aug 2011.

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Treatment of Low Back Pain^{21,22}

Red Flags (assessment considerations):

- ♦pain when recumbent
- ♦saddle anesthesia
- ♦pseudoclaudication
- ♦age >55y or <20
- ♦recent UTI
- ♦trauma (major)
- ♦pain persisting >1mo

Tx Guidelines:

- ♦symptomatic relief can be accomplished with OTC medication and/or spinal manipulation
- ♦during acute phase, bed rest >4 days may further debilitate the patient
- ♦low-stress aerobic activity & exercise OK in first 2 weeks; may delay trunk muscle exercises
- ♦recommend return to work/normal activities as soon as possible
- ♦if problems persist, reassessment required
- ♦address nonphysical factors (psych/socioeconomic)

Meds: acetaminophen 1st line; NSAIDs option if necessary & not contraindicated; strong opioids may be necessary for some but consider addiction risk, use treatment agreement and set appropriate boundaries; consider referral.

Back Pain Treatment Options: REFERENCES

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Web Sites:

American College of Rheumatology: Gout www.rheumatology.org/public/factsheets/diseases_and_conditions/gout.asp?aud=pat

Arthritis Foundation: Gout www.arthritis.org/disease-center.php?disease_id=42

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases: Questions and Answers About Gout

www.niams.nih.gov/Health_Info/Gout/default.asp

Gout and Uric Acid Education Society www.gouteducation.org/

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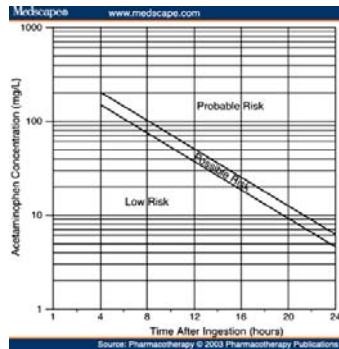
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NSAIDs, COXIBs & OTHER ANALGESICS: Comparison Chart

¹ Micromedex 2011

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- ¹⁸ Bresalier RS, et al. Cardiovascular Events Associated with Rofecoxib in a Colorectal Adenoma Chemoprevention Trial (**APPROVe**). *N Engl J Med* 2005; 352:1092-102. (InfoPOEMs: For every 62 patients who take rofecoxib instead of placebo for 3 years, 1 additional patient will experience a serious cardiovascular event. Remember, there is no greater symptomatic relief with COX-2 inhibitors than with older drugs; acetaminophen is a very safe alternative. The decrease in risk of serious gastrointestinal complications is marginal with COX-2 inhibitors and the cost is high. (**LOE = 1b**))
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Massey T, Derry S, Moore RA, McQuay HJ. **Topical NSAIDs** for acute pain in adults. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2010 Jun 16;CD007402. Topical NSAIDs can provide good levels of pain relief, without the systemic adverse events associated with oral NSAIDs, when used to treat acute musculoskeletal conditions.
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36. **Acetaminophen Overdose**: Medscape article: http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/459187_4 ; Merck Manual's Online Medical Manual: <http://www.merck.com/mmpc/sec21/ch326/ch326c.html> {Rumack-Matthew nomogram for predicting (Caution with units of measure!) } (10ug/ml = 66.2umol/L) (Acetaminophen level: 4hrs post ingestion & repeat in 4hrs; if ≥150mg/kg and 8hr post, may start n-acetylcysteine while awaiting levels; TOXIC levels: 4hr level >993umol/L; 6hr >728umol/L; 8hr >496.5umol/L; 24hr >29.8umol/L) {LFTs: AST usually ↑ first} Heard KJ. Acetylcysteine for acetaminophen poisoning. *N Engl J Med*. 2008 Jul 17;359(3):285-92.
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(There is some evidence for the use of fomepizole as a CYP2E1 inhibitor and for decreased hepatotoxicity in the setting of acetaminophen overdose... To date, the evidence is all animal models but when the patient will otherwise die, the potential benefit outweighs the lack of human evidence.)
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- Andersohn F, Suissa S, Garbe E. Use of first- and second-generation cyclooxygenase-2-selective nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs & risk of acute myocardial infarction. *Circulation*. 2006 Apr 25;113(16):1950-7. Epub 2006 Apr 17. Current use of etoricoxib was associated with a 2.09-fold (95% confidence interval [CI], 1.10 to 3.97) risk of AMI compared with no use of NSAIDs during the prior year. Current use of rofecoxib (RR=1.29; 95% CI, 1.02 to 1.63), celecoxib (RR=1.56; 95% CI, 1.22 to 2.00), and diclofenac (RR=1.37; 95% CI, 1.17 to 1.59) also significantly increased the AMI risk. For current use of valdecoxib, the RR was 4.60 (95% CI, 0.61 to 34.51). RRs appeared to increase with higher daily doses of COX-2 inhibitors and were also increased in patients without major cardiovascular risk factors.
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FDA Dec/09. Endo, & Novartis revised the Hepatic Effects section of the Prescribing Information to add new warnings and precautions about the potential for elevation in liver function tests during treatment with all products (**including diclofenac gel**) on **diclofenac sodium**. In postmarketing reports, cases of drug-induced **hepatotoxicity** have been reported in the first month but can occur at any time during treatment with diclofenac. Postmarketing surveillance has reported cases of severe hepatic reactions, including liver necrosis, jaundice, fulminant hepatitis with and without jaundice, and liver failure. Some of these reported cases resulted in fatalities or liver transplantation.

FDA June/12 cautioned late last week against using **Reumofan Plus**, a dietary supplement marketed as a "natural" pain reliever for arthritis, osteoporosis, and other conditions. The drug, which is made in Mexico but available online, contains unlabeled and potentially harmful pharmaceutical ingredients: diclofenac, methocarbamol & sometimes dexamethasone.

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Fransen M, et al. HIPAID Collaborative Group. Safety and efficacy of routine postoperative ibuprofen for pain and disability related to ectopic bone formation after hip replacement surgery (HIPAID): randomised controlled trial. BMJ. 2006 Sep 9;333(7567):519. Epub 2006 Aug 2. These data do not support the use of routine prophylaxis with NSAIDs in patients undergoing **total hip replacement surgery**.

Friday JH, Kanegaye JT, McCaslin I, Zheng A, Harley JR. **Ibuprofen** provides analgesia equivalent to **acetaminophen-codeine** in the treatment of acute pain in children with extremity injuries: a randomized clinical trial. Acad Emerg Med. 2009 Aug;16(8):711-6. Epub 2009 Jul 14. Acute pain relief from ibuprofen is equivalent to that of acetaminophen-codeine for children presenting to the emergency department with extremity injury. More than half the children in this study were consequently found to have fractures. (LOE = 1b)

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Gaujoux-Viala C, Dougados M, Gossec L. Efficacy and safety of **steroid injections** for shoulder and elbow tendonitis: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. Ann Rheum Dis. 2009 Dec;68(12):1843-9. Epub 2008 Dec 3. In the first 3 months of tendonitis of either the elbow or shoulder, injected corticosteroids are more effective than placebo or physical therapy, but no more effective than treatment with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). In the longer term they are no more effective than any treatment. What hasn't been studied is the effectiveness of steroid injections in patients for whom NSAID treatment isn't effective, since this is the usual progression of treatment of these painful conditions. (LOE = 1a-)

Gislason GH, et al. **Risk of Death or Reinfarction** Associated With the Use of Selective Cyclooxygenase-2 Inhibitors and Nonselective Nonsteroidal Antiinflammatory Drugs After Acute Myocardial Infarction. Circulation. 2006 Jun 19; [Epub ahead of print] For any use of rofecoxib, celecoxib, ibuprofen, diclofenac, and other NSAIDs, the hazard ratios and 95% confidence intervals for death were 2.80 (2.41 to 3.25; for rofecoxib), 2.57 (2.15 to 3.08; for celecoxib), 1.50 (1.36 to 1.67; for ibuprofen), 2.40 (2.09 to 2.80; for diclofenac), and 1.29 (1.16 to 1.43; for other NSAIDs); there were dose-related increases in risk of death for all of the drugs. There were trends for increased risk of rehospitalization for MI associated with the use of both the selective COX-2 inhibitors and the nonselective NSAIDs. CONCLUSIONS: **Selective COX-2 inhibitors in all dosages and nonselective NSAIDs in high dosages increase mortality** in patients with previous MI and should therefore be used with particular caution in these patients.

Gislason GH, Rasmussen JN, Abildstrom SZ, et al. Increased mortality and cardiovascular morbidity associated with use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in chronic **heart failure**. Arch Intern Med. 2009 Jan 26;169(2):141-9.

Gleason JM, Slezak JM, Jung H, et al. Regular Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (**NSAIDs**) Use and **Erectile Dysfunction**. J Urol. 2011 Feb 18.

Gokmen T, Erdeve O, Altug N, et al. Efficacy and safety of oral versus intravenous Ibuprofen in very low birth weight preterm infants with patent ductus arteriosus. J Pediatr. 2011 Apr;158(4):549-554.e1.

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Goldstein JL, Cryer B, Amer F, Hunt B. **Celecoxib plus aspirin versus naproxen and lansoprazole plus aspirin**: a randomized, double-blind, endoscopic trial. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2007 Oct;5(10):1167-74. n=854 In patients with osteoarthritis taking low-dose aspirin, the use of celecoxib or naproxen plus lansoprazole resulted in similar rates of gastroduodenal ulceration.

Goldstein LH, Berlin M, Berkovitch M, Kozer E. Effectiveness of oral vs rectal acetaminophen: a meta-analysis. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2008 Nov;162(11):1042-6. Among 4 small studies, oral and rectal acetaminophen for fever control were comparable in effectiveness.

The authors could only find 1 study comparing **oral and rectal acetaminophen** for pain. It appeared that oral administration was more effective, but the effect may not have been clinically meaningful. The authors don't report an adverse effects. (LOE = 1a-)

Goldstein JL, Chan FK, Lanas A, Wilcox CM, Peura D, Sands GH, Berger MF, Nguyen H, Scheiman JM. **Haemoglobin decreases in NSAID** users over time: an analysis of two large outcome trials. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2011 Aug 2.

González ELM et al. **Variability** among nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs in risk of upper **gastrointestinal bleeding**. Arthritis Rheum 2010 Jun; 62:1592.

Gouyon JB, Kibleur Y. Efficacy and tolerability of enteral formulations of **ibuprofen** in the treatment of **patent ductus arteriosus** in preterm infants. Clin Ther. 2010 Sep;32(10):1740-8.

Gossec L, Smolen JS, Gaujoux-Viala C, et al. European League Against Rheumatism (**EULAR**) recommendations for the management of **psoriatic arthritis** with pharmacological therapies. Ann Rheum Dis. 2011 Sep 27.

Graham GG, Scott KF, Day RO. Tolerability of **paracetamol**. Drug Saf. 2005;28(3):227-40.

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Hammerman C et al. **Ductal closure with paracetamol** (acetaminophen): a surprising new approach to patent ductus arteriosus treatment. Pediatrics. 2011 Dec;128(6):e1618-21.

Hamden A, Takahashi M, Burgner D. **Kawasaki disease**. BMJ. 2009 May 5;338:b1514. doi: 10.1136/bmj.b1514.

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Hay EM, et al. Effectiveness of community **physiotherapy** and enhanced **pharmacy review** for knee pain in people aged over 55 presenting to primary care: pragmatic randomized trial. BMJ. 2006 Oct 20; [Epub ahead of print] Evidence based care for older adults with knee pain, delivered by primary care physiotherapists and pharmacists, resulted in short term improvements in health outcomes, reduced use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and high patient satisfaction.

Hay AD, Costelloe C, Redmond NM, et al. Paracetamol plus ibuprofen for the treatment of fever in children (**PITCH**): randomised controlled trial. BMJ. 2008 Sep 2;337:a1302. doi: 10.1136/bmj.a1302. Parents, nurses, pharmacists, and doctors wanting to use medicines to supplement physical measures to maximise the time that children spend without fever should use **ibuprofen first** and consider the relative benefits and risks of using paracetamol plus ibuprofen over 24 hours.

Hawkey CJ, et al. Omeprazole compared with misoprostol for ulcers associated with nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs. **Omeprazole** versus Misoprostol for NSAID-induced Ulcer Management (**OMNIUM**) Study Group. N Engl J Med. 1998 Mar 12;338(11):727-34.

Health Canada Prohibits sale of Bextra http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2005/134_e.html

Health Canada June/06 two documents as part of its ongoing evaluation of COX-2-selective drugs: its official comments on the advice provided by the COX-2 Expert Advisory Panel and a report on the Department's scientific review of certain COX-2s. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/activi/sci-consult/cox2/index_e.html

Health Canada Aug/07 reports that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the federal regulatory authority in Australia, recently withdrew market authorization for **Prexige due to eight reports of serious liver adverse events** in Australia linked to the drug, including two deaths and two liver transplants. These adverse events were primarily with use of 200 mg and 400 mg doses daily.

Health Canada Sept/07 reports that **Qiangli Zhuanggutongbiling** has reportedly been used for joint pain and stiffness. It was found to contain the undeclared prescription drugs prednisolone acetate, cortisone acetate, piroxicam, and diclofenac.

Health Canada Sept/07: **Khuu-Phra** is a health product promoted for pain relief that has been found to contain the undeclared drugs dexamethasone, prednisolone, phenylbutazone, diazepam, cyproheptadine and mebhydrolin. **Asam Urat Flu Tulang, PJ Dewandaru** is a health product promoted to treat joint pain, rheumatism and arthritis. It has been found to contain the undeclared drugs dexamethasone, diclofenac and acetaminophen.

Health Canada Oct/07 Foreign Product Alerts: **Zhen Feng Da Brand Xi Tong Wan** is promoted as a pain reliever. Lot #060908 has been found to contain undeclared indomethacin, a prescription anti-inflammatory drug that should only be taken under the guidance of a health professional. **Wellring Brand Yin Qiao Jie Du** is a health product promoted to treat cold and flu symptoms. Lot#51005 has been found to contain undeclared acetaminophen. **Gu Ci Dan and Xu Log Bou** are promoted as pain relievers and have been found to contain indomethacin.

Health Canada Oct/07 is advising consumers that it has stopped the sale of the anti-inflammatory drug **Prexige** (lumiracoxib) in Canada and will cancel the drug's market authorization due to the potential for serious liver-related adverse events. (2 new severe cases in Canada)

Health Canada July/08 is advising consumers not to use 2 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **3rd Generation In Homoeopathy Arthrit Indica Tablet**. The product is labelled for "intense joint pain." The Health Sciences Authority of Singapore has warned consumers not to use the product because it contains **nimesulide**, a pharmaceutical ingredient that has been associated with liver damage.

Health Canada Aug/08 is advising consumers not to use foreign health products due to concerns against the use of **AA Qu Feng Shu Jin Wan** because it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient dexamethasone. **Obat Asam Urat** and **Asam Urat** both contained dexamethasone, phenylbutazone and piroxicam.

Health Canada June/09 is informing Canadian health care professionals and consumers of recent restrictions regarding the use of the prescription drug piroxicam. Health Canada has conducted a safety review and concluded that **piroxicam** should no longer be used to treat short-term pain and inflammation due to an increased risk of serious skin reactions and gastrointestinal problems relative to other similar drugs.

Health Canada July/09 is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized health product labelled as **Specific-Formula Arthro-Ace** as it was found to contain undeclared **dexamethasone** and may cause serious health effects.

Health Canada July/09 is warning that the Singapore Health Sciences Authority (HSA) warned consumers not to buy or use **Air Ikan Haruan** after it was found to contain undeclared dexamethasone. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use the product **Neovidan** after it was found to contain undeclared prednisolone and mefenamic acid.

Health Canada Aug/09 is advising via Singapore Health Sciences Authority (HSA) that **Delima Raja Urat** contains undeclared dexamethasone, chlorpheniramine, pheniramine and sibutramine, while **Cao Gen Bai Lin Wan** contains undeclared dexamethasone and chlorpheniramine.

Health Canada Aug/10 **Huo Luo Jing Dan** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned consumers not to buy or consume Huo Luo Jing Dan after it was found to contain undeclared indomethacin, dexamethasone and prednisolone.

Health Canada Oct/11 **Huo Li Bao and Ren Sem Tu Chon Chin Kuo Pill** - The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned that these Chinese pain-relief products contain prescription and/or over-the-counter drugs (furosemide, piroxicam, chlorpheniramine, and/or dexamethasone).

Health Canada Dec/11 is advising Canadians that Vita Health's product, "**Compliments Muscle and Back Pain Relief Regular Strength**" contains a significant labelling error in the French dosing directions that may pose serious risks to children (less than 12 years of age).

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OPIOID ANALGESIC: COMPARISON CHART

Extras:

- Buprenorphine Transdermal System (BuTrans Patch) Q&A – Aug 2010: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/BuTrans-QandA.pdf>
- Fentanyl Nasal Spray (LAZANDA): available in USA, for cancer related breakthrough pain; 100ug/100mL, 400ug/100mL: time to onset =11 minutes; always start at 100ug spray, allow 2 hrs between doses, stepwise ↑ in dosage, max 4 doses in 24hrs.
- Fentanyl Sublingual Tablet (PALADIN, ProStrakan in USA): 100, 200, 300, 400, 600, 800 ug.
- Hydrocodone + Ibuprofen (REPREXAIN, VICOPROFEN, others): available in USA. (5/200, 7.5/200, 10/200 mg)
- Methadone injection (IV): available via special access program (SAP) in Canada
- Morphine + naltrexone (EMBEDA): available in USA; naltrexone added to ↓ abuse risk.
- Oxycodone: new products USA: (OXECTA), (ROXYCODONE)
- Oxycodone + Ibuprofen (COMBUNOX): available in USA. (5 / 400 mg)
- Oxymorphone (OPANA, OPANA ER): available in USA; IM, rectal, & recently oral; 3x more potent than oral morphine; avoid alcohol as ↑↑↑ peak concentrations. (IR tabs: 5,10mg; e.g 5mg q4-6h prn. ER tabs: 5, 7.5, 10,15,20,30, 40mg; e.g. 10mg q12h).
- Tapentadol (NUCYNTA): available in USA; weak mu agonist; ↑ noradrenalin (e.g. also known as norepinephrine); may have ↓ GI effects but similar CNS effects to other opioids. (50-75,100mg tabs e.g. 50mg q4-6h prn.)
- See also RxFiles Substance Abuse Chart: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/CHT-Substance-Abuse.pdf> (sections: 4- Addiction screening; 5-Universal Precautions in Pain Medicine; 6-Red Flags for Aberrant Rx Drug Use)

Fentanyl Patches: “Attempting to give 1/2 patch”

The rate of medication delivery from Duragesic® patches is in proportion to the surface area of drug reservoir in contact with the skin. Prior to the availability of the 12.5 mcg/hr strength, the following procedure was occasionally used to achieve this rate:

1. An occlusive dressing like Opsite was put on the skin.
2. A 25 mcg/hr patch was then applied on top with half on the skin and half on the dressing.

This approach lacks documentation and can not be routinely recommended.

Fentanyl / Opioid Patch Exchange Tool: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Opioid-Patch-Exchange-Disposal-Tool.pdf>

Opioid Intolerance:

- **Pseudoallergy (COMMON!** – may use non-opioid, lower opioid dose, alternate opioid even from same class, addition of H1 diphenhydramine +/- H2 ranitidine blocker.
 - Flushing, itching, hives, sweating, and/or mild hypotension
 - Itching, flushing or hives at injection site only
- **Potential true opioid allergy (RARE!** - would require change to non-opioid or opioid from different chemical class – see below)
 - Severe hypotension
 - Skin reaction other than (Flushing, itching, hives)
 - Breathing, speaking, swallowing difficulties
 - Swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue, pharynx or larynx

Opioid Chemical Class

1. **Phenylpiperidines:** meperidine, fentanyl, sufentanil, remifentanyl
2. **Diphenylheptanes:** methadone, propoxyphene
3. **Morphine group:** morphine, codeine, hydromorphone, nalbuphine, butorphanol, levorphanol, pentazocine

New Drugs {Not vet in Canada}

- **Oral Oxymorphone**
 - i. (Opana, Opana ER): **Potency** is about 10x more potent than morphine! Caution!. [Immediate release: 5, 10mg tabs; Extended release; 5, 10, 20, 40 mg tabs]

Additional References & Links:

- **Canadian Opioids in CNCP Guidelines:** <http://nationalpaincentre.mcmaster.ca/index.html>
- **Responsible Physician Opioid Prescribing Resources (USA) Links:** <http://www.responsibleopioidprescribing.org>
- Health Canada – Company – Dosage Conversion Guidelines for Fentanyl; Revised Mar 2010: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/alt_formats/pdf/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2010/fentanyl_2_hpc-cps-eng.pdf
- **Opioid Manager Tool:** Point of care tool summarizing Canadian Guidelines:
 - **From CEP:** http://www.effectivepractice.org/index.cfm?pagePath=CEP_TOOLS/Opioid_Manager&id=23515
 - **From NPC:** <http://nationalpaincentre.mcmaster.ca/opioidmanager/>
- Tramadol warning (FDA): <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm213264.htm>

Treatment Agreements:

Medscape discussion on use in primary care. <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/711659?src=mp&spon=30&uac=93517FV>

Canadian Guideline sample at http://nationalpaincentre.mcmaster.ca/opioid/cgop_b_app_b05.html

RxFiles 1 page version at <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Pain-CNMP-Opioid-TreatmentAGREEMENT.pdf>; Customizable MS-Word version <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Pain-CNMP-Opioid-TreatmentAGREEMENT.doc>

RxFiles 2 page version at: ♦customizable MS Word: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Opioid-Informed-Consent-And-Agreement.docx> ♦pdf: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Opioid-Informed-Consent-And-Agreement.pdf>

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- 8 Other Opioid Conversion (e.g. tramadol): <http://databaseinnovationsdraft.com/OpioidConversionChart2007.pdf>

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- [2007 MMWR article on unintentional poisoning deaths](#) (Free)
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- FDA Nov/10 is requesting that manufacturers of the painkiller **propoxyphene** pull the drug from the market because of concerns over cardiotoxicity. (Propoxyphene is marketed alone as Darvon and combined with acetaminophen as Darvocet.) The agency's request is based on data showing that, even when taken at therapeutic doses, the drug can lead to potentially dangerous changes in the heart's electrical activity, including prolonged PR and QT intervals and widened QRS complex. The FDA advises clinicians to stop prescribing propoxyphene and to ask current users to discontinue the drug. FDA's MedWatch alert (Free)
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Health Canada July/10 RELISTOR (methylnaltrexone bromide) Subcutaneous Injection - Association with gastrointestinal perforation - Wyeth Canada Patients with advanced illness being treated with **RELISTOR may be at increased risk of gastrointestinal perforation.**

Health Canada Nov/10 **Darvon-N (dextropropoxyphene) - Recall and Withdrawal in Canada** - Paladin Labs Inc. Paladin Labs Inc. in collaboration with Health Canada would like to inform healthcare professionals of the voluntary recall and withdrawal of the opioid analgesic Darvon-N (dextropropoxyphene) in Canada. (widen the QRS complex, prolong the QT interval and therefore increase the risk of serious abnormal heart rhythms.)

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FDA Nov/10 has approved **denosumab** (marketed as **Xgeva**) for the prevention of fracture and bone pain in patients with cancer that has metastasized to the bone. [FDA news release](#) (Free) [Xgeva prescribing information](#) (Free PDF)

FDA July/11 notified healthcare professionals and patients about its ongoing review of data from published studies to evaluate whether use of **oral bisphosphonate** drugs is associated with an **increased risk of cancer of the esophagus**. FDA has not concluded that taking an oral bisphosphonate drug increases the risk of esophageal cancer. There are insufficient data to recommend endoscopic screening of asymptomatic patients.

FDA Sep/11 notified healthcare professionals and patients of an update to the drug label for **Reclast (zoledronic acid)** regarding the risk of kidney failure. Cases of acute renal failure requiring dialysis or having a fatal outcome following Reclast use have been reported to FDA. The revised label states that Reclast is contraindicated in patients

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RA - EXTRAS

Approach & Considerations for Drug Tx in RA

- **Initial:** DMARD + NSAID +/- Corticosteroid for symptoms. MTX often the DMARD of choice, however, HCQ is safer but suitable only for mild cases.
 - NSAIDs now used primarily for bridging and pain management.
 - Oral corticosteroids associated with complications, so use controversial. Short courses &/or low doses for ≤ 2 yrs sometimes used (\downarrow joint pain & systemic symptoms). Intra-articular injections useful & few AEs.
 - Earlier combo DMARD or biologic tx warranted for those with high disease activity & poor prognostic factors.
{Features of poor prognosis include: functional limitation, extraarticular disease (rheumatoid nodules, RA vasculitis, Felty's syndrome, +ve rheumatoid factor, anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies, bony erosions radiographic.)}
- **TNF inhibitors** - 1st line biologics after an inadequate response to a DMARD. They are given +/- MTX (synergistic). Note, infliximab given with MTX (not recommended for monotherapy).
 - ♦ Initial TNF inhibitor choice: varies with clinician (often etanercept rapid onset, short t 1/2 or infliximab)
 - ♦ Relative to other agents, TNF-inhibitors may be more effective in relieving symptoms & limiting joint destruction. They often also act more rapidly.
 - ♦ AEs:
 - 1) **Injection site reactions** (back pain, fever, urticaria, dyspnea, \downarrow BP): common with etanercept, golimumab, certolizumab, & adalimumab.
 - 2) **Cytopenia:** uncommon, but can occur with any anti-TNF tx. Monitor CBC.
 - 3) The potential for **Serious Infections:** (eg. bacterial sepsis, TB reactivated & disseminated, fungal, viral & opportunistic unusual eg. *p. jirovecii*) are important; screen for active infection, latent TB, etc.
 - 4) **Malignancies (esp. lymphomas):** reported but causality not established. The condition of RA \uparrow lymphoma risk on its own. Avoid anti-TNF tx in patients with recent ca.
 - 5) **Other AEs:** (rare) – CHF, reversible lupus-like syndrome, demyelinating conditions eg. M.S. (avoid if hx), hepatotoxicity (caution with infliximab).
 - ♦ If 1st TNF inhibitor is not effective, switching to a 2nd TNF inhibitor may be effective; however, many specialists will opt for a non-TNF biologic for a different mechanism of action.
- **Non-TNF Biologics** – include rituximab co-admin with a DMARD; pre-treat to prevent infusion reaction, abatacept +/- a DMARD, tocilizumab may work in ≥ 2 wks, AEs (many; severe complications reported), anakinra less effective.
- Aggressive early therapy with MTX &/or a biologic \Rightarrow longer remissions, less joint destruction & improved quality of life.
- **Combination Tx with 2-3 DMARDs (or a DMARD + biologic):** often more effective than monotherapy without more toxicity.
 - ♦ **Triple DMARD Tx:** MTX +SSZ + HCQ (+/- prednisone low-dose $\leq 7.5-10$ mg/day) effective. ♦ **MTX + Biologic** more efficacious than either alone. ♦ **Combination of 2+ Biologics NOT recommended** as \uparrow toxicity!
- **Comorbidity & biologics** ^{ACR RA 2012:}
 - 1) Hepatitis
 - a) Hep C \Rightarrow potentially recommend etanercept;
 - b) Hep B: untreated chronic or treated chronic with Child-Pugh class B or higher: **avoid** any biologic!
 - 2) Malignancy
 - a) treated solid malignancy >5 yrs or non-melanoma skin ca >5 yrs ago – recommend any biologic;
 - b) treated solid malignancy <5 yr or treated non-melanoma skin ca within 5 yr – recommend rituximab;
 - c) treated skin melanoma, & treated lymphoproliferative malignancy – recommend rituximab;
 - 3) CHF
 - a) NYHA class III-IV with ejection fraction $\leq 50\%$: **avoid** anti-TNF biologics!

Vaccinations: before DMARD or biologic, immunize for influenza, pneumococcal, hep-B & HZV. Live vaccines should not be given to patients on biologics (should be given ≥ 1 month prior to starting tx).

Pain Management in RA:

- Neuromodulators: Cochrane Review RCT, placebo controlled - few trials, all short term ($\sim 2-5$ weeks) with high risk of bias (ie. Weak evidence)
 - 1) Nefopam (ACUPAN): not in Canada; 5HT, NE & DA receptor blocking; NNT=2 for pain relief, offset by significant SE's
 - 2) Topical capsaicin: reasonable add-on option; NNT=2-3 for pain relief, offset by some burning at application site
 - 3) Oromucosal cannabis: small reduction in pain, highly offset by SE's leading to withdrawal (NNH=3) including dizziness 26%, dry mouth 13% & lightheadedness (10%)
 - 4) Lack of data for other agents included: anticonvulsants, ketamine, bupropion, methylphenidate

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- Osteoporosis Canada – www.osteoporosis.ca
- QFractureScore <http://www.qfracture.org/>
- Simple Calculated Osteoporosis Risk Estimation (SCORE) tool <http://osteod.org/tools.php> (sensitivity 91%, specificity 40%)^{BMD}

Behavioural & Psychological Symptoms of **DEMENTIA** (BPSD) Treatment Chart

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- Pucci E, Giuliani G, Solari A, Simi S, Minozzi S, Di Pietrantonj C, Galea I. **Natalizumab** for relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2011, Issue 10. Art. No.: CD007621. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD007621.pub2. Although one trial did not contribute to efficacy results due to its duration, we found robust evidence in favour of a reduction in relapses and disability at 2 years in RRMS patients treated with NTZ. The drug was well tolerated. There are current significant safety concerns due to reporting of an increasing number of PML cases in patients treated with NTZ. This review was unable to provide an up-to-date systematic assessment of the risk due to the maximum 2 year-duration of the trials included. An independent systematic review of the safety profile of NTZ is warranted. NTZ should be used only by skilled neurologists in MS centres under surveillance programs.
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- Goodin DS, Cohen BA, O'Connor P, Kappos L, Stevens JC; Therapeutics and Technology Assessment Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. Assessment: the use of natalizumab (Tysabri) for the treatment of multiple sclerosis (an evidence-based review): report of the Therapeutics and Technology Assessment Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology*. 2008 Sep 2;71(10):766-73. The **PML** risk in a pooled clinical trial cohort has been estimated to be **1 person for every 1,000 patients treated for an average of 17.9 months**, although this figure could change in either direction with more experience with the drug.
- December 17, 2008 — Biogen Idec and Élan reported to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that "relevant regulatory agencies" had been informed of another case of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) with natalizumab (Tysabri) monotherapy in a patient with multiple sclerosis (MS). The case was found through surveillance, the companies note, and the patient is stable. The male patient is from Germany and had been on natalizumab monotherapy for 26 months. He is reported to be stable and under the care of his physician. The companies released information on their December 11 Form 8-K report to the SEC December 15.
- Health Canada Feb/09 New Safety Information Regarding Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML) Associated with Tysabri (natalizumab) http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2009/tysabri_2_hpc-cps-eng.php
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- FDA Sep/09 documents 13 PML cases <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ucm107198.htm>
- October 27, 2009 — The European Medicines Agency (EMA) disclosed October 23 that it has begun a review of the risk-benefit balance for use of natalizumab (Tysabri, Biogen Idec/Elan) in relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis in light of new cases of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) with treatment. The EMA notes it started a review of the benefits and risks of natalizumab because reports of PML cases worldwide have climbed now to 23 since the drug was reinstated in the market in 2006. "This review is initiated to discuss any additional measures necessary to ensure the safe use of Tysabri and how to balance the risks to the patients against the benefits of the treatment," a press release from EMA notes. The release was a round-up of EMA activities as of October 2009. Natalizumab was taken off the market in February 2005 after the first 3 cases of PML were reported. On September 23, 2009, the US Food and

Drug Administration (FDA) reported that the count for confirmed cases of PML worldwide in patients treated with natalizumab as monotherapy had reached 13. They have now confirmed the new total case count at 23. Jan 21, 2010 (Dow Jones)--As of Wednesday, there have been 31 cases of a rare brain infection in multiple sclerosis patients on Tysabri, sold by Biogen Idec Inc. (BIIB) and Elan Corp. (ELN), according to a review by a European regulatory panel. The European Medicines Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use, known as CHMP, reported the cases of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, or PML, in a review of the drug that concluded its rewards outweigh its risks and the drug should stay on the market. Of the **31 cases**, 23 of the patients were on the drug for more than two years, which puts the infection rate at about 1 in 1,000 patients for those exceeding that duration. This assertion is the same held by the company and implied by the drug's label.

FDA Feb/10 notified healthcare professionals and patients that the risk of developing progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) increases with the number of Tysabri infusions received. This new safety information, based on reports of 31 confirmed cases of PML received by the FDA as of January 21, 2010, will now be included in the Tysabri drug label and patient *Medication Guide*.

March 18, 2010 9:22 AM EDT Biogen Idec (Nasdaq: BIIB) disclosed that the number of PML cases involving those taking its Tysabri drug has increased to 42 patients with 9 who have died.

May/10 Biogen Idec Canada Inc., has updated the Tysabri product information with new information on Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML). The risk of PML increases with increasing duration of treatment with Tysabri. After 24 infusions, physicians are to review with their patients, the benefits and risk of continuing Tysabri treatment.

Schröder A, Lee DH, Hellwig K, Lukas C, Linker RA, Gold R. **Successful Management of Natalizumab-Associated Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy and Immune Reconstitution Syndrome in a Patient With Multiple Sclerosis.** Arch Neurol. 2010 Jul 12.

Oct 22/10 - Two more patients taking Biogen Idec Inc's multiple sclerosis drug Tysabri (natalizumab) have developed progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), the company said on Wednesday. The Cambridge, Massachusetts-based biotechnology company said in its latest monthly update that as of Oct. 1, there have been **70 confirmed cases of PML**, up from 68 as of Sept. 2. Of those, 14 have died and 56 are alive with varying degrees of disability ranging from mild to severe. There were no additional deaths in October. As of June 30, about 71,400 patients had received Tysabri since it was launched.

Vermersch P, Kappos L, Gold R, et al. Clinical outcomes of natalizumab-associated progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy. Neurology. 2011 May 17;76(20):1697-704.

FDA Jan/12 JC virus is common and usually harmless, the agency said, but its presence — along with either of the other two PML risk factors — can be dangerous in patients taking immunomodulating drugs like natalizumab. The other risk factors are treatment with natalizumab for longer than 2 years, and previous treatment with immunosuppressant drugs such as methotrexate or cyclophosphamide. The FDA estimates that patients with all three risk factors face about a 1% risk for PML (11 cases per 1000 patients treated).

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FDA May/12 warned clinicians on Thursday that "**liberation therapy**," an experimental procedure that uses angioplasty balloons or stents to open narrowed veins in the chest and neck, has not been approved to treat chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency (**CCSVI**) and could be dangerous. Liberation therapy has been associated with one death due to a brain hemorrhage and one stroke, says the FDA. Other possible risks include blood clots, cranial nerve damage, and migrating stents.

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Pahwa R, et al.; Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. Practice Parameter: treatment of Parkinson disease with **motor fluctuations and dyskinesia** (an evidence-based review): report of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. 2006 Apr 11;66(7):983-95. <http://www.neurology.org/cgi/reprint/66/7/983> 1. Entacapone and rasagiline should be offered to reduce off time (Level A). Pergolide, pramipexole, ropinirole, and tolcapone should be considered to reduce off time (Level B). Apomorphine, cabergoline, and selegiline may be considered to reduce off time (Level C). 2. The available evidence does not establish superiority of one medicine over another in reducing off time (Level B). Sustained release carbidopa/levodopa and bromocriptine may be disregarded to reduce off time (Level C). 3. Amantadine may be considered to reduce dyskinesia (Level C). 4. Deep brain stimulation of the STN may be considered to improve motor function and reduce off time, dyskinesia, and medication usage (Level C). There is insufficient evidence to support or refute the efficacy of DBS of the GPi or VIM nucleus of the thalamus in reducing off time, dyskinesia, or medication usage, or to improve motor function. 5. Preoperative response to levodopa predicts better outcome after DBS of the STN (Level B).

Suchowersky O, et al.; Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. Practice Parameter: **neuroprotective strategies and alternative** therapies for Parkinson disease (an evidence-based review): report of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology.* 2006 Apr 11;66(7):976-82. <http://www.neurology.org/cgi/reprint/66/7/976> 1. Levodopa does not appear to accelerate disease progression. 2. No treatment has been shown to be neuroprotective. 3. There is no evidence that vitamin or food additives can improve motor function in PD. 4. Exercise may be helpful in improving motor function. 5. Speech therapy may be helpful in improving speech volume. 6. No manual therapy has been shown to be helpful in the treatment of motor symptoms, although studies in this area are limited. Further studies using a rigorous scientific method are needed to determine efficacy of alternative therapies.

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Approach to Migraine: Considerations

- ♦ ACUTE: - may consider metoclopramide or domperidone 1st; NSAID and/or triptan also recommended first line;
 - in very severe attacks, SC sumatriptan likely to be most effective & rapid; consider need for rapid onset vs recurrence, GI tolerance of po form, etc.
 - Link to Review Article in AFP Feb 2011: <http://www.aafp.org/afp/2011/0201/p271.html>
- ♦ PROPHYLAXIS: 1st line: beta-blockers (propranolol, metoprolol), TCAs, valproic acid, topiramate.
- ♦ MENSTRUAL Related Migraine (MRM): - severity may be increased; duration of headache may be longer and may be harder to treat than regular migraine
 - may consider NSAID or triptan for short-term treatment, several days before and during menstruation²⁰.

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Extras:Preventing Gaps when Switching Contraceptives. ^{Lesnewski '11}

Switching from →	Switching to	Comments
Combined OC, progestin only pill	Combined OC, progestin only pill	◆switch directly from one pill to another; do not miss a day
Combined OC	Patch or Ring	◆start patch day before last pill; start ring day after last pill ◆Do not need to complete pill cycle before switch
Patch or Ring	Combined OC	◆start pill day before (scheduled to remove patch/ring; i.e. no more than 8 days after last patch (effective up to 9 days) or 34 days after ring (effective up to 35days)) ◆Do not need to complete full cycle for patch/ring before pill starts
Patch	Ring	◆insert ring & remove patch on same day
Ring	Patch	◆Apply patch 2 days before ring removal
Combined OC, patch or ring	Progestin IUD or injection	◆Continue pill, patch or ring x 7days (or use barrier)
Copper IUD	Progestin IUD (i.e. Mirena)	◆Use barrier x 7 days ; return to fertility may be immediate
Copper IUD	Progestin injection (i.e. Depo-Provera)	◆Give injection 7 days before IUD removal; if done on same day, use barrier x 7days
Copper IUD	Combined OC, patch, or ring	◆Start new method 7 days before removal of IUD or use barrier x 7days
Progestin IUD (i.e. Mirena) or injection (i.e. Depo-Provera)	Combined OC, patch, or ring	◆Start new method 7 days before removal of IUD or next injection (i.e. may start new method up to 15 weeks after last injection)
Combined OC, patch or ring	Copper IUD	◆Can insert copper IUD up to five days after stopping pill, patch or ring
Progestin IUD (i.e. Mirena)	Copper IUD	◆Can insert copper IUD right after removing progestin IUD
Progestin injection (i.e. Depo-Provera)	Copper IUD	◆Can insert copper IUD up to 16weeks after the last shot

Consider: Abstain from sexual intercourse or use a barrier method (condoms +/- spermicide) if no overlap in methods for a minimum of 7days for most switches (see above table for exact number of days in bold print)

“Patient Friendly” Statistics for Contraceptive Failure Rates: <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ByAudience/ForWomen/ucm118465.htm#hormonal>

Out of 100 women who use the following method for 1 year:

- Injection, progestin IUD – 1 may get pregnant
- COC, POP, patch & ring – 5 may get pregnant
- Male condoms – 11 to 16 may get pregnant
- Diaphragm – 15 may get pregnant
- Sponge – 16 to 32 may get pregnant
- Female condoms – 20 may get pregnant
- Spermicide along – 30 may get pregnant

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Clinical Effectiveness Unit. **Drug interactions** with hormonal contraception. London (UK): Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare; 2012 Jan.

Collaborative Group on Epidemiological Studies of **Ovarian Cancer**. Beral V, Doll R, Hermon C, Peto R, Reeves G. Ovarian cancer and oral contraceptives: collaborative reanalysis of data from 45 epidemiological studies including 23,257 women with ovarian cancer and 87,303 controls. Lancet. 2008 Jan 26;371(9609):303-14. Use of oral contraceptives confers long-term protection against ovarian cancer. These findings suggest that oral contraceptives have already prevented some 200,000 ovarian cancers and 100,000 deaths from the disease, and that over the next few decades the number of cancers prevented will rise to at least 30,000 per year.

Compassionate Contraceptive Assistance Program SOGC: http://www.sogc.org/projects/ccap_e.asp

Creinin MD, et al. **Progesterone receptor modulator** for emergency contraception: a randomized controlled trial. Obstet Gynecol. 2006 Nov;108(5):1089-97.

Creinin MD, Meyn LA, Borgatta L, et al. Multicenter comparison of the contraceptive ring and patch: a randomized controlled trial. Obstet Gynecol. 2008 Feb;111(2 Pt 1):267-77. The majority of women who are using oral contraceptives (OCs) and try the vaginal ring continue with the ring rather than go back to OCs. Most women who try patches go back to OCs. It is uncertain whether the nonmasked nature of the trial, which was funded by the manufacturer of the vaginal ring, introduced bias into the study. (LOE = 1b-)

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Dinger JC, Cronin M, Möhner S, Schellschmidt I, et al. Oral contraceptive effectiveness according to **body mass index**, weight, age, and other factors. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2009 Sep;201(3):263.e1-9. Epub 2009 May 30.

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Edelman AB, et al. Continuous oral contraceptives: are bleeding patterns dependent on the hormones given? Obstet Gynecol. 2006 Mar;107(3):657-65. CONCLUSION: The addition of 10 mug of ethinyl E2 to a 20 mug ethinyl E2 pill containing levonorgestrel or norethindrone acetate did not improve bleeding patterns. During continuous dosing, the use of oral contraceptives containing 1,000 mug norethindrone acetate resulted in more days of amenorrhea and fewer days of spotting than preparations containing 100 mug levonorgestrel.

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Edelman AB, Carlson NE, Cherala G, et al. Impact of **obesity** on oral contraceptive pharmacokinetics and hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian activity. Contraception. 2009 Aug;80(2):119-27. Epub 2009 Jun 4.

Etminan, Mahyar, Delaney, Joseph A.C., Bressler, Brian, et al. Oral contraceptives and the risk of **gallbladder disease**: a comparative safety study. CMAJ 2011 0: cmaj.110161. (small significant increase)

FDA Oct/11 released the final report of an FDA-funded study looking into the risk for venous thromboembolism (VTE) in women taking oral contraceptives containing drospirenone. As previously reported by Medscape Medical News, on September 26 the FDA said preliminary findings from the study indicate that women who use **drospirenone-containing birth control pills have an approximately 1.5-fold increase** in the risk of developing blood clots relative to women using other types of hormonal contraceptives.

FDA Drug Safety Communication Sept/11: Safety review update on the possible increased risk of blood clots with birth control pills containing drospirenone. <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm273021.htm> (Accessed November 29th, 2011).

FDA Apr/12 has completed its review of recent observational (epidemiologic) studies regarding the risk of blood clots in women taking drospirenone-containing birth control pills. Based on this review, FDA has concluded that **drospirenone-containing birth control pills** may be associated with a higher risk for blood clots than other progestin-containing pills. Report that some epidemiologic studies reported as high as a three-fold increase in the risk of blood clots for drospirenone-containing products when compared to products containing levonorgestrel or some other progestins, whereas other epidemiological studies found no additional risk of blood clots with drospirenone-containing products.

Fine P et al. **Ulipristal acetate** taken 48-120 hours after intercourse for emergency contraception. Obstet Gynecol 2010; 115:257.

Fisher WA, Black A. Contraception in Canada: a **review** of method choices, characteristics, adherence and approaches to counselling. CMAJ 2007;176:953-61.

Foster DG, Hulett D, Bradsberry M, Darney P, Policar M. Number of oral contraceptive pill **packages dispensed** and subsequent unintended pregnancies. Obstet Gynecol. 2011 Mar;117(3):566-72.

Gaffield ME, Culwell KR, Lee CR. The use of hormonal contraception among women taking **anticonvulsant therapy**. Contraception. 2011 Jan;83(1):16-29. Epub 2010 Sep 15.

Gallo MF, et al. Combination contraceptives: effects on weight. *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2006, Issue 1.

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Grimes DA, Jones LB, Lopez LM, et al. Oral contraceptives for functional **ovarian cysts.** *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2009 Apr 15;(2):CD006134. Although widely used for treating functional ovarian cysts, combined oral contraceptives appear to be of no benefit. Watchful waiting for two or three cycles is appropriate. Should cysts persist, surgical management is often indicated.

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Hannaford PC, Selvaraj S, Elliott AM, et al. Cancer risk among users of oral contraceptives: cohort data from the Royal College of General Practitioner's oral contraception study. *BMJ* 2007;335(7621):651-659. (InfoPOEMs Jan07: Oral contraceptive (OC) use does not increase a woman's overall risk of cancer and may slightly decrease it. However, the risk for particular cancers may be increased or decreased, depending on the duration of use & the length of time since last use. (LOE = 1b))

Hannaford Philip C, Iversen Lisa, Macfarlane Tatiana V, et al. **Mortality** among contraceptive pill users: cohort evidence from Royal College of General Practitioners' Oral Contraception Study. *BMJ* 2010

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Health Canada June/10 **MIRENA** (Levonorgestrel-Releasing Intrauterine System) - Potential Risk of Uterine Perforation - Bayer Inc. Bayer Inc., in collaboration with Health Canada, would like to remind you of important safety information regarding reports of uterine perforation in women treated with MIRENA.

Health Canada Dec/11 has completed a safety review of drospirenone-containing oral contraceptives (marketed under the brand names Yasmin and Yaz) with respect to the risk of blood clots (venous thromboembolism, or VTE). The review determined that **drospirenone-containing birth control pills** may be associated with a risk of blood clots that is **1.5 to 3 times higher than other birth control pills.**

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Hicks CW, Rome ES. **Menstrual manipulation:** options for suppressing the cycle. *Cleve Clin J Med.* 2010 Jul;77(7):445-53.

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Iliadou A, Milsom I, Pedersen NL, et al. Risk of **urinary incontinence** symptoms in oral contraceptive users: a national cohort study from the Swedish Twin Register. *Fertil Steril.* 2009 Aug;92(2):428-33. Epub 2008 Aug 15.

International Collaboration of Epidemiological Studies of **Cervical Cancer**, Appleby P, Beral V, Berrington de González A, et al. Cervical cancer and hormonal contraceptives: collaborative reanalysis of individual data for 16,573 women with cervical cancer and 35,509 women without cervical cancer from 24 epidemiological studies. *Lancet.* 2007 Nov 10;370(9599):1609-21. The relative risk of cervical cancer is increased in current users of oral contraceptives and declines after use ceases. 10 years' use of oral contraceptives from around age 20 to 30 years is estimated to increase the cumulative incidence of invasive cervical cancer by age 50 from 7.3 to 8.3 per 1000 in less developed countries and from 3.8 to 4.5 per 1000 in more developed countries.

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Legro RS, Pauli JG, Kuneselman AR, et al. Effects of **Continuous versus Cyclic** Oral Contraception: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2007 Dec 4; [Epub ahead of print] Continuous oral contraception does not result in a reduction of bleeding days over a 168d period of observation, but provides greater suppression of the ovary and endometrium. These effects are associated with improved patient symptomatology.

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Lidegaard Øjvind, Løkkegaard Ellen, Svendsen Anne Louise, et al. Hormonal contraception and risk of **venous thromboembolism**: Denmark national follow-up study. *BMJ* 2009;339:b2890, doi: 10.1136/bmj.b2890

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Lopez LM, Edelman A, Chen-Mok M, Trussell J, Helmerhorst FM. **Progestin-only contraceptives: effects on weight**. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2011 Apr 13;4:CD008815. We found little evidence of weight gain when using POCs. Mean gain was less than 2 kg for most studies up to 12 months, and usually similar for the comparison group using another contraceptive.

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Loder EW, Buse DC, Golub JR. **Headache** and combination estrogen-progestin oral contraceptives: integrating evidence, guidelines, and clinical practice. *Headache.* 2005 Mar;45(3):224-31.

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Marions L et al. Effect of **emergency contraception** with levonorgestrel or mifepristone on ovarian function. *Contraception* 2004 May; 69:373-7.

Medical Letter. Three new oral contraceptives. (Yaz, Seasonique, Loestrin 24 Fe) Sept 25, 2006.

Medical Letter. A New Progestin Implant (Implanon) Oct 9, 2006.

Medical Letter. **Plan B** OTC. Sept 11, 2006.

Medical Letter. Combination Oral Contraceptives and the Risk of **Venous Thromboembolism**. Mar 22, 2010.

Medical Letter- Treatment Guidelines: **Choice of Contraceptives**. Dec 2007; p. 101-108. (**Updated Dec 2010**)

Morch Lina Steinrud; Lokkegaard Ellen; Andreasen Anne Helms; et al. Hormone Therapy and **Ovarian Cancer**. *JAMA.* 2009;302(3):298-305.

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Odmark IS, Bixo M, Englund D, Risberg B, Jonsson B, Olsson SE. Endometrial safety and bleeding pattern during a five-year treatment with long-cycle hormone therapy. *Menopause.* 2005 Nov-Dec;12(6):699-707. Epub 2005 Nov 8. (InfoPOEMs: In this small study, continuous estrogen therapy combined with 14 days of progestin every 3 months (long-cycle therapy) did not result in endometrial hyperplasia or cancer. (LOE = 1b))

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Petri M, Kim MY, Kalunian KC, Grossman J, et al. Combined Oral Contraceptives in Women with Systemic **Lupus** Erythematosus. *N Engl J Med.* 2005 Dec 15;353(24):2550-2558. (InfoPOEMs: This study found that oral contraceptives are safe and do not increase the risk of flares in women with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Another study in the same issue of the journal found no difference in clinical outcomes for women randomized to an oral contraceptive, progestin-only pill, or intrauterine device (N Engl J Med 2005;353:2539-49). (LOE = 1b))

Pharmacist's Letter: **Hormonal Contraception** July 2006

Pharmacists Letter. Single dose regimen (1.5mg) for **Plan B**. June 2007.

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Raymond EG, Halpern V, Lopez LM. **Pericoital oral contraception with levonorgestrel**: a systematic review. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2011 Mar;117(3):673-81.

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Rosenfield RL. **Hirsutism**. *N Engl J Med.* 2005 Dec 15;353(24):2578-88.

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Extras:

Preventing Gaps when Switching Contraceptives. Lesniewski '11

Switching from →	Switching to	Comments
Combined OC, progestin only pill	Combined OC, progestin only pill	◆switch directly from one pill to another; do not miss a day
Combined OC	Patch or Ring	◆start patch day before last pill; start ring day after last pill ◆Do not need to complete pill cycle before switch
Patch or Ring	Combined OC	◆start pill day before scheduled to remove patch/ring; i.e. no more than 8 days after last patch (effective up to 9 days) or 34 days after ring (effective up to 35days) ◆Do not need to complete full cycle for patch/ring before pill starts
Patch	Ring	◆insert ring & remove patch on same day
Ring	Patch	◆Apply patch 2 days before ring removal
Combined OC, patch or ring	Progestin IUD or injection	◆Continue pill, patch or ring x 7days (or use barrier)
Copper IUD	Progestin IUD (i.e. Mirena)	◆Use barrier x 7 days; return to fertility may be immediate
Copper IUD	Progestin injection (i.e. Depo-Provera)	◆Give injection 7 days before IUD removal; if done on same day, use barrier x 7days
Copper IUD	Combined OC, patch, or ring	◆Start new method 7 days before removal of IUD or use barrier x 7days
Progestin IUD (i.e. Mirena) or injection (i.e. Depo-Provera)	Combined OC, patch, or ring	◆Start new method 7 days before removal of IUD or next injection (i.e. may start new method up to 15 weeks after last injection)
Combined OC, patch or ring	Copper IUD	◆Can insert copper IUD up to five days after stopping pill, patch or ring
Progestin IUD (i.e. Mirena)	Copper IUD	◆Can insert copper IUD right after removing progestin IUD
Progestin injection (i.e. Depo-Provera)	Copper IUD	◆Can insert copper IUD up to 16weeks after the last shot

Consider: Abstain from sexual intercourse or use a barrier method (condoms +/- spermicide) if no overlap in methods for a minimum of 7days for most switches (see above table for exact number of days in bold print)

"Patient Friendly" Statistics for Contraceptive Failure Rates: <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ByAudience/ForWomen/ucm118465.htm#hormonal>

Out of 100 women who use the following method for 1 year:

- Injection, progestin IUD – 1 may get pregnant
- COC, POP, patch & ring – 5 may get pregnant
- Male condoms – 11 to 16 may get pregnant
- Diaphragm – 15 may get pregnant
- Sponge – 16 to 32 may get pregnant
- Female condoms – 20 may get pregnant
- Spermicide along – 30 may get pregnant

◆ Study with **IMPLANON** USA found that **lactogenesis** not affected by early postpartum (on day 1-3) insertion.

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FDA Apr/12 has completed its review of recent observational (epidemiologic) studies regarding the risk of blood clots in women taking drospirenone-containing birth control pills. Based on this review, FDA has concluded that **drospirenone**-containing birth control pills may be associated with a higher risk for blood clots than other progestin-containing pills. Report that some epidemiologic studies reported as high as a three-fold increase in the risk of blood clots for drospirenone-containing products when compared to products containing levonorgestrel or some other progestins, whereas other epidemiological studies found no additional risk of blood clots with drospirenone-containing products.

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Health Canada June/10 **MIRENA (Levonorgestrel-Releasing Intrauterine System) - Potential Risk of Uterine Perforation - Bayer Inc.** Bayer Inc., in collaboration with Health Canada, would like to remind you of important safety information regarding reports of uterine perforation in women treated with MIRENA.

Health Canada Dec/11 has completed a safety review of drospirenone-containing oral contraceptives (marketed under the brand names Yasmin and Yaz) with respect to the risk of blood clots (venous thromboembolism, or VTE). The review determined that **drospirenone-containing birth control pills** may be associated with a risk of blood clots that is **1.5 to 3 times higher than other birth control pills**.

HHS Aug 2011.: Affordable Care Act Ensures Women Receive **Preventive Services at No Additional Cost** (incl. **contraception**). <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/08/20110801b.html>

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Kaunitz AM, Meredith S, et al. **Levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system** and endometrial ablation in heavy menstrual bleeding: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2009 May;113(5):1104-16. Based on the meta-analysis of six randomized clinical trials, the efficacy of the **levonorgestrel intrauterine system in the management of heavy menstrual bleeding appears to have similar therapeutic effects to that of endometrial ablation up to 2 years after treatment**. (InfoPOEMs Jun09: The levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system (LNG-IUS) is as effective as endometrial ablation for the treatment of heavy menses. Its advantages include lower cost, less invasiveness, and retained fertility. (LOE = 1b))

Kaunitz AM, Darney PD, Ross D, Wolter KD, Speroff L. **Subcutaneous DMPA** vs. intramuscular DMPA: a 2-year randomized study of contraceptive efficacy and bone mineral density. *Contraception.* 2009 Jul;80(1):7-17. Epub 2009 Mar 27. DMPA-SC is an effective and well-tolerated contraceptive option, providing comparable efficacy and BMD safety to DMPA-IM.

Kaunitz AM, Bissonnette F, Monteiro I, et al. **Levonorgestrel-Releasing Intrauterine System or Medroxyprogesterone for Heavy Menstrual Bleeding: A Randomized Controlled Trial**. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2010 Sep;116(3):625-632.

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Health Canada Aug/06 & Jan/10 is advising consumers about a possible link between health products containing herbal medicine **black cohosh** and liver damage. A number of international case reports of liver damage suspected to be associated with the use of black cohosh, including three cases reported in Canada and one published case of death in the United States. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_72_e.html , http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/bulletin/carn-bcei_v20n1-eng.php#_Black_cohosh_products

Health Canada Jan/08 is warning Canadians not to use the unauthorized product **RGC-RMC Rheumax Capsule** (batch number REM1-SI93016N). This batch of RGC-RMC Rheumax Capsule has been found to contain **progesterone**, a steroid hormone that can have adverse effects on the brain, breast and skin and should only be taken if prescribed by a health professional.

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MHRA Dec/11 In response to an urgent notice issued by the MHRA, **Bee Health Ltd has agreed to stop marketing FSC Black Cohosh 1000 mg** due to concerns about the high dosage of black cohosh in the product. The MHRA advises consumers not to take the FSC Black Cohosh product as it equates to 50 times the dose approved for traditional herbal medicinal products used to relieve menopausal symptoms. It is not known what the risks or effects on the body could be associated with such a high level of Black Cohosh.

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North American Menopause Society. The role of **local vaginal estrogen for treatment of vaginal atrophy** in postmenopausal women: **2007 position statement** of The North American Menopause Society. *Menopause.* 2007 May-Jun;14(3):370-1. The choice of therapy should be guided by clinical experience and patient preference. Progestogen is generally not indicated when low-dose estrogen is administered locally for vaginal atrophy. Data are insufficient to recommend annual endometrial surveillance in asymptomatic women using vaginal ET. Vaginal ET should be continued for women as long as distressful symptoms remain. For women treated for non-hormone-dependent cancer, management of vaginal atrophy is similar to that for women without a cancer history. For women with a history of hormone-dependent cancer, management recommendations are dependent upon each woman's preference in consultation with her oncologist.

North American Menopause Society. **NAMS: Estrogen and progestogen use** in postmenopausal women: 2010 position statement of The North American Menopause Society. *Menopause.* 2010 Feb 12. [Epub ahead of print] Recent data support the initiation of HT around the time of menopause to treat menopause-related symptoms; to treat or reduce the risk of certain disorders, such as osteoporosis or fractures in select postmenopausal women; or both. The benefit-risk ratio for menopausal HT is favorable for women who initiate HT close to menopause but decreases in older women and with time since menopause in previously untreated women. <http://www.menopause.org/PSht10.pdf>

Osmer R, Friede M, et al. Efficacy and safety of isopropanolic **black cohosh** extract for climacteric symptoms. *Obstet Gynecol* 2005; 105:1074-83. (InfoPOEMs: This study reports that isopropanolic black cohosh extract (Remifemim) at a dose of 20 mg twice daily is statistically more effective than placebo for the treatment of menopausal vasomotor symptoms. These results will probably be used to promote its use. However, the authors did not supply sufficient data to determine the extent of benefit or the number needed to treat. This evidence is insufficient to determine whether black cohosh has a clinically relevant effect in treating menopausal symptoms. (LOE = 1b-)) **CONCLUSION:** This isopropanolic extract of black cohosh root stock is effective in relieving climacteric symptoms, especially in early climacteric women.

Ouyang P, et al.; for the Estrogen And Graft Atherosclerosis Research (**EAGAR**) investigators. Randomized trial of hormone therapy in women after coronary bypass surgery Evidence of differential effect of hormone therapy on angiographic progression of disease in saphenous vein grafts and native coronary arteries. *Atherosclerosis.* 2006 Jan 23; [Epub ahead of print]

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Pharmacist's Letter. **Angeliq** (Estradiol & Drospirenone) Dec 2008.

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Pockaj B ; Gallagher J ; Loprinzi C et al. Phase III double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled crossover trial of black cohosh in the management of hot flashes: *J Clin Oncol.* 2006; 24:2836-41. **CONCLUSION:** This trial failed to provide any evidence that black cohosh reduced hot flashes more than Pl.

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Rada G, Capurro D, Pantoja T, et al. **Non-hormonal interventions for hot flushes in women with a history of breast cancer.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2010, Issue 9. Art. No.: CD004923. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004923.pub2. Clonidine, SSRIs and SNRIs, gabapentin

and relaxation therapy showed a mild to moderate effect on reducing hot flashes in women with a history of breast cancer.

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Reed SD, Newton KM, Garcia RL, et al. Complex hyperplasia with and without atypia: clinical outcomes and implications of **progestin therapy**. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2010 Aug;116(2 Pt 1):365-73.

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Reynolds K, et al. A meta-analysis of the effect of **soy protein** supplementation on serum lipids. *Am J Cardiol.* 2006 Sep 1;98(5):633-40. Epub 2006 Jul 12.

Roberts H. **Managing the menopause**. *BMJ.* 2007 Apr 7;334(7596):736-41.

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SOGC 2009 Menopause and Osteoporosis Update 2009-SOGC Jan 2009. http://www.sogc.org/media/pdf/advisories/Meno-Osteo-Update_JOGC-Jan_09.pdf

Star Trial (Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene) for Breast Cancer Prevention Medical Letter May 8, 2006 & Pharmacist's Letter May 2006. InfoPOEMs: Tamoxifen (Nolvadex, Tamofen) and raloxifene (Evista) are similarly effective for reducing the risk of invasive breast cancer in postmenopausal women. Although women taking tamoxifen are at an increased risk of thromboembolic events and cataracts, they report improved sexual function compared with women taking raloxifene. All-cause mortality and overall quality-of-life were similar in both treatment groups. (LOE = 1b-)

Stefanick ML, et al. WHI Investigators. Effects of conjugated equine estrogens on breast cancer and mammography screening in postmenopausal women with hysterectomy. *JAMA.* 2006 Apr 12;295(14):1647-57. (InfoPOEMs: Estrogen therapy alone does not increase the risk of breast cancer in postmenopausal women with prior hysterectomy. Women receiving estrogen are more likely to require further testing as a result of questionably abnormal mammogram results, potentially leading to heightened anxiety and a reduced quality of life. The decision to use estrogen in postmenopausal women after hysterectomy should be individualized on the basis of overall potential risks and benefits. Women most likely to benefit from estrogen therapy include those with disabling hot flashes and an increased risk of osteoporotic fractures. Treatment should be limited whenever possible to the first 5 years (or less) after menopause. (LOE = 1b))

Shah NR, Borenstein J, Dubois RW. Postmenopausal hormone therapy and **breast cancer**: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Menopause.* 2005 Nov-Dec;12(6):668-78. (InfoPOEMs: This meta-analysis of 13 large observational studies found that combined estrogen and progestin hormone therapy (CHT) for postmenopausal women is more likely than estrogen-only hormone therapy (ET) to be associated with breast cancer. This result is concordant with clinical trial data from the Women's Health Initiative (WHI). There is still uncertainty about whether ET increases the risk of breast cancer, based on the heterogeneity found in this meta-analysis and the discordance of these results with those from the WHI. (LOE = 2a))

Snitz Beth E.; O'Meara Ellen S.; Carlson Michelle C.; et al. for the **Ginkgo Evaluation of Memory (GEM)** Study Investigators. Ginkgo biloba for Preventing Cognitive Decline in Older Adults: A Randomized Trial. *JAMA.* 2009;302(24):2663-2670. Compared with placebo, the use of **G biloba, 120 mg twice daily, did not** result in less cognitive decline in older adults with normal cognition or with mild cognitive impairment.

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Svejme O, Ahlborg H, et al. **Early menopause** and risk of osteoporosis, fracture and mortality: a 34-year prospective observational study in 390 women. *BJOG.* 2012 Apr 25.

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Uebelhack R, et al. **Black cohosh and St. John's wort** for climacteric complaints: a randomized trial. (n=301 16weeks) *Obstet Gynecol.* 2006 Feb;107(2 Pt 1):247-55.

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U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Hormone therapy for the prevention of chronic conditions in postmenopausal women: recommendations from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. *Ann Intern Med.* 2005 May 17;142(10):855-60. (InfoPOEMs: Estrogen/progestin therapy should not routinely be used to prevent chronic disease in postmenopausal women. The Task Force making this recommendation did not address short-term (1-2 years) treatment of symptoms of menopause. The risks with chronic therapy are minimal, but so are the benefits to chronic disease prevention. (LOE = 1a))

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Waetjen LE, Brown JS, Vittinghoff E, et al. The Effect of Ultralow-Dose Transdermal Estradiol on **Urinary Incontinence** in Postmenopausal Women. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2005 Nov;106(5):946-952.

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Armingeat T, et al. **Intravenous pamidronate for pain relief** in recent osteoporotic vertebral compression fracture: a randomized double-blind controlled study. Osteoporos Int. 2006 Aug 8; [Epub ahead of print]

Avenell A, Gillespie WJ, Gillespie LD, et al. Vitamin D and vitamin D analogues for preventing fractures associated with involutional and post-menopausal osteoporosis. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2005 Jul 20;(3):CD000227& ACP Journal Club . **AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS:**
Frail older people confined to institutions may sustain fewer hip and other non-vertebral fractures if given vitamin D with calcium supplements. Effectiveness of vitamin D alone in fracture prevention is unclear. There is no evidence of advantage of analogues of vitamin D compared with vitamin D. Calcitriol may be associated with an increased incidence of adverse effects. Dose, frequency, and route of administration of vitamin D in older people require further investigation.

Barrett-Connor E, Grady D, et al.; **MORE** Investigators (Multiple Outcomes of Raloxifene Evaluation). Raloxifene and **cardiovascular** events in osteoporotic postmenopausal women: four-year results from the MORE randomized trial. JAMA. 2002 Feb 20;287(7):847-57.

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Baxter NN, Habermann EB, Tepper JE, Durham SB, et al. I. Risk of pelvic fractures in older women following **pelvic irradiation**. JAMA. 2005 Nov 23;294(20):2587-93. (InfoPOEMs: Pelvic irradiation significantly increases the risk of pelvic fractures in older women. Treatment for anal cancer is associated with the highest risk of pelvic fracture. (LOE = 2b-))

Bean GR, Kimmelford BF, Seewaldt VL. Long-term **raloxifene** in a woman at high risk for **breast cancer**. N Engl J Med. 2006 Oct 12;355(15):1620-2.

Bell Katy J L, Hayden Andrew, Macaskill Petra, et al. Value of routine **monitoring of bone mineral density** after starting bisphosphonate treatment: secondary analysis of trial data. BMJ 2009;338:b2266, doi: 10.1136/bmj.b2266 (Published 23 June 2009)

Berger C, Langsetmo L, Joseph L, Hanley DA, et al. Canadian Multicentre Osteoporosis Study Research Group. Change in bone mineral density as a function of age in women and men and association with the use of antiresorptive agents. CMAJ. 2008 Jun 17;178(13):1660-8. (CaMos)
The period of accelerated loss of bone mineral density in the hip bones occurring among women and men older than 65 may be an important contributor to the increased incidence of hip fracture among patients in that age group. The extent of bone loss that we observed in both sexes indicates that, in the **absence of additional risk** factors or therapy, repeat testing of bone mineral density to diagnose osteoporosis could be delayed to every 5 years.

Berry SD, Samelson EJ, Hannan MT, et al. **Second hip fracture** in older men and women: the framingham study. Arch Intern Med. 2007 Oct 8;167(18):1971-6. Following a first hip fracture, 2.5% of subjects experienced a second hip fracture within 1 year, and 8.2% of subjects (9.7% of women) experienced a second hip fracture within 5 years. **One-year mortality following an initial hip fracture was 15.9% compared with 1-year mortality following a second hip fracture of 24.1%**. Among survivors of an initial hip fracture, the incidence of a second hip fracture is substantial. Older age and functional status may be important predictors of a second hip fracture.

Berry S, Waldron T, Winquist E, Lukka H. The use of **bisphosphonates** in men with hormone-refractory **prostate cancer**: a systematic review of randomized trials. Can J Urol. 2006 Aug;13(4):3180-8.

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Bilezikian JP. **Osteonecrosis of the jaw**--do bisphosphonates pose a risk? N Engl J Med. 2006 Nov 30;355(22):2278-81.

Bingham CO 3rd, et al. Risedronate decreases biochemical markers of cartilage degradation but does not decrease symptoms or slow radiographic progression in patients with **medial compartment osteoarthritis** of the knee: Results of the two-year multinational knee osteoarthritis structural arthritis study. Arthritis Rheum. 2006 Oct 30;54(11):3494-3507 [Epub ahead of print]

Bischoff-Ferrari HA, Willett WC, Wong JB, et al. Fracture prevention with vitamin D supplementation: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. JAMA. 2005 May 11;293(18):2257-64 & ACP Journal Club . (Oral **vitamin D supplementation between 700 to 800 IU/d** appears to reduce the risk of hip and any nonvertebral fractures in ambulatory or institutionalized elderly persons. An oral vitamin D dose of 400 IU/d is not sufficient for fracture prevention.) (InfoPOEMs: Supplementation with calcium 1000 mg and vitamin D3 800 IU daily decreases the likelihood that older people will experience a first hip fracture or other nonvertebral fracture. The dose of calcium is lower than the 1500 mg daily that is recommended and usually used; the vitamin D dose is higher than the dose usually used in comparison studies with other drugs. These results conflict with 2 large studies in patients at high risk or with a previous osteoporotic fracture for whom these doses did not decrease the rate of fracture (BMJ 2005; 330:1003-06 and Lancet 2005; 365:1621-28). (LOE = 1a)

Bischoff-Ferrari HA, et al. Effect of cholecalciferol plus calcium on falling in ambulatory older men and women: a 3-year randomized controlled trial. Arch Intern Med. 2006 Feb 27;166(4):424-30. (InfoPOEMs: Treating older women with vitamin D and calcium decreases their likelihood of experiencing a fall, although the change in fall rate does not occur quickly. The effect is more pronounced in inactive women. (LOE = 1b))

Bisphosphonate-associated **jaw osteonecrosis**. Pharmacist's Letter August 2006. (Bilezikian JP. Osteonecrosis of the jaw--do bisphosphonates pose a risk? N Engl J Med. 2006 Nov 30;355(22):2278-81. Woo SB, Hellstein JW, Kalmal JR. Bisphosphonates and osteonecrosis of the jaw. Ann Intern Med. 2006 Nov 21;145(10):792. (50 cases in those receiving po bisphosphonates for osteoporosis))

Bjelakovic G, Gluud LL, Nikolova D, et al. **Vitamin D supplementation for prevention of mortality** in adults. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2011, Issue 7. Art. No.: CD007470. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD007470.pub2. Vitamin D in the form of vitamin D3 seems to decrease mortality in predominantly elderly women who are mainly in institutions and dependent care. Vitamin D2, alfalcidol, and calcitriol had no statistically significant effect on mortality. Vitamin D3 combined with calcium significantly increased nephrolithiasis. Both alfalcidol and calcitriol significantly increased hypercalcaemia.

Black DM, Cummings SR, Karpf DB, et al. Randomised trial of effect of **alendronate** on risk of fracture in women with **existing vertebral fractures**. Fracture Intervention Trial Research Group (FIT). Lancet 1996;348:1535-41.

Black DM, Bilezikian JP, Ensrud KE, et al. PaTH Study Investigators. One year of alendronate after one year of **parathyroid hormone** (1-84) for osteoporosis. N Engl J Med. 2005 Aug 11;353(6):555-65.

Black DM, Greenspan SL, Ensrud KE, et al.; PaTH Study Investigators. The effects of **parathyroid hormone** and **alendronate** alone or in combination in postmenopausal osteoporosis. N Engl J Med. 2003 Sep 25;349(13):1207-15. Epub 2003 Sep 20.

Black DM, Thompson DE, Bauer DC, et al. Fracture risk reduction with alendronate in women with osteoporosis: the Fracture Intervention Trial. **FIT** Research Group [published correction appears in J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2001;86:938]. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2000;85:4118-24.

Black DM, Delmas PD, Eastell R, et al. **HORIZON** Pivotal Fracture Trial. **Once-yearly zoledronic acid** for treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis. N Engl J Med. 2007 May 3;356(18):1809-22. Treatment with zoledronic acid reduced the risk of morphometric vertebral fracture by 70% during a 3-year period, as compared with placebo (3.3% in the zoledronic-acid group vs. 10.9% in the placebo group; relative risk, 0.30; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.24 to 0.38) and reduced the risk of hip fracture by 41% (1.4% in the zoledronic-acid group vs. 2.5% in the placebo group; hazard ratio, 0.59; 95% CI, 0.42 to 0.83). Nonvertebral fractures, clinical fractures, and clinical vertebral fractures were reduced by 25%, 33%, and 77%, respectively (P<0.001 for all comparisons). Zoledronic acid was also associated with a significant improvement in bone mineral density and bone metabolism markers. Adverse events, including change in renal function, were similar in the two study groups. However, **serious atrial fibrillation occurred more frequently in the zoledronic acid group 1.3 vs 0.5% (in 50 vs 20 patients, P<0.001)**. A once-yearly infusion of zoledronic acid during a 3-year period significantly reduced the risk of vertebral, hip, and other fractures.

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Cranney A, et al. Clinical Guidelines Committee of **Osteoporosis Canada**. **Parathyroid hormone** for the treatment of osteoporosis: a systematic review. CMAJ. 2006 Jul 4;175(1):52-9. (InfoPOEMs: There is consistent evidence that human parathyroid hormone (hPTH) reduces the risk of recurrent fracture in very high-risk women with osteoporosis and a history of fracture. An accompanying guideline reports that the number needed to treat (NNT) with hPTH 34 (teriparatide [Forsteo]) for 21 months to prevent one vertebral fracture is 11 and the NNT for 21 months to prevent one nonvertebral fracture is 34. This compares with NNTs of 9 and 34, respectively, for 36 months of alendronate. Given the much lower cost and greater convenience of alendronate and other bisphosphonates, teriparatide should be reserved for a very select group of very osteoporotic patients. (LOE = 1a))

Cummings SR, Black DM, Thompson DE, Applegate WB, Barrett-Connor E, Musliner TA, et al. Effect of **alendronate** on risk of fracture in women with **low bone density** but without vertebral fractures: results from the Fracture Intervention Trial (**FIT**). JAMA 1998;280:2077-82.
CONCLUSIONS: In women with low BMD but without vertebral fractures, 4 years of alendronate safely increased BMD and decreased the risk of first vertebral deformity. Alendronate significantly reduced the risk of clinical fractures among women with osteoporosis but not among women with higher BMD. Alendronate increased BMD at all sites studied (P<.001) and reduced clinical fractures from 312 in the placebo group to 272 in the intervention group, but not significantly so (14% reduction; relative hazard [RH], 0.86; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.73-1.01).

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Downey TW, et al. **Adherence and persistence** associated with the pharmacologic treatment of osteoporosis in a managed care setting. South Med J. 2006 Jun;99(6):570-5. (InfoPOEMs: Approximately half the women initially prescribed a bisphosphonate -- daily or weekly treatment -- will not be taking it after 3 months, and only 1 in 5 will be taking it after a year. Since this short duration is unlikely to provide them with meaningful benefit, the money spent on bone mineral density testing and the rest of the diagnostic work-up and follow-up, along with the cost of the initial drug therapy, is essentially wasted on 4 of 5 women diagnosed with osteoporosis. (LOE = 1b))

Ebeling PR. Clinical practice. **Osteoporosis in men**. N Engl J Med. 2008 Apr 3;358(14):1474-82.

Eneroth M, Olsson UB, Thorgren KG. **Nutritional Supplementation** Decreases Hip Fracture-related Complications. Clin Orthop Relat Res. 2006 Oct;451:212-7.

Ensrud K, et al. Effect of **raloxifene on cardiovascular adverse events** in postmenopausal women with osteoporosis. Am J Cardiol. 2006 Feb 15;97(4):520-7. Epub 2006 Jan 4. Conclusion, we found no evidence of a beneficial or harmful effect of raloxifene on the incidence of cardiovascular events overall, or coronary or cerebrovascular events, in postmenopausal osteoporotic women at relatively low risk of cardiovascular events.

Ensrud KE, Ewing SK, Taylor BC, et al.; for the Study of Osteoporotic Fractures Research Group. Comparison of 2 Frailty Indexes for Prediction of Falls, Disability, Fractures, and Death in Older Women. Arch Intern Med. 2008 Feb 25;168(4):382-389. The simple **SOF index (components of weight loss, inability to rise from a chair 5 times without using arms, and reduced energy level)** predicts risk of falls, disability, fracture, and death as well as the more complex CHS index and may provide a useful definition of frailty to identify older women at risk of adverse health outcomes in clinical practice.

Etminan M, et al. Use of Oral Bisphosphonates and the Risk of Aseptic Osteonecrosis: A Nested Case-Control Study. J Rheumatol. 2008 Jan 15; [Epub ahead of print] In this cohort of elderly cardiovascular patients, an association was observed between oral bisphosphonate use and aseptic osteonecrosis.

Ettinger B, et al. Reduction of vertebral fracture risk in postmenopausal women with **osteoporosis** treated with **raloxifene**: a 3-yr randomized clinical trial. Multiple Outcomes of Raloxifene Evaluation (**MORE**) Investigators [correction JAMA 1999;282:1214]. JAMA 1999;282:637-45.
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Fogelman I, Ribot C, Smith R, et al. **Risedronate** reverses bone loss in postmenopausal women with **low bone mass**: results from a multinational, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. **BMD-MN** Study Group. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2000 May;85(5):1895-900.

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Gallagher JC, Levine JP. **Preventing osteoporosis** in symptomatic postmenopausal women. Menopause. 2010 Aug 5.

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Gaudio A, Morabito N. Pharmacological management of severe postmenopausal osteoporosis. Drugs Aging. 2005;22(5):405-17.

Gillespie WJ, Gillespie LD, Parker MJ. **Hip protectors for preventing hip fractures** in older people. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010 Oct 6;10:CD001255. The effectiveness of the provision of hip protectors in reducing the incidence of hip fracture in older people is still not clearly established, although they may reduce the rate of hip fractures if made available to frail older people in nursing care.

Gnant M, Mlineritsch B, Schippinger W, et al. ABCSG-12 Trial Investigators, Marth C. Endocrine therapy plus **zoledronic acid in premenopausal breast cancer**. N Engl J Med. 2009 Feb 12;360(7):679-91. The addition of zoledronic acid to adjuvant endocrine therapy improves disease-free survival in premenopausal patients with estrogen-responsive early breast cancer.

Grant AM, Avenell A, Campbell MK, et al.; Oral vitamin D3 and calcium for secondary prevention of low-trauma fractures in elderly people (Randomised Evaluation of Calcium Or vitamin D, **RECORD**): a randomised placebo-controlled trial. Lancet. 2005 May;365(9471):1621-8 & ACP Journal Club. (InfoPOEMs: The combination of calcium 1000 mg and vitamin D3 800 IU was ineffective in preventing fractures in 2 studies enrolling a total of more than 8500 participants, almost all of whom were female and at least 70 years old and either had a previous osteoporotic fracture or were at high risk. The dose of calcium is lower than the 1500 mg commonly recommended and used. These results conflict with a meta-analysis that found that the combination therapy reduced fracture rate, including hip fracture, in older patients who have not had a previous hip or nonvertebral fracture (JAMA 2005; 293:2257-64). (LOE = 1b))

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Greenspan SL, Resnick NM, Parker RA. Combination therapy with **hormone replacement and alendronate** for prevention of bone loss in elderly women: a randomized controlled trial. JAMA. 2003 May 21;289(19):2525-33.

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Grey A, Bolland MJ, Wattie D, Horne A, Gamble G, Reid IR. The antiresorptive effects of a single dose of zoledronate persist for two years: a randomized, placebo-controlled trial in osteopenic postmenopausal women. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2009 Feb;94(2):538-44. Epub 2008 Dec 2. n=50. Antiresorptive effects of a single 5-mg dose of **zoledronate are sustained for at least 2 yr**. The magnitudes of the effects on markers of bone turnover and bone mineral density are comparable at 12 and 24 months. Administration of zoledronate at intervals of up to 2 yr may be associated with antifracture efficacy; clinical trials to investigate this possibility are justified.

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Hanley DA, Cranney A, Jones G, et al. **Vitamin D in adult** health & disease: a review and **guideline statement from Osteoporosis Canada**—summary. CMAJ 2010 0: cmaj.091062.

Harris ST, Watts NB, Genant HK, et al. Effects of **risedronate** treatment on vertebral and nonvertebral fractures in women with postmenopausal osteoporosis: a randomized controlled trial. Vertebral Efficacy with Risedronate Therapy (**VERT**) Study Group. JAMA 1999;282:1344-52. Treatment with 5 mg/d of risedronate, compared with placebo, decreased the cumulative incidence of new vertebral fractures by 41 % (95% confidence interval [CI], 18%-58%) over 3 years (11.3 % vs 16.3%; P=.003). A fracture reduction of 65% (95% CI, 38%-81 %) was observed after the first year (2.4% vs 6.4%; P<.001). The cumulative incidence of nonvertebral fractures over 3 years was reduced by 39% (95% CI, 6%-61 %) (5.2 % vs 8.4%; P = .02). Bone mineral density increased significantly compared with placebo at the lumbar spine (5.4% vs 1.1 %), femoral neck (1.6% vs -1.2%), femoral trochanter (3.3% vs -0.7%), and midshaft of the radius (0.2% vs -1.4%). Bone formed during risedronate treatment was histologically normal. The overall safety profile of risedronate, including gastrointestinal safety, was similar to that of placebo. CONCLUSIONS: These data suggest that risedronate therapy is effective and well tolerated in the treatment of women with established postmenopausal osteoporosis who had at least 1 **vertebral fracture at baseline**.

Health Canada May 2006: The **RUTH** study demonstrated an **increase in mortality due to stroke** for Evista compared to placebo. The incidence of stroke mortality was 1.5 per 1,000 women per year for placebo versus 2.2 per 1,000 women per year for Evista (p=0.0499). The incidence of stroke, myocardial infarction, hospitalized acute coronary syndrome, cardiovascular mortality, or overall mortality (all causes combined) was comparable for Evista and placebo. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mpps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2006/evista_hpc-cps_e.html Barrett-Connor E, et al.; Raloxifene Use for The Heart (**RUTH**) Trial Investigators. Effects of raloxifene on cardiovascular events and breast cancer in postmenopausal women. N=10,101 5.6yrs N Engl J Med. 2006 Jul 13;355(2):125-37. (InfoPOEMs: For every 1000 women who take raloxifene

for 5 years, we can expect 4 to 5 additional strokes, 6 additional episodes of venous thromboembolism (VTE), 6 fewer invasive breast cancers, and 6 to 7 fewer clinical vertebral fractures. The cost for this mixed bag of benefits and harms would be approximately \$1000 per woman per year, for a total cost of \$5,000,000 at current drug prices. (LOE = 1b)

Health Canada May/12: Cases of severe, sometimes **fatal, symptomatic hypocalcemia associated with XGEVA (denosumab)** treatment have been reported in cancer patients with bone metastases

Heaney RP, Zizic TM, Fogelman I, Olszynski WP, et al. **Risedronate** reduces the risk of **first vertebral fracture in osteoporotic women**. *Osteoporos Int*. 2002;13(6):501-5.

Heckbert SR, Li G, Cummings SR, Smith NL, Psaty BM. Use of alendronate and risk of incident **atrial fibrillation** in women. *Arch Intern Med*. 2008 Apr 28;168(8):826-31. Ever use of alendronate was associated with an increased risk of incident AF in clinical practice.

Hippisley-Cox Julia, Coupland Carol, Predicting risk of osteoporotic fracture in men and women in England and Wales: prospective derivation and validation of **QFractureScores**. *BMJ* 2009;339:b4229, doi: 10.1136/bmj.b4229 (Published 19 November 2009)

Hippisley-Cox J, Coupland C. Derivation and validation of **updated QFracture algorithm** to predict risk of osteoporotic fracture in primary care in the United Kingdom: prospective open cohort study. *BMJ*. 2012 May 22;344:e3427.

Hoes JN, et al. EULAR evidence-based management of systemic **glucocorticoid therapy** in rheumatic diseases. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2007 Dec;66(12):1560-7. Epub 2007 Jul 27. **Algorithm** provided

Holder KK, Kerley SS. Alendronate for fracture prevention in postmenopause. *Am Fam Physician*. 2008 Sep 1;78(5):579-81. For vertebral fractures, a 45 percent relative risk reduction was found (relative risk [RR] = 0.55; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.45 to 0.67). This was significant for primary prevention, with a **45 percent relative risk reduction (RR = 0.55; 95% CI, 0.38 to 0.80) and 2 percent absolute risk reduction**; and for secondary prevention, with **45 percent relative risk reduction (RR = 0.55; 95% CI, 0.43 to 0.69) and 6 percent absolute risk reduction**. For nonvertebral fractures, a 16 percent relative risk reduction was found (RR = 0.84; 95% CI, 0.74 to 0.94). This was significant for secondary prevention, with a 23 percent relative risk reduction (RR = 0.77; 95% CI, 0.64 to 0.92) and a 2 percent absolute risk reduction, but not for primary prevention (RR = 0.89; 95% CI, 0.76 to 1.04). There was a 40 percent relative risk reduction in hip fractures (RR = 0.60; 95% CI, 0.40 to 0.92), but only secondary prevention was significant, with a 53 percent relative risk reduction (RR = 0.47; 95% CI, 0.26 to 0.85) and a 1 percent absolute risk reduction. At 10 mg of alendronate per day, clinically important and statistically significant reductions in vertebral, nonvertebral, hip, and wrist fractures were observed for secondary prevention. The authors found no statistically significant results for primary prevention, with the exception of vertebral fractures, for which the reduction was clinically important.

Howe TE, Shea B, Dawson LJ, et al. **Exercise for preventing and treating osteoporosis** in postmenopausal women. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2011, Issue 7. Art. No.: CD000333. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000333.pub2. Our results suggest a relatively small statistically significant, but possibly important, effect of exercise on bone density compared with control groups. Exercise has the potential to be a safe and effective way to avert bone loss in postmenopausal women.

Ing-Lorenzini K, Desmeules J, Plachta O, Suva D, Dayer P, Peter R. **Low-energy femoral fractures** associated with the **long-term use of bisphosphonates**: a case series from a Swiss university hospital. *Drug Saf*. 2009;32(9):775-85. doi: 10.2165/00002018-200932090-00002.

Ioannidis G, Papaioannou A, Hopman WM, et al. Relation between **fractures and mortality**: results from the Canadian Multicentre Osteoporosis Study. *CMAJ*. 2009 Aug 4. [Epub ahead of print]

Irani J, Salomon L, Oba R, Bouchard P, Motiet N. Efficacy of venlafaxine, **medroxyprogesterone** acetate, and cyproterone acetate for the treatment of vasomotor hot flushes in men taking gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogues for prostate cancer: a double-blind, randomised trial. *Lancet Oncol*. 2009 Dec 4.

Jaakkola S, Lyytinen H, Pukkala E, Ylikorkala O. **Endometrial cancer** in postmenopausal women using estradiol-progestin therapy. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2009 Dec;114(6):1197-204. Use of a **continuous** rather than a sequential estradiol-progestin regimen decreases the risk of endometrial cancer, whereas the route of administration or type of progestin does not differ in terms of endometrial cancer risk.

Jackson RD, LaCroix AZ, Gass M, et al.; Women's Health Initiative Investigators. Calcium plus vitamin D supplementation and the risk of fractures. *N Engl J Med*. 2006 Feb 16;354(7):669-83. Among healthy postmenopausal women, calcium with vitamin D supplementation resulted in a small but significant improvement in hip bone density, did not significantly reduce hip fracture, and increased the risk of kidney stones. (InfoPOEMs: The ability of a small dose of calcium and vitamin D to prevent fractures in healthy community-dwelling women is modest at best. This study used a relatively low dose of vitamin D (less than the 700 IU to 800 IU found most beneficial in previous studies), and the patients were generally at low risk of fracture. Perhaps that explains the discordance of these findings with the bulk of the literature on this topic. (LOE = 1b))

Jacoby Vanessa L.; Grady Deborah; Wactawski-Wende Jean; et al. **Oophorectomy vs Ovarian Conservation With Hysterectomy**: Cardiovascular Disease, Hip Fracture, and Cancer in the Women's Health Initiative Observational Study. *Arch Intern Med*. 2011;171(8):760-768.

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Jones GL, Ledger W, Mitchell C. Suspected **premature menopause**. *BMJ*. 2008 Apr 12;336(7648):833.

Kakaria PJ, Nashel DJ, Nysten ES. Debilitating muscle cramps after **teriparatide** therapy. *Ann Intern Med*. 2005 Feb 15;142(4):310.

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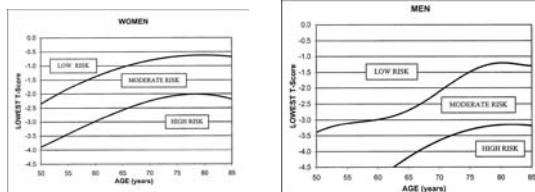
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HERBAL DRUG INTERACTION CHART

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Fava M, Alpert J, et al. A Double-blind, Randomized Trial of **St John's Wort**, Fluoxetine, and Placebo in Major Depressive Disorder. J Clin Psychopharmacol. 2005 Oct;25(5):441-447.

FDA May 2007 FDA chemical analysis revealed that **Energy Max** contains thione analog of sildenafil, a substance with a structure similar to sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra, an FDA-approved drug for ED. Substances like this are called analogs because they have a structure similar to another drug and may cause similar side effects and drug interactions. **True Man** contains a thione analog of sildenafil or piperadino vardenafil, an analog of vardenafil, the active ingredient in Levitra, another FDA-approved prescription drug for ED. Neither the thione analog of sildenafil nor piperadino vardenafil are components of approved drug products.

FDA Feb/08 Palo Alto Labs and FDA notified consumers and healthcare professionals of a voluntary nationwide recall of two dietary supplements, **Aspire36** and **Aspire Lite**. The products were recalled because they were found to contain Aildenafil in trace amounts and Dimethyl sildenafil thione, an analog of Sildenafil, a drug used to treat erectile dysfunction.

FDA Mar/08 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers not to purchase or use "**Blue Steel**" or "**Hero**" products, marketed nationally as dietary supplements, because these products contain undeclared ingredients similar to sildenafil.

FDA April/08 **Herbal Science International, Inc.** and FDA informed consumers and healthcare professionals of a nationwide recall of twelve dietary supplements that contain ephedra, aristolochic acid or human placenta because they may present a serious health hazard to consumers. FDA has long regarded dietary supplements containing ephedra, a botanical that contains ephedrine alkaloids, as a potential health hazards because the alkaloid raises blood pressure and otherwise stress the circulatory system.

FDA May/08 is requesting that the manufacturer of **Xiadafil** — an "all natural" dietary supplement sold to treat erectile dysfunction — recall all its stock from natural food stores & discontinue marketing it on the Web since it contains an analog of sildenafil.

FDA May/08 notified consumers and healthcare professionals that supplement products sold under the brand name of **Viril-ity Power (VIP)** Tablets is being recalled because one lot was found to contain a potentially harmful undeclared ingredient, hydroxyhomosildenafil, an analog of sildenafil.

FDA May/08 The US Food and Drug Administration advised consumers not to use the products **Total Body Formula** in Tropical Orange and Peach Nectar flavours, and **Total Body Mega Formula** in Orange/Tangerine flavour, because they contain high doses of selenium and chromium.

FDA July/08 Jack Distribution, LLC issued a voluntary nationwide recall of selected lots of **Rize 2 The Occasion Capsules** and **Rose 4 Her Capsules**, marketed as dietary supplements. The products were recalled because certain lots contained thiomethisosildenafil, an undeclared analog of sildenafil, a FDA-approved drug used for Erectile Dysfunction.

FDA July/08 not to buy or use **Viapro** 375mg Capsules because one lot of the product was found to contain a potentially harmful undeclared ingredient, thio-methisosildenafil, an analog of sildenafil.

FDA Nov/08 Balanced Health Products, Inc. announced a recall of **STARCAPS** due to the presence of an undeclared drug ingredient, Bumetanide. Bumetanide is a diuretic indicated for the treatment of edema associated with congestive heart failure, hepatic and renal disease including nephrotic syndrome.

FDA Nov/08 Fashion Sanctuary announced a recall of **Zhen De Shou Fat Loss** Capsules because FDA analysis found the product to contain undeclared sibutramine, an FDA approved drug used as an appetite suppressant for weight loss.

FDA Dec/08 alerted consumers not to purchase or consume more than **25 different products** marketed for weight loss because they contain undeclared, active pharmaceutical ingredients that may put consumers' health at risk. The undeclared active pharmaceutical ingredients in some of these products include sibutramine (a controlled substance), rimonabant (a drug not approved for marketing in the USA), phenytoin (an anti-seizure medication), and phenolphthalein (a solution used in chemical experiments and a suspected cancer causing agent). The weight loss products, some of which are marked as "dietary supplements," are promoted and sold on various web sites and in some retail stores. FDA advises consumers who use the products to stop taking them and consult their healthcare professional immediately as the health risks posed by these products can be serious (for example, high blood pressure, seizures, tachycardia, palpitations, heart attack or stroke). FDA also encourages consumers to seek guidance from healthcare professional before purchasing weight loss products. See the FDA News Release for a listing of the names of the 25 referenced products. Read the MedWatch 2008 safety summary, including links to the News Release and Questions and Answers, at: <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2008/safety08.htm#Weight>

FDA Jan/09 notified consumers not to take **Venom HYPERDRIVE 3.0**, a product sold as a dietary supplement but containing sibutramine.

FDA Apr/09: **ABC Beauty Supply** & FDA notified consumers and healthcare professionals of a recall of 34 dietary supplement products. FDA lab analyses identified undeclared **sibutramine**, an FDA-approved drug, used as an appetite suppressant for weight loss. http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/universallab04_09.html

FDA Apr/09 Nature & Health Co. and FDA notified healthcare professionals of a recall of a supplement product, **Libimax**. FDA analysis found the product contains tadalafil

FDA May/09 warned consumers to immediately stop using **Hydroxycut** products by Iovate Health Sciences, Inc. Hydroxycut products are associated with a number of serious **liver injuries**. Hydroxycut products are dietary supplements that are marketed for weight-loss, as fat burners, as energy-enhancers, as low carb diet aids, and for water loss under the **Iovate and MuscleTech brand** names. FDA has received 23 reports of serious health problems ranging from jaundice and elevated liver enzymes, an indicator of potential liver injury, to liver damage requiring liver transplant. One death due to liver failure has been reported to FDA. Other health problems reported include seizures; cardiovascular disorders; and rhabdomyolysis, a type of muscle damage that can lead to other serious health problems such as kidney failure.

FDA June/09 notified consumers and healthcare professionals to discontinue use of three **Zicam Nasal Gel/Nasal Swab** products sold over-the-counter as cold remedies because they are associated with the loss of sense of smell that may be long-lasting or permanent.

FDA July/09 and Haloteco notified healthcare professionals and consumers of a nationwide voluntary recall of Libipower Plus. Lab analysis of **Libipower Plus** samples were found to contain undeclared Tadalafafil.

FDA July/09 notified healthcare professionals that four weight loss dietary supplements sold and marketed by the firm (**Slimbionic, One Weight Loss Pill, SlimDemand Capsules, Botanical Weight Loss**) contain sibutramine.

FDA Aug/09 not to use body-building products marketed as containing steroids or steroid-like substances. The affected products are TREN-Xtreme, MASS Xtreme, ESTRO Xtreme, AH-89-Xtreme, HMG Xtreme, MMA-3 Xtreme, VNS-9 Xtreme, and TT-40-Xtreme..

FDA Nov/09 notified consumers that **Stiff Nights**, a product sold as a dietary supplement, contains sulfoildenafil, a chemical similar to sildenafil (Viagra).

FDA Nov/09 & GMP Herbal Products notified consumers and healthcare professionals of a recall of **Pai You Guo**, a weight loss dietary supplement, due to the presence sibutramine & phenolphthalein.

FDA Nov/09 & RockHard Laboratories notified consumers that **RockHard Weekend**, a product sold as a dietary supplement, contains sulfoildenafil, an analogue of sildenafil.

FDA Nov/09 & IDS Sports notified consumers that five of the IDS's dietary supplement products (**Bromodrol, Dual Action Grow Tabs, Grow Tabs, Mass Tabs, and Ripped**

Tab **TR** contain the following undeclared substances, which FDA considers to be steroids: “Madol,” “Turinabol,” “Superdrol,” &/or “Androstenedione.”

- FDA Dec/09 for **S-DROL**: a voluntary recall by the manufacturer of one lot (lot# 810481, expiry date 01/2012) of S-DROL after FDA testing found it to contain undeclared desoxymethyltestosterone.
- FDA Dec/09 warned consumers to stop using bodybuilding products manufactured by American Cellular Labs after they were found to contain unauthorized synthetic steroids in **TREN-Xtreme, MASS Xtreme, ESTRO Xtreme, AH-89-Xtreme, HMG Xtreme, MMA-3 Xtreme, VNS-9 Xtreme, TT-40-Xtreme.**
- FDA Dec/09 warned that **Atlas Operations, Inc.** notified consumers of a nationwide recall of the company's dietary supplements for sexual enhancement. These products are sold as dietary supplements throughout the USA. FDA lab analyses found that the products tested from certain batches contain Sulfoildenafil.
- FDA Dec/09 The Texas Department of State Health Services and FDA notified healthcare professionals and consumers, especially pregnant or breastfeeding women, to avoid consuming a product called “Nzu”, taken as a traditional remedy for morning sickness, because of the potential health risks from high levels of lead and arsenic, noted on laboratory analysis by Texas DSHS. Nzu, which is sold at African specialty stores is also called Calabash clay, Calabar stone, Mabele, Argile and La Craie. It generally resembles balls of clay or mud and is usually sold in small plastic bags with a handwritten label identifying it as “Nzu” or “Salted Nzu.”
- FDA Jan/10 & **MuscleMaster(dot)com, Inc.** notified consumers and healthcare professionals of the voluntary nationwide recall of all lots and expiration dates of the seventeen dietary supplements listed in the firm press release, sold between June 1, 2009 and November 17, 2009. FDA informed MuscleMaster(dot)com that it believes that the recalled products contain ingredients that are **steroids.**
- FDA Jan/10 notified consumers and healthcare professionals about a counterfeit and potentially harmful version of **Alli 60 mg capsules** (120 count refill kit). The **counterfeit** version contained the controlled substance sibutramine and did not contain orlistat, the active ingredient.
- FDA Mar/10 & Natural Wellness notified consumers that **MasXtreme**, a product sold as a dietary supplement contains aildenafil close in structure to sildenafil and is expected to possess a similar pharmacological and adverse event profile as well as the drug phentolamine which is an alpha-adrenergic blocker.
- FDA Apr/10 & Kanec USA notified healthcare professionals of a nationwide recall of **Stud Capsule For Men** [Lot #060607-01/060108-01, Exp 6-2013], after being informed by FDA that laboratory analysis of a sample found the product to be adulterated with sildenafil, an FDA approved drug.
- FDA May/10 notified healthcare professionals, their patients, and consumers not to consume **Vita Breath**, a dietary supplement manufactured by American Herbal Lab and marketed at health fairs and on the Internet, because the product may contain hazardous levels of lead.
- FDA June/10 **Magic Power Coffee**: Product marketed as a dietary supplement for sexual enhancement contains the drug ingredient hydroxythiohomosildenafil.
- FDA July/10 analysis of **Que She** found that it contains: fenfluramine – a stimulant drug withdrawn from the U.S. market in 1997 after studies demonstrated that it caused serious heart valve damage, propranolol – a prescription beta blocker drug that can pose a risk to people with bronchial asthma and certain heart conditions, sibutramine – a controlled substance and prescription weight loss drug, sibutramine was the subject of a recent study whose preliminary findings showed an association between sibutramine use and increased risk of heart attack and stroke in patients who have a history of heart disease, & ephedrine – a stimulant drug that is legally marketed over-the-counter for temporary relief of asthma but can pose a risk to people with certain cardiovascular conditions.
- FDA Aug/10 lab analysis of **Solo Slim** was found to contain the undeclared drug ingredient Didesmethyl Sibutramine.
- FDA Aug/10 lab analysis of **Revivexxx Extra Strength** was found to contain undeclared tadalafil.
- FDA Aug/10 notified Novacare LLC that certain products appear to contain sulfoildenafil: **Stiff Nights, Aziffa, Size Matters, Erect, Mojo, Hard Drive, Eyeful, Red Magic, Straight Up, Zotrex, Monster Excyte, WOW, Xaitrex, Verect, Prolatis, Xytamax, Maxyte, Libidinal, OMG, OMG45, and Zilex (with Golden Spear) summers.**
- FDA July/10 lab analysis of **Slim-30** Herb Supplement distributed by the company was found to contain undeclared N-Desmethyl Sibutramine and traces of Sibutramine.
- FDA July/10 & Good Health, Inc. is conducting a voluntary recall after FDA lab analyses found that the product tested from certain batches of **Vialipro** contain Sulfoildenafil.
- FDA July/10 lab analysis of this herb supplement, **Joyful Slim** Herb Supplement, was found to contain the undeclared drug, desmethyl sibutramine.
- FDA July/10 warned consumers not to consume or use **Miracle Mineral Solution**, an oral liquid solution also known as "Miracle Mineral Supplement" or "MMS." The product, when used as directed, produces an industrial bleach.
- FDA July/10 notified consumers that lab analysis of lots of ejaculoid **XXXTREME** and **stimuloid II** found that the products, sold as dietary supplements, contain sulfoildenafil.
- FDA Aug/10 had Lab analysis of **Mr. Magic** to contain hydroxythiohomosildenafil and sulfoildenafil.
- FDA Aug/10 analyzed **TimeOut** and determined that it contains hydroxythiohomosildenafil.
- FDA Sep/10: Products marketed as dietary supplements contain **aromatase inhibitors**, commonly known as “ATD.” Adverse events associated with the use of aromatase inhibitors could include the following: decreased rate of bone maturation and growth, decreased sperm production, infertility, aggressive behavior, adrenal insufficiency, kidney failure, and liver dysfunction. Advanced Muscle Science (Arom-X, Arom-X UTT, Arom-XL, 4-AD, and Decavol), ArimaDex, Clomed, Off Cycle II Hardcore, iForce – Reversitol.
- FDA Oct/10 advised consumers to avoid “**chelation**” products that are marketed over-the-counter (OTC) to prevent or treat diseases. There are serious safety issues associated with chelation products. Depending on the condition, when relying on unproven OTC chelation products to treat serious conditions, patients may delay seeking effective medical care. Even when used under medical supervision, these products can cause serious harm, including dehydration, kidney failure, and death.
- FDA Nov/10 ISSUE: Lab analysis has found **Duro Extend** Capsules for Men to contain Sulfoildenafil, an analogue of Sildenafil.
- FDA Dec/10 warned consumers not to use **Man Up Now** capsules, marketed as a dietary supplement for sexual enhancement, because FDA analysis determined that the product contains sulfoildenafil.
- FDA Dec/10 notified the public that testing determined that **RockHard Weekend** Lot Numbers 100159 and 100260 sold as blister packs, 3ct bottles and 8ct bottles & **Pandora** Lot Numbers 100378 sold as blister packs & **Passion Coffee** contain an analogue of sildenafil.
- FDA Dec/10 has received multiple reports of adverse events associated with the use of **Fruta Planta**, including several cardiac events and one death. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that Fruta Planta contains sibutramine.
- FDA Jan/11 laboratory analysis confirmed that **Celerite Slimming Capsules** contain sibutramine
- FDA Mar/11 lab analysis of **Svelte 30** orange & gray capsules determined that the product contains Sibutramine.
- FDA Mar/11 notified Biotab Nutraceuticals, Inc. that two lots of counterfeit product purporting to be **Extenze** contain undeclared drug ingredients. Specifically, lot 0709241 contains tadalafil and sildenafil, and lot 0509075 contains tadalafil and sibutramine.
- FDA Mar/11 laboratory analysis confirmed that **Black Ant** contains sildenafil.
- FDA Mar/11 : USA Far Ocean Group, Inc. issues voluntary nationwide recall of **U-Prosta**, a product marketed as a dietary supplement that contains undeclared terazosin.
- FDA Mar/11 ISSUE: Tested samples of **Soladek** contained levels of vitamin A and vitamin D that were many times the recommended daily allowances for these vitamins.
- FDA Mar/11 laboratory analyses of **Celerite Slimming Tea**: Recall - were found to contain undeclared Sibutramine.
- FDA Mar/11 ISSUE: FDA lab analysis of **X-Hero** found the product contains sulfosildenafil, the analogue of the active ingredient of an FDA-approved drug. In addition, FDA analysis of **Male Enhancer** sample found the product contains tadalafil.
- FDA Apr/11 Lab analyses of **Best Enhancer** found that the product contain Sulfoildenafil.
- FDA Apr/11 “**U-Prosta Natural support for prostate health**” is being voluntarily recalled in Canada by Sunnlyfe International Inc. after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found the product contains undeclared terazosin.
- FDA May/11 **Regenect**: Recall - Undeclared Drug Ingredient of lab confirmed the presence of Sulfoildenafil.
- FDA May/11 laboratory analysis confirmed that “**Slim Xtreme Herbal Slimming Capsule**” contains sibutramine.
- FDA June/11 lab analyses found **Via Xtreme Ultimate Sexual Enhancer Dietary Supplement** for Men to contain sulfoildenafil methanesulfonate.
- FDA June/11 Nature Relief and FDA notified the public of a recall of **Nature Relief Instant Wart and Mole Remover**. FDA has advised that the active ingredient, calcium oxide, can cause severe burns of the skin, particularly to areas of thin or sensitive skin, such as the face, area around the eyes, and genitalia.
- FDA July/11 is advising consumers not to purchase or use “**Slim Forte Slimming Capsules**,” “**Slim Forte Slimming Coffee**,” and “**Botanical Slimming Soft Gel**

& Slim Forte Double Power Slimming Capsules. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that these products contain sibutramine.

- FDA Oct/11 notified the manufacturer that lab analyses found that the product, **Uprizing 2.0**, sold as a testosterone booster, contains superdrol, a synthetic steroid, making it an unapproved new drug.
- FDA Nov/11 lab analysis for Lot 10090571 found **Virility Max** to contain sulfoaildenafil.
- FDA Dec/11 Eclectic Institute is voluntarily recalling specific lots of its freeze-dried capsules containing **Gotu Kola** (Centella asiatica) and **Bladderwrack** (Fucus vesiculosus) capsules because of potential Salmonella contamination.
- FDA Feb/12 Healthy People Co. notified the public of a recall of the company's dietary supplements sold under the brand names Healthy People Co. FDA lab analysis confirmed the presence of Sibutramine and Tadalafil, making these products unapproved new drugs. (Mince Belle Dietary Supplement, PERFECT Men Dietary Supplement, EVERLAX Dietary Supplement, EVER Slim Dietary Supplement, Herbal Drink Acai-man Mangosteen Dietary Supplement, EVER SLIM Shake Mix Dietary Supplement)
- FDA Feb/12 Regeneca, Inc. notified the public of a nationwide recall of **RegenArouse**, Lot Number 130100. FDA lab analysis confirmed the presence of Tadalafil.
- FDA Feb/12 is advising consumers not to purchase or use "**Hard Ten Days**," & "**Man King**" a product for sexual enhancement sold on various websites. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "Hard Ten Days" contains sildenafil
- FDA Feb/12 is advising consumers not to purchase or use "**Japan Weight Loss Blue**," a product for weight loss sold on various websites, laboratory analysis confirmed that "Japan Weight Loss Blue" contains sibutramine, analogs of sibutramine, and ephedrine alkaloids.
- FDA Mar/12 notified healthcare professionals and warned consumers not to use skin creams, beauty and antiseptic soaps, or lotions that might contain **mercury**. The products are marketed as **skin lighteners and anti-aging** treatments that remove age spots, freckles, blemishes and wrinkles. Adolescents also may use these products as acne treatments.
- FDA Apr/12 laboratory analysis confirmed that "**Japan Rapid Weight Loss Diet Pills Yellow**" contains sibutramine and phenolphthalein.
- FDA Apr/12 laboratory analysis confirmed that "**France T253**" contains sildenafil.
- FDA Apr/12 is advising consumers not to purchase or use "**X-Rock**," a product for sexual enhancement manufactured by CRM Laboratories and sold on various websites, including www.xrockme.com. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "X-Rock" contains sildenafil and hydroxythiohomosildenafil.
- FDA Apr/12 laboratory analysis confirmed that "**Instant Hard Rod**" contains aminotadalafil. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "**ZenMaxx**" contains aminotadalafil. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "**RigiRx Plus**" contains aminotadalafil.
- FDA May/12 is advising consumers not to purchase or use "**VMaxx Rx**," a product for sexual enhancement sold on various websites, including www.vmaxxx.com. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "VMaxx Rx" contains the undeclared ingredient sulfoaildenafil. FDA is also advising consumers not to purchase or use "**Boost — Ultra Sexual Enhancement Formula**." This product is promoted and sold on various websites, including www.boostultra.biz. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "Boost—Ultra Sexual Enhancement Formula" contains sildenafil. FDA is also advising consumers not to purchase or use "**Firminite**," a product for sexual enhancement sold on various websites, including www.firminite.com. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "Firminite" contains tadalafil.
- FDA May/12 West Coast Nutritionals, Ltd. is conducting a recall of all lots of their dietary supplements **Firminite, Extra Strength Instant Hot Rod, and Libidron** to the consumer level. An FDA lab analysis of Firminite was found to contain undeclared Tadalafil.
- FDA May/12 is advising consumers not to purchase or use "**EreXite**," a product for sexual enhancement sold on various websites, including www.amazon.com. FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that "EreXite" contains tadalafil.
- FDA June/12 cautioned late last week against using **Reumofan Plus**, a dietary supplement marketed as a "natural" pain reliever for arthritis, osteoporosis, and other conditions. The drug, which is made in Mexico but available online, contains unlabeled and potentially harmful pharmaceutical ingredients: diclofenac, methocarbamol & sometimes dexamethasone.

Fish Oil Testing: Independent test for contaminants Nutrasource Diagnostics at the University of Guelph www.nutrasource.ca/infos_new

Fleshner N, Harvey M, et al. Evidence for contamination of herbal **erectile dysfunction** products with phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitors. J Urology 2005; 174:636-41. (InfoPOEMs: At least some

natural products marketed for the treatment of erectile dysfunction are adulterated with phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitors. Many of these products claim to be free of adverse effects but in truth may be potentially fatal to patients concomitantly using nitrates. (LOE = 4) Two of 7 products (Super-X and Stamina-RX) contained significant amounts of **sildenafil** (Viagra, 30 mg) and tadalafil (Cialis, 20 mg), respectively.

- Freeman MP, Mischoulon D, Tedeschini E, et al. **Complementary and alternative medicine for major depressive disorder: a meta-analysis of patient characteristics, placebo-response rates, and treatment outcomes relative to standard antidepressants.** J Clin Psychiatry. 2010 Jun;71(6):682-8. Participants in CAM trials were more likely to be female and to have a lower placebo-response rate compared to those in standard antidepressant trials for MDD. Trials of standard antidepressants and CAM therapies were composed of patients with similar depression severity.
- Gabay C, Medinger-Sadowski C, Gascon D, et al. Symptomatic effect of **chondroitin sulfate 4&6** in hand osteoarthritis the finger osteoarthritis chondroitin treatment study (FACTS). Arthritis Rheum. 2011 Sep 6.
- Gagnier JJ, van Tulder MW, Berman B, Bombardier C. Herbal medicine for **low back pain**: a Cochrane review. Spine. 2007 Jan 1;32(1):82-92. **Harpagophytum procumbens, Salix alba, and Capsicum** frutescens seem to reduce pain more than placebo. Additional trials testing these herbal medicines against standard treatments will clarify their equivalence in terms of efficacy. The quality of reporting in these trials was generally poor; thus, trialists should refer to the CONSORT statement in reporting clinical trials of herbal medicines. (InfoPOEMs: If these authors have included all the relevant studies, it appears that there is modest evidence that herbal remedies (oral Harpagophytum procumbens [devil's claw] and Salix alba [white willow bark], as well as topical Capsicum frutescens [cayenne]) alleviate acute episodes of chronic nonspecific low back pain in adults. In general, the reporting of the trials included in this systematic review was poor. Finally, this body of literature is prone to bias in favor of publishing positive results. (LOE = 1a-)) See also Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2006 Apr 19;(2):CD004504.
- Gardiner P, Phillips R et al. Herbal and Dietary Supplement- **Drug Interactions in Patients with Chronic Illnesses.** Am Fam Physician. 2008;77 (1):73-78.
- Gardiner P, et al. Factors associated with dietary **supplement use** among prescription medication users. Arch Intern Med. 2006 Oct 9;166(18):1968-74. One in 4 prescription medication users took an NVDS in the prior 12 months, yet the majority did not share this with a conventional medical professional.
- Gardner CD, Lawson LD, Block E, et al. Effect of raw garlic versus commercial **garlic** supplements on plasma lipid concentrations in adults with moderate hypercholesterolemia. Arch Int Med 2007; 167:346-353. None of the forms of garlic used in this study, including raw garlic, when given at an approximate dose of a 4-g clove per day, 6 d/wk for 6 months, had statistically or clinically significant effects on LDL-C or other plasma lipid concentrations in adults with moderate hypercholesterolemia.
- Gastpar M, et al. Comparative Efficacy and Safety of a Once-Daily Dosage of **Hypericum** Extract STW3-VI and Citalopram in Patients with Moderate Depression: A Double-Blind, Randomised, Multicentre, Placebo-Controlled Study. Pharmacopsychiatry. 2006 Mar;39(2):66-75.
- Geller SE, Shulman LP, van Breemen RB, et al. Safety and efficacy of **black cohosh** and red clover for the management of vasomotor symptoms: a randomized controlled trial. Menopause 2009;16:1156-66.
- Genazzani AR et al. Effect of 1-year, low-dose **DHEA** therapy (10mg daily) on climacteric symptoms and female sexuality. Climacteric. 2011 Dec;14(6):661-8.
- Geng J, Dong J, Ni H, et al. Ginseng for cognition. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2010, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD007769. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD007769.pub2. Currently, there is a lack of convincing evidence to show a cognitive enhancing effect of Panax ginseng in healthy participants and no high quality evidence about its efficacy in patients with dementia. Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group trials with large sample sizes are needed to further investigate the effect of ginseng on cognition in different populations, including dementia patients.
- Genistein:** Alteritano M, Marini H, Minutoli L, et al. Effects of the phytoestrogen genistein on some predictors of cardiovascular risk in osteopenic, postmenopausal women: a two-year randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2007 Aug;92(8):3068-75. Epub 2007 May 22. These results suggest that 54mg genistein plus calcium, vitamin D(3), and a healthy diet was associated with favorable effects on both glycemic control and some cardiovascular risk markers in a cohort of osteopenic, postmenopausal women. D'Anna R, Cannata ML, Alteritano M, et al. Effects of the phytoestrogen genistein on hot flushes, endometrium, and vaginal epithelium in postmenopausal women: a 1-year randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. Menopause. 2007 Jul-Aug;14(4):648-55. The phytoestrogen genistein has been shown to be effective on vasomotor symptoms without an adverse effect on endometrium. Marini H, Minutoli L, Pollio F, et al. Effects of the phytoestrogen genistein on bone metabolism in osteopenic postmenopausal women: a randomized trial. Ann Intern Med. 2007 Jun 19;146(12):839-47. Summary for patients in: Ann Intern Med. 2007 Jun 19;146(12):134. Twenty-four months of tx with genistein has positive effects on BMD in osteopenic postmenopausal women.
- Gertsch JH, Basnyat B, et al. Randomised, double blind, placebo controlled comparison of **ginkgo biloba** and acetazolamide for prevention of acute mountain sickness among Himalayan trekkers: the prevention of high altitude illness trial (PHAIT). BMJ. 2004 Apr 3;328(7443):797. Epub 2004 Mar 11.
- Goldbach-Mansky R., et al. Comparison of **Tripterygium wilfordii** Hook F Versus Sulfasalazine in the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis: A Randomized Trial. Ann Intern Med 2009; 229-240.
- Gordon RY.; Cooperman T; Obermeyer W; et al. Marked Variability of Monacolin Levels in Commercial **Red Yeast Rice** Products: Buyer Beware! Arch Intern Med. 2010;170(19):1722-1727.
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evidence regarding the effectiveness of individualised herbal medicine & **no convincing evidence to support the use of individualised herbal medicine in any indication.**

- Gunton JE, Cheung NW, et al. **Chromium** Supplementation Does Not Improve Glucose Tolerance, Insulin Sensitivity, or Lipid Profile: A randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind trial of supplementation in subjects with impaired glucose tolerance. *Diabetes Care*. 2005 Mar;28(3):712-3.
- Hadley S, Petry JJ. **Valerian**. *Am Fam Physician*. 2003 Apr 15;67(8):1755-8.
- Health Canada is warning consumers: Jan/06 African herbal products **M2 Formula & Energy 2000** pose potential health risks http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_01_e.html
- Health Canada is warning Aril/06 consumers not to not to use advises consumers not to use unauthorized products containing **anabolic steroids** (Five products containing illegal anabolic steroids, as they can potentially cause serious health issues such as liver disorders and heart problems. The five products are: Anabolic Xtreme Superdrol, Methyl-1-P, Ergomax LMG, Prostanozoland, and FiniGenX Magnum Liquid.)
- Health Canada is warning consumers not to not to use **Kaizen Ephedrine HCL tablets for weight loss Dec/05** http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2005/2005_138_e.html
- Health Canada is warning consumers not to ingest the herb **chapparal** in the form of loose leaves, teas, capsules or bulk herbal products because of the risk of liver and kidney problems. Dec/05 http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2005/2005_135_e.html
- Health Canada is warning consumers not to use certain **Ayurvedic medicinal** products because they contain high levels of heavy metals such as lead, mercury and/or arsenic. July/05 http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/protection/warnings/2005/2005_80.html
- Health Canada Jan/06 Natural health product **Libidfit** may pose health risks (promoted for sexual enhancement and erectile dysfunction, but contains an undeclared amount of a pharmaceutical ingredient similar to sildenafil) http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_02_e.html
- Health Canada is warning consumers Feb/06: Not to use the Chinese medicinal product White Peony Scar-repairing pills, manufactured in Hong Kong by White Peony Pharmaceuticals Limited, due to high levels of lead. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_05_e.html
- Health Canada is warning consumers Feb/06 not to use 13 Chinese herbal products manufactured by the Hong Kong Chi Chun Tang Herbal Factory due to bacterial contamination that could lead to serious health risks. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_08_e.html
- Health Canada advises consumers April/06 not to use Super Fat Burning and LiDa Daidaihua Slimming Capsules for weight loss because they have been found to contain sibutramine http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_15_e.html
- Health Canada is advising consumers Apr/06 not to use unapproved products containing **yohimbine or yohimbe bark**, including Strauss Energy SIX capsules. Yohimbine is a prescription substance that can pose serious health risks for people with underlying risk factors. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_16_e.html
- Health Canada is advising consumers Apr/06 not to use unapproved Miracle Bion products as it could be contaminated with bacteria such as *E. coli*. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_23_e.html
- Health Canada May/06 is warning consumers not to use the product **Nasutra** because it has been found to contain the sildenafil (chemical name for Viagra) that could lead to serious health risks, especially for patients with existing medical conditions such as heart problems, those who may be taking heart medications, or those who may be at risk for strokes.
- Health Canada May/06 is advising consumers not to use Ocean Plasma **Isotonic Living Water and Ocean Plasma Hypertonic Living Water** because they are unapproved products that contain unacceptable amounts of aerobic bacteria.
- Health Canada June/06 is advising consumers not to use four unapproved **Ayurvedic medicinal products** from India because they contain high levels of lead and/or mercury. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_46_e.html
- Health Canada July/06 is advising Fat Rapid Loss Capsules (Xin Yan Zi Pai Mei Zi Jiao Nang) because may contain sibutramine http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_55_e.html
- Health Canada July/06 is advising consumers not to use 4 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Zhuifeng Tougou Wan & Fufang LuHui Jiaonang**, two traditional Chinese medicines that contain toxic levels of mercury; **Safi**, a herbal product manufactured in India and Pakistan that contains toxic levels of arsenic; and **Baike Wan**, a herbal product from Malaysia that contains the prescription drugs piroxicam and frusemide, and the over-the-counter drug chlorpheniramine.
- Health Canada Aug/06 is advising consumers not to use **Salt Spring Herbs Sleep Well Dietary Supplement** because a sample has been found to contain **estazolam**.
- Health Canada Warns Consumers August 04, 2006 Not To Use **Neophase Formula For Men Due To Potential Health Risks** which has been found to contain an undeclared ingredient similar to the active pharmaceutical ingredient found in Viagra. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_67_e.html
- Health Canada Aug/06 is reminding consumers not to use Miracle II Miracle Neutralizer or any other products exported or sold by Tedco, Inc. of Louisiana because they could contain harmful bacteria. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_68_e.html
- Health Canada Aug/06 is advising consumers about a possible link between health products containing the herbal medicine **black cohosh and liver damage**. There have been a number of international case reports of liver damage suspected to be associated with the use of black cohosh, including three case reports in Canada and one published case of death in the United States. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_72_e.html
- Health Canada Aug/06 is advising consumers not to use four foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Reduce Weight**, a proprietary Chinese Medicine marketed as a weight-loss product. Contains the prescription drug sibutramine (the generic name for Meridia) **Yixinjiaonang**, a proprietary Chinese medicine marketed as a sexual enhancement & erectile dysfunction product, contains the prescription drug tadalafil (the generic name for Cialis) **Meng Rong**, a proprietary Chinese medicine marketed as a sexual enhancement and erectile dysfunction product, contains the prescription drug sildenafil (the generic name for Viagra) **VG**, a proprietary Chinese medicine marketed as a sexual enhancement and erectile dysfunction product, contains the prescription drug sildenafil (the generic name for Viagra) http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/fpa-ape/index_e.html
- Health Canada Aug/06 is advising consumers not to use **Salt Spring Herbs Sleep Well Dietary Supplement** because a sample analyzed by Health Canada has been found to contain the undeclared drug Estazolam. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_82_e.html
- Health Canada Aug/06 is advising consumers not to use two foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Chao Nongsu Qingzhi Jiaonang** (OPC Care) is promoted as a weight-loss product. The product is adulterated with sibutramine and mazindol, two prescription medications used to suppress appetite. **Conting Qianweisu Slimming Herbs Capsule** is marketed as a weight-loss product. The product is adulterated with sibutramine, a prescription medication used to suppress appetite. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/fpa-ape/2006/2006_84_e.html http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/fpa-ape/2006/2006_83_e.html
- Health Canada Sept/06 advises against use of the **Ayurvedic medicinal product Jambrolin** due to lead content http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_89_e.html
- Health Canada Sept/06 is warning consumers not to use the natural health product **Libidus** because it contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient, a modified form of vardenafil.
- Health Canada Oct/06 is advising consumers not to use the unauthorized natural health products **Emperor's Tea Pill (Tian Huang Bu Xin Wan)** and **Hepatic Extract (Shu Gan Wan)** because certain lots of these products contain high levels of lead and mercury. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_98_e.html
- Health Canada Nov/06 is warning Canadians not to use the unauthorized product **Embrun de mer** promoted for the treatment of skin irritation in newborns and adults because it contains unacceptable amounts of harmful bacteria.
- Health Canada Dec/06 is advising consumers not to use a product called **Eden Herbal Formulations Sleep Ease Dietary Supplement**, because it was found to contain an undeclared drug estazolam http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_127_e.html
- Health Canada Dec/06 is advising consumers not to use two foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Slim & Detox Peptide**, which are weight-loss products. Containing the prescription drug sibutramine (the generic name for Meridia) http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/fpa-ape/index_e.html
- Health Canada Jan/07 is advising consumers not to use **Kang Da** and **four unlabelled products** are marketed as herbal sexual enhancements and treatments for erectile dysfunction. The products are adulterated with a prescription medication used in the treatment of sexual dysfunction. **Qing Zhi** and one unlabelled product are marketed as herbal weight-loss products. The products are adulterated with sibutramine, a prescription medication used to suppress appetite.
- Health Canada Feb/07 is advising consumers not to use a product called **Sleepees**, because it was found to contain an undeclared drug **estazolam**, which can be habit-forming when used for as little as a few months. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2007/2007_16_e.html
- Health Canada Feb/07 is updating Canadians about adverse reaction reports it has received concerning the use of **EMPowerplus**, a vitamin mineral supplement, for serious medical conditions. Health Canada has received nine case reports of serious adverse reactions associated with the use of EMPowerplus. Most of the adverse reactions relate to worsening of psychiatric symptoms in those patients with serious underlying mental health problems, such as bipolar disorder and depression.
- Health Canada Feb/07 is advising consumers not to use the following product listed in the table below due to concerns about possible side-effects. More info **Power 58; Platinum Power 58; Ehanix; Jolex; Onyo; Deguozechengtianxia** because they contained acetildenafil. Acetildenafil is an analogue of sildenafil, a prescription medication indicated for treatment of erectile dysfunction.
- Health Canada Mar/07 is Health Canada is advising consumers not to use **MIAOZI Slimming Capsules** because they have been found to contain sibutramine, a prescription medication that should only be taken under medical supervision.
- Health Canada Mar/07 is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized natural health product **XOX For Men**, because it contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient, tadalafil, an ingredient found in the prescription drug Cialis. The use of XOX For Men could pose serious health risks, especially for patients with existing medical conditions such as heart problems, those taking heart medication, or those at risk of stroke.
- Health Canada Mar/07 is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized product **Vigorect Oral Gel Shooter**, because it contains an undeclared drug substance tadalafil.
- Health Canada Apr/07 is warning consumers about **Bitter orange** & cardiovascular reactions in the Canadian Adverse Reactions April 2007 Newsletter.
- Health Canada Apr/07 is warning consumers from The Hong Kong Department of Health found **Lanmei Keili Ji to be adulterated with gliclazide**, a hypoglycaemic agent (lowers blood sugar). The Hong Kong Department of Health found **Lexsel Fat Rapid Loss capsules to be adulterated with sibutramine** and thyroid hormones. The United States Food and Drug Administration found **V.MAX and Rhino Max (Rhino V Max) to contain undeclared amounts of aminotadalafil**, an analogue of tadalafil, used to treat erectile dysfunction.
- Health Canada April/07 is advising consumers not to use a product called **Eden Herbal Formulations Serenity Pills II** because it contains the undeclared drug **estazolam**.

Health Canada April/07 is advising consumers not to use a product **FiberChoice plus Multivitamins** is marketed as a fibre supplement. The product is contaminated with **fish gelatin**, a known allergen that could cause life-threatening reactions in some sensitive individuals.

Health Canada May/07 is warning consumers **Urat Madu** capsules are marketed for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. The product is adulterated with **sildenafil**, a prescription drug that has been associated with serious side effects including sudden vision loss, penile tissue damage and urinary tract infection.

Health Canada May/07 is advising consumers not to use **Xiaokeshuping Jiangtangning Jiaonang** capsules in Hong Kong to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical drugs phenformin, rosiglitazone, and glibenclamide, which may be used in diabetes to lower blood sugar.

Health Canada May/07 is advising consumers that **HS Joy of Love** product is marketed as a dietary supplement and was found to contain piperadino **varденаfil**.

Health Canada May/07 is advising consumers not to use 6 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Power 58 Extra, Platinum Power 58 Extra, Enhenix New Extra Men's Formula, Valentino, King Power Oral Solution, and Stretch Up** Capsules are marketed as treatments for erectile dysfunction. The products contain analogues of sildenafil and vardenafil, which are prescription drugs used for the treatment of erectile dysfunction.

Health Canada June/07 is advising consumers not to use **Optimum Health Care SleepPlus TCM** or **BYL SleepPlus**, because the products contain the undeclared drug **clonazepam**.

Health Canada June/07 is warning consumers not to use the product **Encore Tabs for Men**, because it contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the approved drug tadalafil.

Health Canada July/07 is warning Canadians not to use the dietary supplement **MdMt**, or any other supplements containing the synthetic steroids methyl-1-testosterone or methylidienolone that are obtained without a prescription, due to potentially serious health risks including reduced fertility and liver disorders.

Health Canada July/07 is warning consumers not to use **Zencore** Tabs, a product advertised as a dietary supplement for sexual enhancement, because it contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the approved drug tadalafil.

Health Canada July/07 & the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found **Liviro3** to contain tadalafil, a prescription drug that should only be taken under the guidance of a health professional.

Health Canada July/07 is advising consumers not to use the sleep supplement product **Optimum Health Care Sleep Easy**, because it contains the undeclared drug clonazepam.

Health Canada July/07 is advising consumers not to use 8 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Jie Jie Pills** and **Chuan Xiong Cha Tiao Wan** are proprietary Chinese medicines that have been found to contain aristolochic acid, a natural toxin known to cause kidney failure and cancer in humans. Medsafe, the New Zealand health regulatory authority, advised the public not to use the products **Darling Capsules, Dali Capsules, Spanish Fly Capsules**, and an unnamed product, because they were found to contain sildenafil. Medsafe also advised the public not to use the product **Dai Dai Hua Jiao Nang** because it was found to contain sibutramine. The Hong Kong Department of Health [HKDH] found batch #WA00030 of the product **Kui Hua Chut Lee San Bird's Nest & Pearl** to exceed the acceptable limit for microbiological contaminants set out by the HKDH. Further investigation revealed that this product also exceeded the limit for bacterial contamination in Natural Health Products in Canada.

Health Canada Aug/07 Consumers who use **Excite for women** or **Ultimates for men** may be at risk of serious side effects similar to those associated with sildenafil.

Health Canada Aug/07 is advising Canadians of a recall in the United States of one lot of **Metaboslim Apple Cider Vinegar**, which is marketed as a dietary supplement, because it has been found to contain **sibutramine**, a prescription medication that should only be taken under medical supervision.

Health Canada Sept/07 is advising consumers not to use 13 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Jacaranda, Queenmer Fat Loss, Li Da Dai Dai Hua Jiao Nang, J-minus** and **Jelime Slimming Capsules**. These products are promoted for weight loss and have been found to be adulterated with the prescription drug sibutramine. Sibutramine is used for treating obesity and should only be taken under the supervision of a health professional. **Junyu Jiaonanyihao** has been found to contain the undeclared prescription drugs sibutramine and dexamethasone, as well as phenolphthalein, which is currently prohibited in Canada. **Satis 60 Hours Ever Lasting Formula** is used for the treatment of erectile dysfunction/sexual enhancement. It was found to contain piperidenafil an analogue of vardenafil, a drug that should only be used under the supervision of a health professional. **Qiangli Zhuanggutongbingling** has reportedly been used for joint pain and stiffness. It was found to contain the undeclared prescription drugs prednisolone acetate, cortisone acetate, piroxicam, and diclofenac. **Heng Tong Jiangtangning Jiaonang** was found to contain the prohibited drug phenformin, and the prescription drug glibenclamide (glyburide) which should only be taken under the supervision of a health professional. **Endopile Capsules** is used for the treatment of hemorrhoids and piles, and related symptoms and was found to contain potentially toxic levels of lead and mercury. **BuXie PaiDu XiaoDou Su** is used as an acne treatment and was found to contain the prescription drug rifampicin (rifampin). **True Man** and **Energy Max** are used as sexual enhancement/ erectile dysfunction products and were found to contain an analogue of sildenafil or vardenafil which are prescription medications.

Health Canada Sept/07 is advising consumers not to use 5 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Top Gun for Men Herbal Extracts** has been found to contain a substance similar to tadalafil. **Oyster Plus** has been found to contain tadalafil. **Deguozhanjiang** contains sildenafil and tadalafil, prescription drugs used for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. **Chongcaoliubian Jiaonang** and **Santi Scalper Penis Erection** Capsule contain sildenafil.

Health Canada Sept/07: **Khun-Phra** is a health product promoted for pain relief that has been found to contain the undeclared drugs dexamethasone, prednisolone, phenylbutazone, diazepam, cyproheptadine and mehydrolin. **Asam Urat Flu Tulang, PJ Dewandaru** is a health product promoted to treat joint pain, rheumatism and arthritis. It has been found to contain the undeclared drugs dexamethasone, diclofenac and acetaminophen.

Health Canada Oct/07 Foreign Product Alerts: **Zhen Feng Da Brand Xi Tong Wan** is promoted as a pain reliever. Lot #060908 has been found to contain undeclared indomethacin, a prescription anti-inflammatory drug that should only be taken under the guidance of a health professional. **Wellring Brand Yin Qiao Jie Du** is a health product promoted to treat cold and flu symptoms. Lot#51005 has been found to contain undeclared acetaminophen. **Gu Ci Dan** and **Xu Log Bou** are promoted as pain relievers and have been found to contain undeclared indomethacin. Indomethacin is a prescription anti-inflammatory drug that should only be taken under the guidance of a health professional.

Health Canada Oct/07 is advising, especially pregnant & breastfeeding women, not to use **Calabash chalk** because of the potential health risk due to high levels of lead.

Health Canada Oct/07: Foreign Product Alerts: **Red Yeast Rice, Red Yeast Rice/Policosonal Complex and Cholestrix, and Xie Gan Wan**. Red Yeast Rice, Red Yeast Rice/Policosonal Complex and Cholestrix are promoted as dietary supplements for the treatment of high cholesterol. These products may contain **lovastatin**, a prescription medication for the treatment of high cholesterol that should only be taken under the guidance of a health professional. Xie Gan Wan is a Proprietary Chinese Medicine with unknown indication for use. Xie Gan Wan, was found to contain **Aristolochia** plant species.

Health Canada Oct/07: **Royal Medic No.1 Chinese Caterpillar Fungus** is a proprietary Chinese medicine promoted as a general health tonic, but Health Canada advises Canadians not to use this product due to microbial contamination. **Steripaste Medicated Paste Bandages** may not be sterile therefore there is a possibility the bandage may cause a wound infection.

Health Canada Nov/07 is advising consumers not to use **Axcil** and **Desirin**, are promoted as natural sexual enhancement/ erectile dysfunction products. Consumers are warned not to use Axcil and Desirin because both products were found to contain the prescription drug **sildenafil**.

Health Canada Dec/07 is advising Canadians not to use unauthorized products manufactured by **Wild Vineyard** because of the potential health risk to consumers. Wild Vineyard is not authorized to manufacture, package, label or import natural health products in Canada.

Health Canada Jan/08 is advising consumers not to use 2 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Baby's Bliss Gripe Water** (apple flavour), code 26952V, a natural health product given to infants to ease stomach discomfort and gas, was found to contain the parasite cryptosporidium. Cryptosporidium may cause severe, chronic or even fatal effects, especially in infants. **Zhong Ti Xiao Er Jian Pi San** is a natural health product. Batch number JPS0704 has been recalled due to microbial contamination.

Health Canada Jan/08 is warning Canadians not to use the unauthorized product **Yeniujyn** because the product contains heavy metal contaminants and may pose a serious health risk. Yeniujyn is advertised as a natural health product, for adults and children, to be used "to cure involuntary passage of urine diseases." The product was found to contain high levels of **lead and arsenic**.

Health Canada Jan/08 is warning Canadians not to use the unauthorized product 1- ZhenZhu HouFengSan Penji; Vyling Cornu Saigae Tataricae Cooling Tea; Natorny Kwek's Herb 106; Chinese Herbal Heritage Herbal Slimming Tea; Vyling Urticaria Itch-Killer A; Vyling Water- Melon Pearls Powder; Phoenix Brand Tea For Sore Throat And Fever; Qing Yin Bai Hua Tea; and Yinqiao Flu & Fever Tea. **Nine specific batches** of Chinese medicines and teas manufactured in Singapore that have been recalled due to microbial (bacterial) and/or yeast and mould contamination. **Physio Care Lida Dai Dai Hua Jiao Nang Slimming Capsules** (batch number 28012007 / expiration date: Jan 2009). This product is promoted for weight loss and has been found to contain a derivative of the prescription drug **sibutramine**. **RGC-RMC Rheumax Capsule** (batch number REM1-SI93016N). This batch of RGC-RMC Rheumax Capsule has been found to contain **progesterone**, a steroid hormone that can have adverse effects on the brain, breast and skin and should only be taken if prescribed by a health professional.

Health Canada Feb/08 warning Canadians not to use Foreign Products: 1) **Jingzhi Kesou Tanchuan; Guanxin Suhe capsules; Qing Re An Cang Wan; & Guan Xin Su He** 2) **Xiao Qin Long Capsules** 3) **Xiao Qin Long Wan; Chuan Xiong Cha Tiao Wan Tablets; Bai Tou Weng Wan** 4) **Wannianqing Pai Danguai Niantong Tang** (batch number 050401) These products have been found to contain aristolochic acid, a toxin associated with serious and potentially fatal health effects.

Health Canada Feb/08 warning Canadians not to use **VPX 'No Shotgun' and BSN 'Cell Mass' Body Building Powders** These products have been found to contain coumarin.

Health Canada Feb/08 warning Canadians not to use 1) Ding Lu Brand Guipi Wan (batch number 060401); Ding Lu Brand Bushen Yijing Wan (batch number 060401); Ding Lu Brand Shiquan Dabu Wan (batch number 060401); **Ding Lu Brand Xiangsha Liujun Wan** (batch number 060401); Ding Lu Brand Xiaoyao Wan (batch

number 060401); Medco Brand Vitality Essence Extract Of Deer Fetus (batch number 61007); Plasmin (batch number 20060102) 2) **Yogaraja Gulgulu Pills** (batch number GK039) and Pilsol Capsule 3) **Conforer Global Yang Tonic-2** (batch number 060117) 4) **Liang Gel San Concentrated Powder** (batch number G3238913) and **Qing Xin Lian Zi Yin Concentrated Powder** (batch number G3239274) These products were found to contain excessive amounts of heavy metals.

- Health Canada Mar/08 is warning consumers not to use **Libidus**, an unauthorized product promoted on the web site of the manufacturer for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. The product may pose serious health risks, as it was found to contain the undeclared prescription drug sildenafil.
- Health Canada April/08 is warning consumers not to use Foreign Product Alert: **Tetrasil, Genisil, Aviralex, OXI-MED, Beta-mannan Micronutrient, Qina and SlicPlus**. They are marketed for the prevention or treatment of a variety of sexually transmitted diseases.
- Health Canada April/08 is advising consumers not to use 2 foreign products, **Aspire 36 & Aspire Lite**, because they were found to contain undeclared sildenafil analogues.
- Health Canada April/08 is warning consumers not to use **Vigoureux**, an unauthorized product promoted for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. The product may pose serious health risks, as it was found to contain the prescription drug sildenafil.
- Health Canada April/08 is advising consumers not to use 2 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Tian Li** was found to contain tadalafil and hydroxyhomosildenafil, and should only be taken under the guidance of a healthcare professional. **Xian Zhi Wei II** was found to contain sibutramine and phenolphthalein, which are not meant for self-care and may cause serious side effects.
- Health Canada April/08 is advising consumers not to use The Hong Kong Department of Health advised the public not to use the product **Tian Sheng Yi Bao** because it was found to contain two pharmaceutical products, glibenclamide and phenformin.
- Health Canada April/08 is advising consumers about The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) of Singapore recalled **Qili Brand Tongbianling Jiaonang, Sincere Brand ChuanXinLian Jiaonang, Xiangyao Brand Xiangyao Weian Jiaonang, Biflora Brand Fufang Danshen Pian (film-coated), Biflora Brand 306 Xiaoyan Jiedu capsules, and Xiang Sha Liu Jun Wan** as they were found to contain high levels of arsenic and/or mercury that exceeded the permissible limits outlined by the HSA standards of safety and quality.
- Health Canada May/08 is advising consumers not to use **vp1 No1** Dietary Supplement for Men was found to contain tadalafil.
- Health Canada May/08 is reminding consumers who choose to use unapproved Ayurvedic medicinal products that some of these products may contain high levels of heavy metals. Consumption of excessive amounts of heavy metals, such as lead, mercury, and arsenic, pose serious health risks.
- Health Canada May/08 is warning consumers not to use **Trophic Kelp & Glutamic Acid HCl** due to the health risk posed by exposure to high levels of iodine.
- Health Canada May/08 is warning consumers not to use **Desire**, an unauthorized product promoted to enhance male sexual performance as this product may pose serious health risks in certain patients. Lot 0070263 of the product was found to contain the prescription drug phentolamine.
- Health Canada June/08 is advising that **Desire** contains Phentolamine, which should only be used under the supervision of a health care professional.
- Health Canada June/08 **6-OXO**, which contains the compound 4-androstene-3,6,17-trione, is an unauthorized natural health product in Canada. **1-AD** contains 1-androstenediol, an anabolic steroid that is regulated as a controlled substance in Canada.
- Health Canada July/08 Foreign Product Alerts: **Super Shanghai, Strong Testis, Shanghai Ultra, Shanghai Ultra X, Lady Shanghai, Shanghai Regular (also known as Shanghai Chaojimengnan), Actra-Sx, An unknown product containing the plant Lycium barbarum L., Adam Free, NaturalUp, Erexta, Yilishen, Blue Steel, Hero, & Natural Super Plus**. These products have been found to contain sildenafil or an unapproved substance similar to sildenafil.
- Health Canada July/08 is advising consumers not to use 4 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: Wodibo. **Wodibo** is promoted as an all-natural Chinese potency-enhancing product for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. The Danish Medicines Agency has warned against the use of Wodibo because it was found to contain sildenafil and tadalafil, prescription drugs authorized for treatment of erectile dysfunction. Both of these medications should only be used under the supervision of a health care professional. **Viril-Ity-Power** (VIP) Tabs. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has warned consumers not to use Viril-Ity-Power (VIP) Tabs because it was found to contain an undeclared ingredient similar to the prescription drug sildenafil. The product has been recalled by the manufacturer in the U.S. **Therma Power** (red and blue varieties) and **Grenade Fat Burner**. The U.K. Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) warned consumers not to use the ephedrine-containing products Therma Power (red variety) and Grenade Fat Burner after the products were associated with serious adverse reactions. The MHRA also warned consumers to not use the ephedrine-free Therma Power (blue variety) because it contains synephrine and caffeine, a combination that has been associated with cardiovascular adverse reactions.
- Health Canada Aug/08 is advising consumers not to use 9 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: **Dan Bai Shou Shen Su** was found to contain undeclared thyroid hormones and sibutramine. **Karntien and Karntien Easy to Slim** were adulterated with sibutramine and a compound that is similar in structure to sibutramine (N-desmethylsibutramine). **Armstrong Natural Herbal Supplement, Enhenix New Extra Men's Formula, Power 58 Extra, and Platinum Power 58 Extra** were adulterated with tadalafil or unapproved substances with structures similar to tadalafil and vardenafil. **More Slim** was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient sibutramine. **Soloslim** was found to contain an undeclared substance similar in structure to the prescription drug sibutramine. It also contains the prescription drug L-carnitine, as well as synephrine, which is not authorized for sale in weight loss products in Canada.
- Health Canada Aug/08 is advising consumers not to use 8 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of Natural (Xin Yi Dai) and Lasmi because Natural (Xin Yi Dai) was found to contain sibutramine and phenolphthalein, and Lasmi was found to contain sibutramine and spironolactone. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of AA Qu Feng Shu Jin Wan because it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient dexamethasone. Apisate contained fenfluramine and Energy II contained sibutramine. Obat Asam Urat and Asam Urat both contained dexamethasone, phenylbutazone and piroxicam. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of Slim 3in1 (Xiao Nan zhi Bao) because it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients sibutramine and phenolphthalein.
- Health Canada Sept/08 is advising consumers not to use any unauthorized health products sold under the brand names **Life Choice, Healthy Choice, Doctor's Choice and Your Choice** as well as other products without a brand name. All of these unauthorized health products have the same identifying image on their label.
- Health Canada Sep/08 is advising consumers not to use 3 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Lover Liquid Nutriment Herbal Supplement and Onyo** because they were found to contain undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients. **Lover Liquid Nutriment Herbal Supplement** was found to contain sildenafil while Onyo was found to contain sildenafil, as well as unapproved substances with structures similar to sildenafil and vardenafil. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned consumers not to use the product **Rose 4 Her** because it was found to contain an undeclared ingredient similar to the prescription drug sildenafil.
- Health Canada Sep/08 is advising consumers not to use 6 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Dr. Life** or **Chong Cao Ju Wang** because they were found to contain undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients. **Dr. Life** contains an unauthorised substance similar in structure to tadalafil while **Chong Cao Ju Wang** contains sildenafil. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of **Hanguo shoushen yihao** (meiti xing) because it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient sibutramine. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration alerted consumers to a voluntary recall of 32-ounce plastic bottles of **Liquimax Complete Nutrition Multivitamin Formula** (UPC codes 7497052290, 7497023607 or 7497023696) because the product may contain undeclared fish (not shellfish), tree nuts (almonds, pecans, and/or walnuts), and wheat. People with sensitivities to fish, tree nuts and/or wheat may risk serious or life-threatening allergic reactions if they consume these products. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned against the use of **ARMA - Sin Gang San** and **New ARMA - Sin Gang San** because they were found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients sibutramine and fenfluramine.
- Health Canada Oct/08 is advising consumers not to use 2 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: Swissmedic warned consumers not to buy or use the product **Powertabs** because it contains an unauthorised substance similar in structure to sildenafil. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Sweet Energizer Vitality Candy** because it was found to contain an unauthorised substance similar in structure to tadalafil.
- Health Canada Nov/08 is advising consumers not to use 5 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Lu Quan** because it contains undeclared glibenclamide and sildenafil. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use **Fat Killer, Carbohydrate Cut and Sugar-Carbohydrate Cut** because they contain sibutramine and an unauthorised substance similar in structure to sibutramine, and **Zhuang Yao Gu Shen Capsule** because it contains sildenafil.

Health Canada Nov/08 is advising consumers not to use 13 foreign health products due to concerns about possible side-effects: The U.S. FDA warned consumers not to buy or use **Viapro** because it contains an unauthorised substance similar in structure to sildenafil. Sildenafil is a prescription drug used in the treatment of erectile dysfunction and should only be used under the supervision of a health care practitioner. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed consumers of a voluntary manufacturer recall of these 12 products because they contain human **placenta, aristolochic acid and/or ephedra**, and may pose serious health risks. All 12 products are manufactured by **Jen-On Herbal Science International Inc.** (also known as **Herbal Science International Inc.**). Consumers who had purchased these products were advised to discontinue their use immediately and return them to the place of purchase for a full refund.

Health Canada Nov/08 is warning consumers not to use **Firm Dose** and **Granite Rooster**, two products promoted to enhance male sexual performance, as these products may pose serious health risks. Firm Dose was found to contain similar to sildenafil, while Granite Rooster was found to contain similar to tadalafil.

Health Canada Nov/08 is advising consumers not to use the unauthorized product, Kwan Loong Medicated Oil, as it contains chloroform. Foreign Product Alerts: Seng Jong Tzu Tong Tan, Tou Tong San (Headache Formula), Du Huo Ji Sheng , Tang (Du Huo Joint Relief), Wu Yao Shun Qi San, Qing Bi Tang (Nasal Cleanser), Zhong Fong Huo Luo Wan (Stroke Revito Formula), Xiao Qing Long Tang (Little Green Dragon), Ding Chuan Tang (Breathe Smooth), Xiao Xu Ming Tang, Feng Shi Zhi Tong Wan (Joint Relief), Guo Min Bi Yan Wan, Fang Feng Tong Sheng San.

Health Canada Jan 2009 is advising consumers not to use 4 foreign products: **Zhuang Tjar Gere** because it contains the undeclared prescription drugs sildenafil & tadalafil, **Zhixhue** Capsules manufactured by Vital Pharmaceutical Holdings Ltd. due to concerns of serious side- effects including liver dysfunction, **Tonik Warisan Banjar** because it contains undeclared dexamethasone & **Healthily Slim** because it contains sibutramine.

Health Canada Mar/09 Foreign Product Alerts: **68 Weight Loss Products**; Best-life Fat Burning Capsules; Bevidan; Huiji Yin Chiao Chieh Tu Pien; Relacore -plus Lami, Linglongqixian, Menergy M-Essence, Nyal Day & Night Cold & Flu Fighter (AUST L 146264), Nyal Cold & Flu Fighter (AUST L 146263), 999 Radix Notoginseng, Batch no. 0807021, Slim Pure, Carbohydrate, Kalomee, K Carbohydrate, K Tighten Slim, & K Slimming Pills. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/fpa-ape_2009/index-eng.php

Health Canada June/09 Foreign Product Alerts: **Fangocur Mineral Drink** (undeclared arsenic); **Jia Yi Jian** (undeclared sibutramine & tadalafil); **Fortodol**, which is also sold under the names (undeclared nimesulide with liver concern) of Donsbach Miradin, Lepicol Miradin, Leppin Miradin, & Miradin; **Shan Dian Qiang Xiao Shou** (undeclared sibutramine & phenolphthalein); **Zencore Plus** (undeclared benzamidenafil) & **Zhong Guo Shen Fang** (undeclared med like sildenafil).

Health Canada June/09 is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized product **Slim Magic Herbal**, which is promoted as a weight-loss product, as it was found to contain an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the prescription drug sibutramine.

Health Canada is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized product **Natural Slim**, which is promoted as a weight-loss product, as it was found to contain the undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient sibutramine and also an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to sibutramine.

Health Canada June/09 warns of foreign Product Alerts: **Herbal Xenicol** because it contains undeclared cetilistat. **BioEmagrecim**, which the FDA had previously warned contained sibutramine, was also found to contain fluoxetine, furosemide and fenproporex. Products: **Slimbionic, Xsvelten, 999 Fitness Essence, 24" ince, Light Some, Paiyouji, Pearl White Slimming, & Reducing Weight Easily** contain undeclared pharmaceutical ingredients (sibutramine and/or phenolphthalein) and/or excessive levels of lead, and may cause serious health effects..

Health Canada July/09 is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized health product labelled as **Specific-Formula Arthro-Ace** as it was found to contain undeclared dexamethasone and may cause serious health effects.

Health Canada July/09 is warning that the Singapore Health Sciences Authority (HSA) warned consumers to not buy or use **Air Ikan Haruan** after it was found to contain undeclared dexamethasone. The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use the product **Neovidan** after it was found to contain undeclared prednisolone and mefenamic acid. Plus the Singapore Health Sciences Authority (HSA) warned consumers to not buy or use **XP Tongkat Ali Supreme** after it was found to contain undeclared tadalafil.

Health Canada Aug/09 is advising via Singapore Health Sciences Authority (HSA) warned that **Delima Raja Urat** contains undeclared dexamethasone, chlorpheniramine, pheniramine and sibutramine, while **Cao Gen Bai Lin Wan** contains undeclared dexamethasone and chlorpheniramine.

Health Canada Oct/09: **Bao Ling**- The Singapore Health Sciences Authority advised consumers not to buy or use since contained undeclared betamethasone, hydrochlorothiazide & chlorpheniramine. **Dynasty Worldwide Jinglida So Young Formula**- The Singapore Health Sciences Authority (HSA) warned consumers not to buy or use since contained undeclared aminotadalafil. **STEAM** lot#80214, 90260 -The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a voluntary manufacturer recall of two lots of STEAM after FDA testing found these lots to contain undeclared sulfoildenafil (lot# 80214) & undeclared tadalafil (lot# 90260). **Syntrax Fyre (contained Yohimbine)**, **Texiao Fengshi Gutong Ling (contained indomethacin)**, **Kam Yuen Brand Wan Ying Yang Gan Wan (contained sildenafil)** - The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use these three products after they were found to contain undeclared pharmaceutical substances.

Health Canada Nov/09 is advising Canadians not to consume Chaotic Beverages sold under the brand names Mind Strike, Fearocity, Elixir of Tenacity and Power Pulse because they are unauthorized products marketed to a vulnerable population (children) with ingredients that may pose a health risk. **Mind Strike**: Contains an unknown amount of caffeine despite advertising that it is not an energy drink and contains several herbs which are not included in Health Canada's list of botanicals with a history of safe use in children. **Fearocity**: Contains an unknown amount of caffeine, several herbs not included in Health Canada's list of botanicals with a history of safe use in children, taurine at an unacceptable level for children, and niacin at a level three times higher than that recommended for children aged 1 to 13 years. **Elixir of Tenacity**: Contains green tea extract, which is not included in Health Canada's list of botanicals with a history of safe use in children, and vitamin A at a level unacceptable for children aged 1 to 8 years. **Power Pulse**: Contains chromium picolinate at levels of possible concern in a product taken by children.

Health Canada Nov/09 is warning consumers not to use Herblex "**Once More**" since it was found to contain sildenafil.

Health Canada Dec/09 is advising Canadians not to use certain Acai Berry products after a large number of shipments of adulterated products were stopped at the border. The product names include: **Anti-Aging Acai Berry, Guarana Blast, Brazillian Pure, Anti-aging Vital Rez V, Weight Loss VitalAcai, Dietary Supplement Acai Power Blast and Muscle Mass**. These products advertised for anti-aging and weight loss were found to contain undeclared sildenafil.

Health Canada Dec/09 is warning consumers not to use "**RevolutionDS Weight Loss**", an unauthorized health product promoted for weight loss, because it contains benzylpiperazine (BZP), and may pose serious health risks.

Health Canada Dec/09 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products: 1. **Power-Plus P**: The Singapore Health Sciences Authority issued a recall notice for Power-Plus P (expiry date 03/03/2011) after it was found to contain undeclared tadalafil. 2. **Show Party**: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume Show Party [shou-shen pai] after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein. 3. **Zeng Da Yan Shi Wan**: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use after it was found to contain undeclared sildenafil.

Health Canada Jan/10 informs that Finish Food Safety Authority: **Full Contact Max Potency** contains thio-sildenafil and thio-homosildenafil; Singapore Health Sciences Authority: **M-Action** contains desmethylacetildenafil and acetic acid. U.S. FDA: **RockHard Weekend** contains sulfoildenafil; & **Pai You Guo** contains sibutramine and phenolphthalein. Hong Kong Department of Health: **Ku Xiu Ba Xiang Jian Fei Wan** contains sibutramine and an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine; **Super Slim (Yani)** contains sibutramine and phenolphthalein; **SHoufsy** contains sibutramine & **MIGAC (sic) FAT BURMING (sic) FACTOR** contains sibutramine.

Health Canada Jan/10 is advising consumers not to use the unauthorized product "**Stiff Nights**" after the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found that this product contains an undeclared substance similar to the prescription drug sildenafil.

Health Canada Jan/10 is warning consumers not to use the unauthorized product "**The Slimming Coffee**," which was previously sold as "**Lose Weight Coffee**," because it was found to contain sibutramine.

Health Canada Jan/10 is advising consumers not to use any unauthorized health products sold under the brand names **Natural Choice Vitamin B-17, Natural Choice Kava Kava** and **Natural Choice Lithium Orotate**. The unauthorized Natural Choice Vitamin B-17, according to what is listed on the product label, contains amygdalin which is a compound derived from bitter apricot kernels that has the potential to release cyanide when ingested by humans. The unauthorized Natural Choice Kava Kava, according to what is listed on the product label, contains kava lactones & agencies have received reports associating the use of kava with serious liver dysfunction.

Health Canada Jan/10 is advising Canadians that natural health products containing the ingredient **glucomannan** in tablet, capsule or powder form, which are currently on the Canadian market, have a potential for harm if taken without at least 8 ounces of water or other fluid.

Health Canada Feb/10 is advising consumers that the unauthorized product "**Complete 7-Day Cleanse**" is being recalled because it contains a number of active ingredients with a combined effect that may pose serious health risks. "Complete 7-Day Cleanse" is a multi-ingredient natural health product promoted for "cleansing" or removing toxins from the body. According to package labelling, the product contains over 30 active ingredients, some having a diuretic (water pill) or laxative (stimulant, and bulk-forming) effect.

Health Canada Feb/10: **2H & 2D-** Hong Kong Department of Health (HKDH) warned consumers not to buy or use 2H & 2D after it was found to contain undeclared tadalafil. Products distributed by **Atlas Operations Inc.** The FDA informed consumers of a voluntary recall by Atlas Operations Inc. of certain lots of some products that were found to contain undeclared sulfoildenafilafil, which is an unauthorized substance similar to sildenafilafil. Products distributed by **Bodybuilding.com** The FDA informed consumers of a voluntary recall of 65 bodybuilding products as these products may contain the following anabolic steroids: "Superdrol," "Madol," "Tren," "Androstenedione," and/or "Turinabol." **STRO Emperor** Capsules The Irish Medicines Board warned consumers not to buy or use STRO Emperor Capsules after it was found to contain undeclared tadalafil. **Tian Yang Xu Huo Oral Ulcer** Capsule Singapore Health Sciences Authority issued a recall notice for one batch (batch number 0812003, expiry date 11.2011) of Tian Yang Xu Huo Oral Ulcer Capsule after it was found to contain undeclared aristolochic acid.

Health Canada Mar/10 is warning Canadians that an unapproved health product, **POWER-MAX** that contains sildenafilafil.

Health Canada Mar/10 is warning Canadians that an unauthorized health product, "**Herbal Diet Natural**" has been found on the Canadian market and contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the prescription drug sibutramine.

Health Canada is warning Canadians that an unauthorized health product, "**West Pharm Therma Lean Fat Burner Energizer**" was found on the Canadian market. West Pharm Therma Lean Fat Burner Energizer contains Ephedrine and caffeine, which combined together, may cause serious and possibly fatal adverse effects.

Health Canada Apr/10 is warning Canadians that an unauthorized health product, "**Slim-30**" distributed in Ontario and Quebec by Duxx Enterprises Inc., contains an undeclared pharmaceutical ingredient similar to the prescription drug, sibutramine.

Health Canada May/10 consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Ba Bao Xiao Ke Dan** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use Ba Bao Xiao Ke Dan after it was found to contain undeclared glibenclamide. 2. **Bao Shu Tang Wu Zi Yan Zong Wan** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use Bao Shu Tang Wu Zi Yan Zong Wan after it was found to contain excessive levels of lead, a heavy metal. 3. **Lin Yan Yin Chiao** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority issued a recall notice for one batch (batch# JI0324, expiry date 03/2011) of Lin Yan Yin Chiao after it was found to contain undeclared chlorpheniramine and paracetamol (acetaminophen). 4. **Man Power** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use Man Power product after it was found to contain undeclared tadalafil. 5. 17 products sold through **MuscleMaster.com** (see Foreign Product Alert for a complete product list) The FDA informed consumers of a voluntary recall of the 17 bodybuilding products as they may contain the following anabolic steroids: "Superdrol," "Madol," "Tren," "Androstenedione," and/or "Turinabol." 6. **Seven Slim 7 Seshou** (Qingchun Shaonüxing, Jieshixing, Guifurenxing, Songchixing), Shoushen Jiaoguan-Tinei Yundong Wan (Jian Xiabanshen, Jian Quanshen Feipang) The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use the six products listed above after they were found to contain undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein.

Health Canada May/10 is advising consumers not to use 1. **Botanical Slimming 100% Natural Soft Gel, also sold as Meizitang** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned consumers not to buy or use this product after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine. 2. **Marsha Slim Plus** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use Marsha Slim Plus after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine, an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine and phenolphthalein. 3. **S&S Super Slender** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use S&S Super Slender after two samples were found to contain agent similar to sibutramine. One of the tested samples also contained undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein.

Health Canada June/10 is warning Canadians that the unauthorized health products "**Vigofit**" and "**Once More**," which are promoted to enhance male sexual performance, have been seized by Health Canada inspectors from retail stores in Abbotsford and Surrey, British Columbia. These two products contain sildenafilafil.

Health Canada June/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **COMECOO, ZHONGCAOYAO-JIANKANGJIANFEI** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume these two products after they were found to contain undeclared phenolphthalein, sibutramine and two unauthorized substances similar to sibutramine. 2. **Qingzhi Santian Shou** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume Qingzhi Santian Shou after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine and an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine. 3. **Vita Breath** The U.S. FDA warned consumers not to buy or consume Vita Breath because it may contain hazardous levels of lead, which is a heavy metal.

Health Canada July/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health product(s) due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Stud Capsule For Men** The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a voluntary recall of one lot (Lot #060607-01/060108-01 Exp 6-2013) after it was found to contain undeclared Sildenafilafil. 2. **Po Chai Pills** (capsule form) The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use this product after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein. Sibutramine is a prescription drug and should only be used under the supervision of a health care practitioner while phenolphthalein is no longer authorized for sale in Canada because it may cause cancer. Po Chai Pills (capsule form) has been recalled by the manufacturer. 3. **LIPO-8 Cap and Glucomi 600 Cap** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use these products because they contain undeclared sibutramine.

Health Canada July/10 is advising Canadians about "**UP Ultimate Performance for Men**", an unauthorized health product containing undeclared sildenafilafil.

Health Canada July/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Body Beautiful** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume *1 Body Beautiful* after it was found to contain undeclared phenolphthalein and sibutramine. 2. **USA Yaku Cell Slimming Capsules, Dong Gua Pai You Su, Qing Gua Pai You Su, and Mu Gua Pai You Su** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or consume these four products after they were found to contain undeclared phenolphthalein, sibutramine and an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine. 3. **Atlas Operations Inc. expands its U.S. recall of over 30 sexual enhancement supplements** The U.S. FDA informed consumers of an expanded recall of certain lots of products after some were found to contain undeclared sulfoildenafilafil. The products are being voluntarily recalled nationwide in the U.S. by the company Atlas Operations Inc. 4. **Stallion, SZM Formula for Men, Tomcat Ali and Volcanic** New Zealand's Medsafe warned consumers not to buy or use these four products after they were found to contain undeclared tadalafil. 5. **Vitalex for men and Vitalex for women** The U.S. FDA informed consumers that the *Vitalex* products were found to contain acetildenafilafil, which is an unauthorized substance similar to sildenafilafil and may pose similar health risks.

Health Canada Aug/10 says **Fulda Unitang Herbs Sleep Plus**, an unauthorized product promoted as an herbal sleep aid, has been found to contain high levels of estazolam.

Health Canada July/10 Unauthorized Health Products Sold by **Marigold Natural Pharmacy Ltd.** May Pose Health Risks. These products (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/_2010/2010_126bk-eng.php) were made available to Canadians via the company's pharmacy in Courtenay, British Columbia and via their website (<http://www.marigoldnaturalpharmacy.com>).

Health Canada July/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health product(s): **Huo Luo Jing Dan** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned consumers not to buy or consume Huo Luo Jing Dan after it was found to contain undeclared indomethacin, dexamethasone and prednisolone. **Kam Chik San** The Hong Kong Department of Health (HKDH) cautioned against the use of **Kam Chik San** after samples were found to contain mercury at a level much higher than permitted by the HKDH. **Magic Power Coffee** The U.S. FDA warned consumers not to buy or use Magic Power Coffee after it was found to contain undeclared hydroxythiohomosildenafilafil, which is an unauthorized substance similar to sildenafilafil. **Que She** The U.S. FDA warned consumers not to buy or use Que She after it was found to contain undeclared fenfluramine, propranolol, sibutramine and ephedrine. **Sheng Yuan Fang** The Hong Kong Department of Health (HKDH) warned consumers not to buy or use Sheng Yuan Fang after it was found to contain undeclared phenolphthalein and sibutramine.

Health Canada July/10 is informing Canadians that **Marché Euromix**, a retail store in Pierrefonds (Montréal), was found to be selling a health product that was not authorized for sale by Health Canada and that closely resembled in appearance an authorized drug, Viagra.

Health Canada Aug/10: "**SeXXX DRIVE**", promoted as a herbal supplement to enhance male sexual performance, & Health Canada found hydroxyhomosildenafilafil.

Health Canada Aug/10 has seized the unauthorized sexual enhancement supplements "**Male Enhancement ExtenZe**" and "**Women ExtenZe**" imported and sold by the Happy Paradise Adult Store in

Burnaby, British Columbia. The labels of each of these unauthorized products list the prescription ingredient pregnenolone and the controlled drug, DHEA (dehydroepiandrosterone). The labels of the unauthorized "Male Enhancement ExtenZe Nutritional Supplements" list the ingredient yohimbe extract (bark).

Health Canada Sep/10 **E.O.D. Erection on Demand** being promoted as a herbal to enhance male sexual performance, the product was tested by Health Canada and found to contain tadalafil.

Health Canada Sep/10: "**Arth-Forth**", an unauthorized product promoted as an herbal supplement and distributed by Ka Wing Hong Ltd., was tested by Health Canada and found to contain a steroid prescription drug, dexamethasone.

Health Canada Sep/10 is advising consumers not to use : 1. **Golden aryuru, Baisheng wei ge, Zhonghua niubian, Ten ka dai 1 bou, Kuai gan bei zeng chao yue zi wo (Happy felling doubly increase [sic]), Ling tou lang, SkyFruit, Chu bi ho ken, Jinbolang, Suika Koso, Lov, I ka ou (2009 nen sin hoso) and/or I ka ou (saisinsui shutsu hoso)** The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare warned consumers not to buy or use the 12 products listed above because they were found to contain undeclared sildenafil and/or other unauthorized substances similar to sildenafil that may pose similar health risks (norhongenafinil, acetyl acid, and tioquinapiperifil). 2. **Joyful Slim Herb Supplement** The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a recall of one lot (#101408) of Joyful Slim Herb Supplement after FDA tests found it to contain undeclared desmethyl sibutramine. The lot is being voluntarily recalled nationwide in the U.S. by the company J & H Besta Corp. 3. **Vialipro** The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a recall of certain lots of Vialipro after FDA tests found product samples to contain undeclared sulfoaldenafil, which is an unauthorized substance similar to sildenafil and may pose similar health risks.

Health Canada Sep/10 **Exemption number**: This will help with the backlog of applications for a licence. Exemptions will be given to natural products that have passed an initial assessment of safety, quality, and efficacy. These products will be given an exemption number (EN)...instead of a Natural Product Number (NPN) or Drug Identification Number-Homeopathic Medicine (DIN-HM)...until they are fully reviewed by Health Canada.

Health Canada Nov/10 **Amana Care Seven Slim Herbal Capsules**: The Israel Ministry of Health informed consumers that it found the product Amana Care Seven Slim Herbal Capsules to contain undeclared sibutramine and residue of sildenafil. **Arrow Brand Medicated Oil & Embrocation**: The U.S. FDA warned consumers not to buy or use **Arrow Brand Medicated Oil & Embrocation** because it contains ingredients that are potentially poisonous, particularly in children. **Beijing 101 Hair Consultants: Hair Growth Formula D-2653-Band Hair Growth Tonic E-0583-D**: The Singapore Health Sciences Authority advised consumers to stop using one batch of these products (Beijing 101 Hair Consultants Hair Growth Formula D-2653-B batch# 20091201, and Hair Growth Tonic E-0583-D batch# 20091201) after testing of these batches revealed the presence of undeclared minoxidil. **101 Zhangguang: Gold 101 Super Effective Hair Growth Agentand Fabao 101D Doctor Zhao's Chinese Traditional Herbal Hair Care Formula**: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use these two products after they were found to contain undeclared minoxidil.

Health Canada Nov/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Goya-Bitter Melon - Miyura Fit'x Capsules** contained undeclared phenolphthalein and sibutramine 2. **MasXtreme** contains undeclared aminotadalafil while the other (#911035) contains undeclared aildenafil and phenolamine 3. **Mr. Magic Male Enhancer from Don Wands** contained hydroxythiohomosildenafil and sulfoaldenafil 4. **So Hard for Men - Pulse8 for Women - The Rock - Tonic 66** contained the undeclared pharmaceutical substances tadalafil, sildenafil, and/or hydroxyhomosildenafil 5. **Solo Slim Extra Strength - Revivexx Extra Strength** contained undeclared didesmethyl sibutramine 6. **TimeOut** contained undeclared hydroxythiohomosildenafil.

Health Canada Nov/10 "**Fat Burner No. 1**" (labelled in Chinese characters translated as "**Qian Mei Yin Zi**"), an unauthorized Chinese herbal weight loss medicine, is being voluntarily recalled by Ying Tai TCM Supplying Ltd. after Health Canada lab tests revealed the product contains two pharmaceutical ingredients: a chemical similar to sibutramine (N,N- didesmethylsibutramine), and sildenafil.

Health Canada Dec/10 "**Durazest**" and "**Once More**": Certain lots of two male sex enhancement products recalled as they may pose serious health risks. Certain lots (listed below) of two health products promoted for male sexual enhancement, "Durazest for Men" and "Once More," have been voluntarily recalled by Natural Performance Products Ltd. Health Canada laboratory tests identified the presence of a chemical similar to tadalafil (nortadalafil) in one lot of each product.

Health Canada Dec/10 is informing Canadians that NorthRegentRx has begun to voluntarily recall its product, **ResurreXX** from the Canadian market. NorthRegentRx is requesting that wholesalers, distributors and retailers stop sale of this product since contained an undeclared substance "hydroxyhomosildenafil".

Health Canada Dec/10 has been advised "**Flat Stomach Concept Extra**" is being voluntarily recalled by Les Produits Naturels Leblanc Inc due to missing label statements related to duration of use, risks and contraindications. Information missing from the label of Flat Stomach, a product contained within the Flat Stomach Concept Extra kit, may result in potential chronic use of aloe, which can lead to bowel dependence, and electrolyte imbalance.

Health Canada Dec/10 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Slimming Beauty Bitter Orange Slimming Capsule** (Slimming Beauty) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned consumers not to buy or use Slimming Beauty after FDA lab tests revealed that this product contains undeclared sibutramine. 2. **Shaguar, Signature Signergy, VIGRX (green capsule), VIGRX (white capsule), VigRx, VIGRX Plus New Zealand's MedSafe** warned consumers to not buy or use these products after they were found to contain undeclared sildenafil, hydroxyhomosildenafil, thiosildenafil, and/or tadalafil. 3. **ArimaDex, Clomed** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed consumers that ArimaDex and Clomed are being recalled in the U.S. because they may contain an aromatase inhibitor. ArimaDex and Clomed are being voluntarily recalled by G.E.T. and KiloSports Inc., respectively.

Health Canada Dec/10 Three Probiotic Natural Health Products May Pose Serious Health Risks to Canadians with Milk or Soy Allergies. Consumers with milk or soy allergies are advised that three probiotic natural health products are being voluntarily recalled from the market because they are labelled as not containing dairy(milk) and/or soy but may contain trace amounts of milk or soy protein from ingredients used in the production process. **Saccharomyces Boulardii** (NPN 80013551) Advanced Orthomolecular Research Inc. (AOR); **Herbasaurs Bifidophilus for Kids** (NPN 80015508) & **Acidophilus Bifidobacterium** (NPN 80015336) by Nature's Sunshine Products of Canada Ltd & **Cultures de Yogourt 2 Milliards** (NPN 80013273 Bio-Dis Inc.

Health Canada Jan/11 The product **Synerate**, manufactured for Strive and distributed by Upper 49th, is being voluntarily recalled from the Canadian market because of the risk of serious, potentially fatal adverse effects from the combination of the ingredients in the product. Synerate, a product used for weight loss or body building, contains caffeine and synephrine, which is similar to ephedrine.

Health Canada Jan/11 **Nutrex Research Lipo 6X** is being voluntarily recalled from the Canadian market because of the risk of serious, potentially fatal adverse effects from the combination of the ingredients in the product. It contains caffeine and synephrine, which is similar to ephedrine.

Health Canada Feb/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products promoted for sexual enhancement due to the presence of unauthorized substances (PDE5 derivatives eg. sildenafil): 1. **Aziffa, Erex, Eyeful, Hard Drive, Libidinal, Maxyte, Mojo, Monster Excyte, OMG, OMG45, Prolatis, Red Magic, Size Matters, Stiff Nights, Straight Up, Verect, WOW, Xaitrex, Xytamax, Zilex (with Golden Spear), Zotrex 2, Prolatis' Duro Extend Capsules For Men 3. Tiger King 4. Vigor-25, Man Up Now**

Health Canada Feb/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Fruta Planta, Reduce Weight Fruta Planta** The U.S. FDA warned consumers not to buy or use Fruta Planta and Reduce Weight Fruta Planta after FDA lab tests revealed that this product contains undeclared sibutramine. 2. **RockHard Weekend (lots 100159 and 100260 sold as blister packs, 3-count bottles and 8-count bottles)** The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a nationwide voluntary recall of certain lots (see above) of RockHard Weekend and Pandora after lab tests confirmed the products contain an unauthorized substance similar to sildenafil that may pose similar health risks. 3. **Slimming Factor** The Australian TGA warned consumers not to buy or use Slimming Factor after TGA lab tests confirmed the presence of the undeclared substances sibutramine, fenfluramine and phenolphthalein. According to the TGA release, the product is sold over the Internet.

Health Canada Mar/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Celerite Slimming Capsules**: The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a company recall of Celerite™ Slimming Capsules after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine. 2. **Herbal Flos Lonicerae (Herbal Xenicol) Natural Weight Loss Formula**: The product was found to contain undeclared sibutramine at more than twice the dose that was normally prescribed before sibutramine was removed from the UK market in 2010. 3. **Magiecream**: The Irish Medicines Board warned consumers not to buy or use Magiecream after it was found to contain undeclared clobetasol propionate and ketoconazole. 4. **Nite Rider Maximum Sexual Enhancer for Men - STUD Capsule for Men**: The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a company recall of these products after they were found to contain undeclared sildenafil.

Health Canada April/11 Consumers with milk or soy allergies are advised that four probiotic natural health products {**Saccharomyces Boulardii** (NPN 80013551), **Herbasaurs Bifidophilus for Kids** (NPN 80015508), **Acidophilus Bifidobacterium** (NPN 80015336), **Cultures de Yogourt 2 Milliards** (NPN 80013273)} are being voluntarily recalled from the market because they are labelled as not containing dairy (milk) and/or soy but may contain trace amounts of milk or soy protein from ingredients used in the production process.

Health Canada Apr/11 has identified the presence of microbial contamination in "**Mary Ginseng House 100% Pure High Calibre Pow Sum Ontario Ginseng**", that may pose a health risk to immunocompromised individuals.

Health Canada May/11 "**Omega Alpha Kidney Flush**" Being Recalled from the Canadian Market: May Cause Serious Adverse Reactions in Pregnant Women and Kidney Disease Patients.

Health Canada May/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Dr. Health Series CM Factor** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned consumers not to buy or use this product after it was found to contain an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine that may pose similar health risks. 2. **Gold Seagull Long Zhi Wan, Venergy** The Hong Kong Department of Health advised consumers not to buy or use these products after Gold Seagull Long Zhi Wan was found to contain undeclared glibenclamide, while Venergy was found to contain undeclared sildenafil. 3. **JianBu HuQian Wan** The HSA warned consumers not to buy or use JianBu HuQian Wan after it was found to contain undeclared dexamethasone and chlorpheniramine. 4. **Rock Hard Extreme, Passion Coffee** The U.S. FDA advised consumers not to buy or use these products after they were found to contain undeclared sulfoaldenafil, which is an unauthorized substance similar to sildenafil and may pose similar health risks.

Health Canada July/11 "**Man Up Now**" Removed From Sale at Delta and Surrey Stores: May Pose Serious Health Risks to Canadians, was removed from sale at "O! Behave" retail stores in Delta and Surrey, B.C. after Health Canada's testing identified undeclared sildenafil.

Health Canada July/11 is advising Canadians that we have updated our list of unauthorized health products. These products were also removed from sale at Male and Female Harmony retail stores in Richmond and Burnaby, B.C., along with the Happy Paradise Adult Store in Burnaby. {**Sildenafil: in BAOLONG Switzerland Rolex 168 Prolong Time, BAOLONG Yilishen, Black Gold, Herbal Viagra, "Jin Chong Chao - Golden Cordyceps", Lubiangaowansu, MAGNA-RX, MAXMAN II capsules, Shenrong dabawan, Traditional Chinese Medicine Viagra, V100, VIGER, VigRX for Men, VINIX capsules, Wolf, "XiongBaTian", Zang Gong Mi Lian Nan Bao) & Zeng Bei Jiu Zhan-Tadalafil.**

Health Canada July/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: 1. **Beline Capsules** The U.K. Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) advised consumers not to use **Beline Capsules** after it was found to contain undeclared chlorpheniramine, an over-the-counter antihistamine drug.

2. Black Ant The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned consumers to immediately stop using *Black Ant* after it was found to contain undeclared sildenafil after it was found to contain undeclared sildenafil at an amount three times the starting dosage for the approved prescription drug product. **3. [Hua Tuo Brand] Youzhi Baoying Dan, [Lee Sze] Texiao Houtong Wan and Prolonged Man Power Essence** The Hong Kong Department of Health (HKDH) warned consumers to not use these products after they were found to contain excessive levels of mercury, lead, or arsenic, which are heavy metals. **4. Natural Vigra VIAGRA Tablets and Satibo Capsules** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) advised consumers to stop using *Natural Vigra VIAGRA Tablets* after it was found to contain undeclared sildenafil, and *Satibo Capsules* after it was found to contain undeclared sildenafil and hydroxyhomosildenafil. **5. Slim Xtreme Herbal Slimming Capsules** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed consumers of a voluntary recall after *Slim Xtreme Herbal Slimming Capsules* was found to contain undeclared sibutramine. **6. X-Hero and Male Enhancer** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed consumers of a voluntary recall after *X-Hero* was found to contain undeclared sulfosildenafil while *Male Enhancer* was found to contain undeclared tadalafil.

- Health Canada July/11 is advising Canadians that we have updated our list of unauthorized health products to include a new product, **Tibet Babao**, which was found to contain undeclared sildenafil, a prescription erectile dysfunction drug. This product and several others have been removed from sale at the **Happy Paradise Adult Store in Burnaby, B.C.**
- Health Canada Aug/11 is advising consumers not to use the following foreign health products due to concerns about possible adverse reactions: **1. Celerite Slimming Tea** The U.S. FDA informed consumers of a company recall of *Celerite Slimming Tea* after it was found to contain undeclared sibutramine. **2. Pink Lady for Women Capsules, St Nirvana Herbal Slimming Capsules** The Australian TGA warned consumers not to use these products after *Pink Lady for Women Capsules* was found to contain undeclared tadalafil while *St Nirvana Herbal Slimming Capsules* was found to contain undeclared sibutramine and phenolphthalein. According to the TGA advisories, these products are sold over the Internet. **3. Fifteen products promoted for weight loss** The Hong Kong Department of Health (HKDH) warned consumers not to buy or use these 15 products after they were found to contain at least one of the following undeclared substances: phenolphthalein, sibutramine, and/or an unauthorized substance similar to sibutramine.
- Health Canada Sep/11 **Bi Yan Pian** Recalled Due to Excessive Amount of Mercury. Wing Quon Enterprises Ltd has initiated a stop sale and is voluntarily recalling a natural health product, *Bi Yan Pian* (NPN# 80023876) from the Canadian market after the product was found to contain an excessive amount of mercury.
- Health Canada Oct/11 is advising Canadians not to use these foreign health products as they may pose a health risk. **Slim Forte Slimming Capsules, Slim Forte Double Power Slimming Capsules, Slim Forte Slimming Coffee and Meizitang Botanical Slimming Soft Gel**-The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that these weight loss products contain an unauthorized drug (sibutramine). **OxyELITE Pro capsules and Pure Fat Three Days Reduce Weight capsules**- The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these weight loss products contain an unauthorized drug (sibutramine), or a prescription drug (yohimbine). **SXL Sexcellence sachets**- The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that this sexual enhancement product contains an unauthorized drug (sulfosildenafil). [W.S] **Gan Mao Ling and Chaisentong Baby's Kam Chik San Powder** - The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that these Chinese health products contain excessive levels of heavy metals (lead or arsenic). **Huo Li Bao and Ren Sem Tu Chon Chin Kuo Pill** - The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned that these Chinese pain-relief products contain prescription and/or over-the-counter drugs (furosemide, piroxicam, chlorpheniramine, and/or dexamethasone).
- Health Canada Nov/11 is advising Canadians not to use these foreign health products as they may pose a health risk. **1. Zhui Feng Bao Wei San** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned that this health product contains excessive levels of microbial contamination. **2. Metabolic Advantage** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned that this weight-loss product contains prescription drugs (thyroid hormones). **3. Majun Dua Istimewa, Raja Maajun-Jerat Dan Seret Angin, and Horkut Chooi Foong Hor Lok Tan** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned that these traditional medicines contain undeclared prescription and over-the-counter drugs (dexamethasone, indomethacin, chlorpheniramine, dextromethorphan and acetaminophen). **4. Tian Ma Tu Chung Seven Leave Ginseng, Vall-Boon Tongkat Al, and Pao Ni Kang** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned that these traditional herbal products contain prescription and over-the-counter drugs (dexamethasone, ketoconazole, repaglinide, pheniramine, and chlorpheniramine). **5. Slimming Kapsul** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that this weight-loss product contains an unauthorized drug (sibutramine) and a prescription drug (spirinolactone). **6. Pancre-Plus** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that this counterfeit Chinese medicine contains an unauthorized drug (phenformin) and a prescription drug (glyburide). **7. Maxidus capsules, Chao Jimengnan SuperPowerful Man tablets, Fu Yuan Chun capsules, and Qing Tian Zhu tablets** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these sexual enhancement products contain prescription drugs (sildenafil, tadalafil) and/or unauthorized drugs (sulfohydroxyhomosildenafil, sulfosildenafil).
- Health Canada Nov/11: An unauthorized health product, "**Stiff One Hard 169**" is being voluntarily recalled from the Canadian market after Health Canada's testing identified an undeclared prescription medication in the product (thiodimethylsildenafil, an undeclared substance similar to the prescription medication sildenafil).
- Health Canada Dec/11 is advising "**Yanshiwang**", "**Jin Kong Fu**" and "**Chong Cao She Bian Zhuang Yang Dan**". These products were removed from sale at Male and Female Harmony retail stores in Richmond and Burnaby, B.C., along with the **Happy Paradise Adult Store** in Burnaby. These contained sildenafil.
- Health Canada Jan/12 advises: **1) 17 weight loss products (see Alert for a complete list)** A-Slim 100% Natural Slimming Capsule, Acai Berry Soft Gel ABC, Advanced Slim 5 > DaiDaiHuaJiaoNang, Dream Body Slimming Capsule, Fruit Plant Lossing Fat Capsule, Health Slimming Coffee, Ja Dera 100% Natural Weight Loss Supplement, Leisure 18 Slimming Coffee, Lishou, Magic Slim Tea, Magic Slim Weight Reduction Capsule, P57 Hoodia, Pai You Guo Slim Tea, PhentraBurn Slimming Capsules, Slender Slim 11 Tengda. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that these weight loss products contain unauthorized drugs (sibutramine, phenolphthalein). **2. Uprizing 2.0** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that this body building product contains a controlled prescription drug (superdrol). **3. Get Stiff, Maxi Mize** New Zealand's Medsafe warned that these sexual enhancement products contain prescription drugs (tadalafil, vardenafil, yohimbine) and/or unauthorized drugs (hydroxyhomosildenafil, hydroxythiohomosildenafil). **4. Ying Da Wang tablets** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that this sexual enhancement product contains a prescription drug (sildenafil). **5. Slimina weightloss capsules, S-shape slim capsules** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these weight loss products contain prescription drugs (propranolol, nifedipine) and/or unauthorized drugs (sibutramine, fenfluramine, phenolphthalein). **6. Athri-Eze, Sear Heang Tienchi Tu Chung Wan, Wiku Jahé Kencur (Akr Mujaarab), Cap Wijaya Kusuma (An Ki It)** The Singapore Health Sciences Authority warned that these Traditional Chinese or Traditional Malay Jamu products contain prescription and/or over-the-counter drugs (dexamethasone, prednisolone, furosemide, allopurinol, acetaminophen, chlorpheniramine), and/or an unauthorized drug (phenylbutazone). **7. Cardiotium, Paidusu, SlimEasy Herbs Capsule, Tianran Zuanshi Xianweisu** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that these health products contain prescription drugs (losartan, atorvastatin, thyroxine) and/or unauthorized drugs (sibutramine, phenolphthalein). Consult a health care practitioner immediately if you have taken "Cardiotium" while pregnant. The use of losartan during pregnancy can cause injury and even death to the fetus. **8. [LuShenPai] Specific Hou Ton Qing, [AA] Pe Min Kan Wan** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that these traditional Chinese health products contain excessive levels of heavy metals (arsenic or mercury).
- Health Canada Feb/12 is advising Canadians that using "MMS", also known as **Miracle Mineral Solution** or **Miracle Mineral Supplement** may cause serious health problems. The product information lists sodium chlorite as an ingredient and is promoted as a substance that can cleanse toxins from the human body.
- Health Canada Feb/12 seized a variety of **Stiff4Ever** and **PurePillz** products from The Love Shop retail outlets located in Ontario. These products are unauthorized drugs and are considered potentially dangerous to the health and safety of Canadians. Health Canada tested the **Stiff4Ever** products, advertised as male sexual stimulants, and identified sildenafil. The labels of the **PurePillz** products (see below) state that they contain BZP and TFMPP. Benzylpiperazine (BZP) is a synthetic substance with stimulant-like effects, while 3-trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine (TFMPP) is a synthetic substance with hallucinogen-like effects.
- Health Canada Mar/12 **Power-X** has been removed from a Canadian retail location after Health Canada's testing identified undeclared thiodimethylsildenafil which is similar to the prescription medication sildenafil.
- Health Canada May/12: Unauthorized health products, "**X-Rock**", "**Kaboom**" and "**One For Her**" have been removed from sale from various retail outlets in British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Health Canada's testing identified undeclared prescription drugs sildenafil and tadalafil, and an undeclared substance, hydroxythiohomosildenafil, which is similar to sildenafil.
- Health Canada May/12 **1. CanSui; Lexsel Fat Rapid Loss Capsule; The Extreme-thin Fat Burning Bomb; Xiu Zhi Su L-Carnitine Slimming Capsule** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that these weight loss products contain unauthorized drugs (sibutramine, phenolphthalein). **2. Jin Yu Tang Tai Han Kang Pai Pu Ling Jiao Nang; TangBaoKouFuYiDaoSuJiaoNang; Tangren 365 Kangxunpai sange huoyisu jiaonang; Tong Ren Xiu Fu Kou Fu Yi Dao Su** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned these products, promoted to control high blood sugar, contain a combination of prescription drugs (metformin, glibenclamide [also known as glyburide], rosiglitazone, glimepiride, hydrochlorothiazide) and unauthorized drugs (phenolphthalein, phenformin). **3. [Chung Lien Kulin Brand] Anshen Bunai Pian** The Hong Kong Department of Health warned that this traditional Chinese health product, used for insomnia, contains excessive levels of the heavy metal mercury. **4. Lipro Diet Pills; Xiyouji Qingzhi weight loss capsules** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these weight loss products contain an unauthorized drug (sibutramine). **5. AdvanceMen capsules; Miraculous Evil Root tablets** The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that these sexual enhancement products contain either a prescription drug (sildenafil) or an unauthorized drug (sulfoildenafil).
- Health Canada June/12 **1. African Black Ant; France T253; Hard Ten Days; Man King; Stree Overlord** : The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that these sexual enhancement products contain prescription drugs (sildenafil). One product also contains tadalafil. **2. RegenArouse; RegenErect**: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed of a recall because these sexual enhancement products contain a prescription drug (tadalafil). **3. Mince Belle; Everlax; Ever Slim; Ever Slim Shake Mix (Strawberry); Ever Slim Shake Mix (Chocolate); Acai-Man Mangosteen Herbal Drink; Perfect Men**: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed of a recall because these weight loss and sexual enhancement products contain prescription drugs (sibutramine or tadalafil). **4. Japan Weight Loss Blue, Japan Rapid Weight Loss Diet Pills Green; Japan Rapid Weight Loss Diet Pills Yellow**: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that these weight loss products contain prescription drugs (sibutramine, ephedrine alkaloids) and unauthorized drugs (phenolphthalein, and substances similar to sibutramine). **5. Koff & Kold; Kold Sore**: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed of a recall because these cough and cold products were found to be non-sterile. **6. Ling Zhi She Xiang Tong Mai Dan**: The Hong Kong Department of Health warned this health product contains a prescription drug (dexamethasone). **7. Q & N Omega Tree**: The Singapore Health Sciences Authority informed of a recall after this product was found to contain controlled drug substances (cannabinol and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)).

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Jakkula M, Boucher TA, Beyendorff U, et al. A randomized trial of **Chinese herbal medicines** for the treatment of symptomatic hepatitis C. *Arch Intern Med*. 2004 Jun 28;164(12):1341-6.

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Kobak KA, Taylor LV, Warner G, Futterer R. **St. John's Wort** Versus Placebo in Social Phobia: Results From a Placebo-Controlled Pilot Study. *J Clin Psychopharmacol*. 2005 Feb;25(1):51-8.

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Laing C, et al. **Chinese herbal (Longdan Xierganwan)** uropathy and nephropathy. *Lancet*. 2006 Jul 22;368(9532):338.

Larsson SC, Wolk A. **Tea Consumption and Ovarian Cancer** Risk in a Population-Based Cohort. *Arch Intern Med*. 2005 Dec 12;165(22):2683-2686.

Lee IT, Chan YC, Lin CW, Lee WJ, Sheu WH. Effect of **cranberry extracts** on lipid profiles in subjects with Type 2 diabetes. *Diabet Med*. 2008 Dec;25(12):1473-7. Cranberry supplements are effective in reducing atherosclerotic cholesterol profiles, including LDL cholesterol and total cholesterol levels, as well as total : HDL cholesterol ratio, and have a neutral effect on glycaemic control in Type 2 diabetic subjects taking oral glucose-lowering agents.

León H, Shibata MC, Sivakumaran S, Dorgan M, Chatterley T, Tsuyuki RT. Effect of **fish oil** on arrhythmias and mortality: systematic review. *BMJ*. 2008 Dec 23;337

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Lim WS, Gammack JK, Van Niekerk J, Dangour AD. **Omega 3 fatty acid** for the prevention of dementia. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2006 Jan 25;(1):CD005379.

Lim Alissa, Cranswick Noel, South Michael. Adverse events associated with the use of complementary and **alternative medicine in children**. *Arch Dis Child archdischild183152 Online First*: 22 December 2010 doi:10.1136/adc.2010.183152. (Including 4 deaths when failure to use conventional medicine in favor of CAM therapies.)

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Liu ZL, Liu ZJ, Liu JP, Yang M, Kwong J. Herbal medicines for **viral myocarditis**. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2010 Jul 7;7:CD003711. Some herbal medicines may lead to improvement of symptoms, ventricular premature beat, electrocardiogram, level of myocardial enzymes, and cardiac function in viral myocarditis.

Liu ZL, Liu JP, Zhang AL, et al. **Chinese herbal medicines for hypercholesterolemia**. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2011 Jul 6;7:CD008305. Some herbal medicines may have cholesterol-lowering effects. Our findings have to be interpreted with caution due to high or unclear risk of bias of the included trials. (22 RCTs, n=2130, range of 1-6 months with mean duration 2.3 +/- 1.3 months, high or unclear risk of bias, no outcome data (too short & too small), no SAEs; **Xuezhikang** most commonly used; possible TC lowering (-0.90mmol/L vs inositol nicotinate)).

Linde K, Mulrow CD, Berner M. **St John's wort** for depression. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2005 Apr 18;(2):CD000448. CONCLUSIONS: Current evidence (37 trials) regarding hypericum extracts is **inconsistent and confusing**. In patients who meet criteria for major depression, several recent placebo-controlled trials suggest that the tested hypericum extracts have minimal beneficial effects while other trials suggest that hypericum and standard antidepressants have similar beneficial effects. As the preparations available on the market might vary considerably in their pharmaceutical quality, the results of this review apply only to the products tested in the included studies.

Linde K, Berner MM, Kriston L. **St John's wort** for major depression. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2008 Oct 8;(4):CD000448. The available evidence suggests that the hypericum extracts tested in the included trials a) are superior to placebo in patients with major depression; b) are similarly effective as standard antidepressants; c) and have fewer side effects than standard antidepressants. The association of country of origin and precision with effects sizes complicates the interpretation.

Macdonald R, Tacklind JW, Rutks I, Wilt TJ. **Serenoa repens** (Saw palmetto) monotherapy for benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH): an updated Cochrane systematic review. *BJU Int*. 2012 May 2. Serenoa repens. Adverse events were generally mild and comparable to placebo. Therapy **does not improve LUTS or Q(max) compared with placebo** in men with BPH, even at double and triple the usual dose.

MacFarquhar Jennifer K.; Broussard Danielle L.; Melstrom Paul; et al. Acute **Selenium** Toxicity Associated With a Dietary Supplement. *Arch Intern Med*. 2010;170(3):256-261.

Madisch A, et al. Treatment of irritable bowel syndrome with herbal preparations: results of a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, multi-centre trial. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2004;19:271-9.

Marcocci C, Kahaly GJ, Krassas GE., et al. for the European Group on Graves' Orbitopathy. **Selenium and the Course of Mild Graves' Orbitopathy**. *N Engl J Med* 2011; 364:1920-1931.

Marples, Brian November 1, 2007 -- Patients with prostate cancer should be warned against using over-the-counter prostate-related health supplements because these items could make normal prostate cells more sensitive than usual to the effects of radiation, researchers reported here at the 49th annual meeting of the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO). Researchers at William Beaumont Hospitals, Royal Oak, Michigan, United States, led by Brian Marples, PhD, Biology Radiologist, Department of Radiation Oncology, William Beaumont Hospitals, Royal Oak, Michigan, United States, tested three prostate-specific dietary supplements: Trinovin (red clover, biochanin A, formononetin, daidzein, genistein [phytoestrogen]), Provelx (lycopene, soy, saw palmetto, quercetin [phytoestrogen], selenium) and **ProstateRx (saw palmetto)**. Their findings indicated that ProstateRx and other similar health store items were problematic in patients undergoing radiotherapy.

Mazza M, Capuano A, Bria P, Mazza S. **Ginkgo biloba and donepezil**: a comparison in the treatment of Alzheimer's dementia in a randomized placebo-controlled double-blind study. *Eur J Neurol*. 2006 Sep;13(9):981-5.

McDonnell WM, Bhattacharya R, Halldorson JB. Fulminant Hepatic Failure After Use of the Herbal Weight-Loss Supplement **Exilis**. *Ann Intern Med*. 2009 Nov 3;151(9):673-674.

Medical Letter. Dehydroepiandrosterone (**DHEA**). Vol 47 (Issue 1208) May 9, 2005 p.37-38.

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Dec/07 said: **Xiao Qin Long Wan**, a cold and flu medicine; pain reliever **Chuan Xiong Cha Tiao Wan**; **Bai Tou Weng Wan**, sold for stomach problems, and **Xie Gan Wan**, used to treat stress may contain Aristolochic acid, which in unlicensed medicines was banned in UK in 1999

Melchart D, Linde K, Fischer P, **Echinacea** for preventing and treating the **common cold**. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2000;(2):CD000530. CONCLUSIONS: The majority of the available studies report positive results. However there is **not enough evidence to recommend a specific Echinacea** product, or Echinacea preparations for the treatment or prevention of common colds.

MHRA Aug 2011 issues warning over traditional Chinese medicines containing **Lei Gong Teng (tripterygium wilfordii)**

MHRA Dec/11 Health Sciences Authority in Singapore has issued a press release warning the public of four adulterated health products. **ATHRI-Eze** - is marketed as a traditional Chinese medicine and packaged in a bottle of 20 white capsules. **SEAR HEANG TIENCHI TU CHUNG WAN** - claims to treat rheumatic pain and backache and is sold in a bottle of 40 black pills with a red label. **CAP WIJAYA KUSUMA (AN KI IT)** and **WIKU JAHE KENCUR (AKUR MUJARAB)** - are promoted as Malay Jamu (postnatal) medicines, which are packed in foil sachets of brown powder and are labelled to treat rheumatoid and arthritic conditions. These four products have been found to contain undeclared pharmaceutical medicines. Ingredients found include: dexamethasone, furosemide, paracetamol, chlorpheniramine (also known as chlorphenamine), phenylbutazone, allopurinol & prednisolone.

MHRA Dec/11 In response to an urgent notice issued by MHRA, Bee Health Ltd has agreed to stop marketing FSC Black Cohosh 1000 mg due to concerns about the high dosage of black cohosh in the product. The MHRA advises consumers not to take the FSC Black Cohosh product as it equates to 50 times the dose approved for traditional herbal medicinal products used to relieve menopausal symptoms. It is not known what the risks or effects on the body could be associated with such a high level of Black Cohosh.

MHRA Jan/12 Consumers are advised not to take unlicensed **Butterbur (Petasites hybridus)** herbal remedies. Butterbur contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) which studies have shown can result in serious liver damage and organ failure. PAs have also been shown to lead to cancer in animals. Butterbur is most commonly used to treat migraine and hayfever. Butterbur products have been associated with cases of liver toxicity; 40 cases have been reported in the literature. Of these cases, nine were of acute hepatitis and two of the nine cases resulted in liver failure requiring transplantation. The cases of liver toxicity appear to have occurred with extracts of Butterbur where the PAs had been removed and only small amounts remained. There is some evidence that other constituents found in Butterbur such as the sesquiterpene constituents for example petasin may be implicated in the liver toxicity.

MHRA Feb/12 Herbal slimming products found to contain potentially dangerous undeclared pharmaceuticals: **Expelling Grease Slimming Abdomen, V12 Fruit Slimming, 100% Natural Weight Loss**

Coffee, Leisure 18 Slimming Orange Juice, Fashion Slimming Milk Shake, Langli, Ya Buk & Fruit and vegetables lose weight. MHRA has received advice from the Danish Medicines Agency that these unlicensed products have been tested and found to contain the Prescription Only Medicine Sibutramine.

MHRA Feb/12 has received advice from AGES PharmMed in Austria and the Danish Medicines Agency, warning that these unlicensed products have been tested and found to contain Tadalafil and/or Sildenafil: **AH Free/Reflexit, Stree Overlord, Man King, VigRX, Maxman, Maxman III, Viriya, & Imbiza for Men.**

MHRA Feb/12 Following a safety alert issued in October 2010 about slimming products containing Paiyouji the Agency has received a further complaint about a product called **'Paiyouji Plus - Fast Acting Slimming Tea'**. This product has been tested by the Agency and, as in the case of other Paiyouji products, found to contain sibutramine.

MHRA Mar/12 Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) **Anshen Bunao Pian** (Chung Lien Kulin Brand) has been found by the Department of Health in Hong Kong to contain 55 times the level of mercury permitted in China. Acute mercury poisoning can damage the neurological system and kidneys. The product is manufactured in mainland China and imported by Fung Wah (HK) Company.

Michel BA, Stucki G, Frey D, et al. **Chondroitins 4 and 6 sulfate** in osteoarthritis of the knee: a randomized, controlled trial. *Arthritis Rheum* 2005; 52:779-86. (InfoPOEMs: After 2 years of treatment, chondroitin sulfate had no effect on comfort in patients with severe degenerative arthritis of the knee. Compared with placebo, however, it appears that chondroitin may have a small protective effect on the joint. The clinical relevance of this effect not known. (LOE = 1b))

Mills E, Singh R, Ross C, Ernst E. Sale of **kava** extract in some health food stores. *CMAJ*. 2003 Nov 25;169(11):1158-9. (January 2002, Health Canada issued an advisory, followed by a ban in August 2002, on the sale of herbal kava. One month after the advisory, 22 (67%) of 33 health food stores approached were selling kava. Two months after the ban, 17 (57%) of 30 stores continued to sell kava. These findings demonstrate that health food stores may need to be better informed about the sale of restricted natural health products.

Miyasaka LS, Atallah AN, Soares BG. **Valerian** for anxiety disorders. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2006; 4:CD004515. This paper and [17**]

Miyasaka LS, Atallah AN, Soares BG. **Passiflora** for anxiety disorder. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2007; 1:CD004518.

Mischoulon D. Update and critique of **natural remedies as antidepressant treatments**. *Psychiatr Clin North Am* 2007; 30:51-68.

Nahas R, Moher M. **Complementary and alternative medicine** for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. *Can Fam Physician*. 2009 Jun;55(6):591-6. Chromium and possibly gymnema, appears to improve glycemic control. Fibre, green tea, and fenugreek have other benefits but there is little evidence that they substantially improve glycemic control. Further research on bitter melon and cinnamon is warranted. There is no complementary and alternative medicine research addressing microvascular or macrovascular clinical outcomes.

Nahas Richard, Sheikh Osmaan. **Complementary and alternative medicine** for the treatment of **major depressive disorder** *Can Fam Physician* June 2011 57: 659-663. (**St John's wort & exercise**)

Nahin RL, Pecha M, Welmerink DB, et al. Ginkgo Evaluation of Memory Study Investigators. Concomitant use of **prescription drugs and dietary supplements** in ambulatory elderly people. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2009 Jul;57(7):1197-205.

Nair KS, et al. **DHEA** in elderly **women** or **DHEA or testosterone** in elderly men. *N Engl J Med*. 2006 Oct 19;355(16):1647-59. (see also Pharmacist's Letter: Anti-aging Effects of DHEA. Dec/06) (n= 2yr 87 males, 57 women) Men who received testosterone had a slight increase in fat-free mass, and men in both treatment groups had an increase in BMD at the femoral neck. Women who received DHEA had an increase in BMD at the ultradistal radius. Neither DHEA nor low-dose testosterone replacement in elderly people has physiologically relevant beneficial effects on body composition, physical performance, insulin sensitivity, or quality of life. (InfoPOEMs: There is no evidence that supplementation with dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) or testosterone has any meaningful clinical benefit for older patients with low serum levels of those hormones. (LOE = 1b))

Newton KM, Reed SD, LaCroix AZ, et al. Treatment of vasomotor symptoms of menopause with **black cohosh**, multibotanicals, soy, hormone therapy, or placebo: a randomized trial. *Ann Intern Med* 2006;145:869-79.

Nieminen TH, Hagelberg NM, Saari TI, Neuvonen M, Laine K, Neuvonen PJ, Olkkola KT. **St John's wort greatly reduces the concentrations of oral oxycodone**. *Eur J Pain*. 2010 Jan 25.

Ngo MQ, Nguyen NN, Shah SA. Oral **aloe vera** for treatment of diabetes mellitus and dyslipidemia. *Am J Health Syst Pharm*. 2010 Nov 1;67(21):1804, 1806, 1808.

Ondrizek RR, Chan PJ, Patton WC, King A. Inhibition of human **sperm** motility by specific herbs used in alternative medicine (eg. St. John's Wort). *J Assist Reprod Genet*. 1999 Feb;16(2):87-91.

Ooi CP, Yassin Z, Hamid TA. **Momordica charantia** for type 2 diabetes mellitus. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2010 Feb 17;2:CD007845.

Papakostas GI, Mischoulon D, Shyu I, Alpert JE, Fava M. S-adenosyl methionine (S-AMe) augmentation of serotonin reuptake inhibitors for antidepressant nonresponders with major depressive disorder: double-blind, randomized clinical trial. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2010 Aug;167(8):942-8. These preliminary results suggest that **S-AMe can be an effective**, well-tolerated, and safe adjunctive treatment strategy for SRI nonresponders with major depressive disorder and warrant replication.

Parasampuria J, Schwartz K, Petesch R. Quality control of **dehydroepiandrosterone** dietary supplement products. *JAMA*. 1998 Nov 11;280(18):1565.

Peng CC, Glassman PA, Trilli LE, et al. Incidence and severity of **potential drug-dietary supplement interactions** in primary care patients: an exploratory study of 2 outpatient practices. *Arch Intern Med*. 2004 Mar 22;164(6):630-6.

Perri D, Dugoua JJ, Mills E, Koren G. Safety & efficacy of echinacea (*E. angustifolia*, *purpurea* & *pallida*) during pregnancy & lactation. *Can J Clin Pharmacol*. 2006 Fall;13(3):e262-7. Epub 2006 Nov 3.

Perry, Rachel, Hunt, Katherine, Ernst, Edzard. Nutritional Supplements and Other Complementary Medicines for **Infantile Colic**: A Systematic Review. *Pediatrics* 2011 127: 720-733

Pharmacist's Letter: Health Benefits of Drinking **Green Tea**. Nov 2006.

Pharmacist's Letter. Is **Chondroitin** effective for Osteoarthritis. June 2007. (Best evidence is with glucosamine sulfate called DONA by Rotta Pharmaceuticals)

Pharmacist's Letter. **New Health Canada Rules Allow More Health Claims for Natural Products**. April 2008.

Pharmacist's Letter. **Hawthorn for Heart Failure**. April 2008.

Pharmacist's Letter. **Flaxseed**: Is It As Beneficial As Fish Oil? July 2009.

Pharmacist's Letter. **Supplements for Prevention and Treatment of Colds and Influenza**. Nov 2009.

Pittler MH, Ernst E. **Horse chestnut** seed extract for chronic venous insufficiency. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2006 Jan 25;(1):CD003230. The evidence presented implies that HCSE is an efficacious & safe short-term treatment for CVI. However, several caveats exist and more rigorous RCTs are required to confirm the efficacy of this treatment option.

Pittler MH, Ernst E. **Kava** extract for treating anxiety. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2003;(1):CD003383. CONCLUSIONS: Compared with placebo, kava extract appears to be an effective symptomatic treatment option for anxiety. The data available from the reviewed studies suggest that kava is relatively safe for short-term treatment (1 to 24 weeks), although more information is required. Further rigorous investigations, particularly into the long-term safety profile of kava are warranted.

Pittler MH, Ernst E. **Feverfew** for preventing migraine. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2004;(1):CD002286. CONCLUSIONS: There is insufficient evidence from randomised, double-blind trials to suggest an effect of feverfew over & above placebo for preventing migraine. It appears from the data reviewed that feverfew presents no major safety problems.

Pittler MH, Guo R, Ernst E. **Hawthorn extract** for treating chronic heart failure. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2008; DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD005312.pub2. (Not included in the review was the survival and Prognosis: Investigation of Crataegus Extract WS1442 in CHF (**SPICE**) trial, which was ongoing as Pittler et al were screening relevant trials. As reported by heartwire when the study was later presented at the American College of Cardiology 2007 Scientific Sessions, adding the herbal to ACE inhibitors, beta blockers, and other components of contemporary therapy failed to alter a composite primary end point that included sudden cardiac death, death due to progressive heart failure, fatal or nonfatal MI, and HF hospitalization at 24 months. The trial did support hawthorn extract's good safety record, however.)

Portnoi G, Chng LA, et al. Prospective comparative study of the safety & effectiveness of **ginger** for the treatment of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2003 Nov;189(5):1374-7.

Predy GN, Goel V, Lovlin R, et al. Efficacy of an extract of North American **ginseng (Cold-fx)** containing poly-furanosyl-pyranosyl-saccharides for preventing upper respiratory tract infections: a randomized controlled trial. *CMAJ*. 2005 Oct 25;173(9):1043-8. INTERPRETATION: Ingestion of a poly-furanosyl-pyranosyl-saccharide-rich extract of the roots of North American ginseng in a moderate dose **400mg (2 capsules) over 4 months** reduced the mean number of colds per person (0.99 vs 0.71), the proportion of subjects who experienced 2 or more colds (24.8 vs 10%), the severity of symptoms and the number of days cold symptoms were reported (from 11.1 days to only 8.7 days). The number of people with 1 cold was 64.4 vs 56.1% with Cold-FX in **healthy** 18-65yrs old (mean 43yrs), n=323 with a history of at least 2 colds in the previous year. Limitations: not virologically proven influenza or more typical common cold illnesses studied will be important in the future, only most severe illnesses were evaluated, mechanism of action & true active constituents are not known.

Qato DM, Alexander GC, et al. Use of **prescription & over-the-counter medications and dietary supplements** among older adults in the United States. *JAMA*. 2008 Dec 24;300(24):2867-78.

Qiu GX, Weng XS, Zhang K, et al. [A multi-central, randomized, controlled clinical trial of **glucosamine** hydrochloride/sulfate in the treatment of knee osteoarthritis.] *Zhonghua Yi Xue Za Zhi*. 2005 Nov;85(43):3067-70.

Quinn JF.; Raman R,Thomas RG.; et al. **Docosahexaenoic Acid (DHA) Supplementation** and Cognitive Decline in Alzheimer Disease: A Randomized Trial. *JAMA*. 2010;304(17):1903-1911.

Rambaldi A, Jacobs BP, Iaquinio G. **Milk thistle** for alcoholic and/or hepatitis B or C virus liver diseases. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2005 Apr 18;(2):CD003620. CONCLUSIONS: Our results question the beneficial effects of milk thistle for patients with alcoholic and/or hepatitis B or C virus liver diseases and highlight the lack of high-quality evidence to support this intervention. Adequately conducted and reported randomised clinical trials on milk thistle versus placebo are needed.

Ravindran AV, Lam RW, Filteau MJ, et al. Canadian Network for Mood and Anxiety Treatments (**CANMAT**) clinical guidelines for the management of major depressive disorder in adults. V. Complementary and alternative medicine treatments. *J Affect Disord*. 2009 Aug 8. [Epub ahead of print]

Red yeast: Most clinical studies have used a specific brand product (Cholestin). However, most other red yeast brands contain similar amount of red yeast, 600 mg. For hypercholesterolemia, a typical dose of red yeast is 1200 mg twice daily with food (2624). A total daily dose of 2400 mg red yeast contains approximately 9.6 mg total statins, of which 7.2 mg is lovastatin (2624). For dyslipidemia related to HIV infection, 1200 mg twice daily has been used (9475). www.naturaldatabase.com

Reeds Dominic N., Patterson Bruce W., Okunade Adewole, et al. **Ginseng and Ginsenoside** Re Do Not Improve β -Cell Function or Insulin Sensitivity in Overweight and Obese Subjects With Impaired Glucose Tolerance or Diabetes. *Diabetes Care* May 2011 34:1071-1076; published ahead of print March 16, 2011, doi:10.2337/dc10-2299

Reginster JY, Deroisy R, Rovati LC, et al. Long-term effects of **glucosamine** sulphate on osteoarthritis progression: a randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial. *Lancet* 2001; 357: 251-56.

Reichenbach S, et al. **Meta-analysis: chondroitin** for osteoarthritis of the knee or hip. *Ann Intern Med*. 2007 Apr 17;146(8):580-90. Large-scale, methodologically sound trials indicate that the symptomatic benefit of chondroitin is minimal or nonexistent.

Reinhart KM, Coleman CI, Teevan C, et al. Effects of **garlic on blood pressure** in patients with and without systolic hypertension: a meta-analysis. *Ann Pharmacother*. 2008 Dec;42(12):1766-71. Epub 2008 Nov 18. This meta-analysis suggests that garlic is associated with blood pressure reductions in patients with an elevated SBP although not in those without elevated SBP.

Richy F, et al. Structural and symptomatic efficacy of **glucosamine and chondroitin** in knee osteoarthritis: a comprehensive meta-analysis. *Arch Intern Med*. 2003 Jul 14;163(13):1514-22.

Ringdahl E, Pandit S. Treatment of **Knee Osteoarthritis**. *Am Fam Physician*. 2011;83(11):1287-1292.

Rockwell S, Liu Y, Higgins SA. Alteration of the effects of cancer therapy agents on breast cancer cells by the herbal medicine **black cohosh**. *Breast Cancer Res Treat.* 2005 Apr;90(3):233-9.

Roselle H et al. Symptomatic hepatitis associated with the use of herbal **red yeast rice**. *Ann Intern Med.* 2008; 149:516.

Rosenblatt M, Mindel J. Spontaneous hyphema associated with ingestion of **Ginkgo biloba** extract. *N Engl J Med.* 1997 Apr 10;336(15):1108.

Rowin J, Lewis SL. Spontaneous bilateral subdural hematomas associated with chronic **Ginkgo biloba** ingestion. *Neurology.* 1996 Jun;46(6):1775-6.

Rozendaal RM, et al. Effect of **glucosamine sulfate on hip osteoarthritis**: a randomized trial. *Ann Intern Med.* 2008 Feb 19;148(4):268-77. **Glucosamine sulfate was no better than placebo in reducing symptoms and progression of hip osteoarthritis.**

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191. vitamin E intake increases risks for all-cause mortality and prostate cancer.)

Additional Pediatric Dosing Information for Physicians & Pharmacists (from 2008-2009 Formulary – The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, Canada))

Aluminum & Magnesium Hydroxide	infant	2.5-5ml po q1-2h
	child	5-15ml po after meals & qhs
Bisacodyl		0.3mg/kg/dose po 6-12h before desired effect
Dextromethorphan		1mg/kg/day (÷ q6-8h)
Dimenhydrinate		5mg/kg/day po/IV/IM/pr (÷ q6h)
Diphenhydramine		5mg/kg/day po/IV/IM (÷ q6h)
Docusate Sodium		5mg/kg/day po (÷ q6-8h or single daily dose)
Iron – Treatment		6mg Fe ⁺⁺ /kg/day po OD (or ÷ TID)
Iron – Prophylaxis		0.5-2mg Fe ⁺⁺ /kg/day given OD (or ÷ BID-TID)
Lactulose - for Constipation		5-10ml/day po OD (double daily dose till stool produced)
Mineral Oil (Heavy)		1ml/kg/dose po HS (Avoid in <1 yr old)
Magnesium Hydroxide (MgOH) 80mg/ml (33mg elemental Magnesium/ml)		20-40 mg elemental Magnesium/kg/day po (÷ TID) –for treatment of hypomagnesemia
Polyethylene Glycol 3350 (Lax-A-Day)		Initial up to 1-1.5 g/kg/day x ≤3 days, then 0.4-1g/kg/day po (Max 17g/day)
Pseudoephedrine:	<2yrs	4mg/kg/day (÷ q6h prn)
Ranitidine – Treatment		5-8mg/kg/day po (÷ q8-12h) x8 weeks
Ranitidine – Maintenance		2.5-5mg/kg/day (given OD or divided bid)
Senna Syrup	2-5yrs	3-5ml/dose qhs
	6-12yrs	5-10ml/dose qhs
Senna Tablet	6-12yrs	1-2 tablets/dose po qhs
Sorbitol Syrup 70%		1.5-2ml/kg/dose po (Max 150ml/dose)

Taste of some medications – MgOH, docusate, lactulose - may be masked by giving with milk (chocolate mix), juice or infant formula.

References: ADHD Treatment Chart

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BENZODIAZEPINE (BZ) COMPARISON CHART

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Health Canada Feb/07 Health Canada is advising consumers not to use a product called **Sleepees**, because it was found to contain an undeclared drug **estazolam**, which can be habit-forming when used for as little as a few months. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2007/2007_16_e.html

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benzodiazepine abuse nearly tripled in the United States between 1998 and 2008, while overall admissions for substance abuse rose only 11 percent, according to a government study released Thursday. Benzodiazepines -- a class of drugs prescribed to treat anxiety, insomnia and seizure disorders -- include Valium, Halcion, Xanax, Ativan and Librium. Abuse of benzodiazepines, which were introduced in the 1950s to replace barbiturates, can lead to addiction, injury and death. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) study found that admissions for treatment of benzodiazepine abuse among patients 12 and older rose from 22,400 in 1998 to 60,200 a decade later. Benzodiazepine-related admissions accounted for 3.2 percent of all substance abuse admissions in 2008, compared with 1.3 percent in 1998.

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The use of antidepressants to treat depression in children and adolescents. *CMAJ*. 2006 Jan 17;174(2):193-200.) & (Hamada TA, et al. Suicidality in pediatric patients treated with antidepressant drugs. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 2006 Mar;63(3):332-9. CONCLUSION: Use of antidepressant drugs in pediatric patients is associated with a modestly increased risk of suicidality. InfoPOEMs: The use of antidepressant medications in children is associated with an increased risk of suicidal ideation and suicide-related behaviors. It is uncertain what overall effect antidepressant medications have on the morbidity and mortality of treated children. Close monitoring of patients using these medications regarding the risk of suicidality is recommended. (LOE = 1a-)) (Glaxo May/06 Meta analysis: 8958 paroxetine & 5953 placebo pts; suicidal behavior aged 18-24yrs (2.19 vs 0.92%); all ages (0.32 vs 0.05%); all were nonfatal suicide attempts; 8 of 11 attempts were in aged 18-30yrs) Emslie GJ, et al. 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Lower mortality was attributable to a decrease in cardiovascular- and cerebrovascular-related deaths during selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor use.) (Simon GE. The antidepressant quandary—considering suicide risk when treating adolescent depression. *N Engl J Med*. 2006 Dec 28;355(26):2722-3.) (Bhatia SK, Bhatia SC. **Childhood and adolescent depression**. *Am Fam Physician*. 2007 Jan 1;75(1):73-80.) (Bridge JA, et al. Clinical response and risk for reported suicidal ideation and suicide attempts in pediatric antidepressant treatment: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *JAMA*. 2007 Apr 18;297(15):1683-96. Relative to placebo, antidepressants are efficacious for pediatric MDD, OCD, and non-OCD anxiety disorders, although the effects are strongest in non-OCD anxiety disorders, intermediate in OCD, and more modest in MDD. Benefits of antidepressants appear to be much greater than risks from suicidal ideation/suicide attempt across indications, although comparison of benefit to risk varies as a function of indication, age, chronicity, and study conditions.) (Gibbons RD, Brown CH, Hur K, Mann JJ, Bhaumik DK, Mann JJ. Relationship between antidepressants and suicide attempts: an analysis of the veterans health administration data sets. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2007 Jul;164(7):1044-9. These findings suggest that SSRI treatment has a protective effect in all adult age groups. They do not support the hypothesis that SSRI treatment places patients at greater risk of suicide.) (Gibbons RD, Brown CH, Hur K, et al. Early Evidence on the Effects of Regulators' Suicidality Warnings on SSRI Prescriptions and Suicide in Children and Adolescents. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2007 Sep;164(9):1356-63. In both the

United States and the Netherlands, SSRI prescriptions for children and adolescents decreased after U.S. and European regulatory agencies issued warnings about a possible suicide risk with antidepressant use in pediatric patients, and these decreases were associated with increases in suicide rates in children and adolescents.

Hetrick S, Merry S, McKenzie J, Sindhaj P, Proctor M. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) for depressive disorders in children and adolescents. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2007 Jul 18;(3):CD004851. There was also evidence of an increased risk of suicidal ideation and behaviour for those prescribed SSRIs (RR 1.80, 95% CI 1.19 to 2.72). Fluoxetine was the only SSRI where there was consistent evidence from three trials that it was effective in reducing depression symptoms in both children and adolescents (CDRS-R treatment effect -5.63, 95% CI -7.38 to -3.88), and 'response' to treatment (RR 1.86, 95% CI 1.49 to 2.32). Where rates of adverse events were reported, this was higher for those prescribed SSRIs. While untreated depression is associated with the risk of completed suicide and impacts on functioning, it is unclear whether SSRIs would modify this risk in a clinically meaningful way. (Cheung AH, Zuckerbrot RA, Jensen FS, Ghalib K, Laraqou D, Stein RE; GLAD-PC Steering Group. Guidelines for Adolescent Depression in Primary Care (GLAD-PC): II. Treatment and ongoing management. *Pediatrics.* 2007 Nov;120(5):e1313-26.)

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Wheeler BW, Gunnell D, Metcalfe C, Stephens P, Martin RM. The population impact on incidence of suicide and non-fatal self harm of regulatory action against the use of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors in under 18s in the United Kingdom: ecological study. *BMJ.* 2008 Mar 8;336(7643):542-5. Epub 2008 Feb 14. The noticeable reduction in prescribing of antidepressants since regulatory action in 2003 to restrict the use of SSRIs in under 18s does not seem to have been associated with changes in suicidal behaviour in young people. Specifically, these data for England do not indicate that reductions in antidepressant use have led to an increase in suicidal behaviour.

Biddle L, Brock A, Brookes ST, Gunnell D. Suicide rates in young men in England and Wales in the 21st century: time trend study. *BMJ.* 2008 Mar 8;336(7643):539-42. Epub 2008 Feb 14. Suicide rates in young men have declined markedly in the past 10 years in England and Wales. Reductions in key risk factors for suicide, such as unemployment, might be contributing to lower rates.

Barbui C, Esposito E, Cipriani A. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and risk of suicide: a systematic review of observational studies. *CMAJ.* 2009 Feb 3;180(3):291-7. Based on data from observational studies, use of SSRIs may be associated with a reduced risk of suicide in adults with depression. Among adolescents, use of SSRIs may increase suicidality.

Stone Marc, Laughren Thomas, Jones M Lisa, et al. Risk of suicidality in clinical trials of antidepressants in adults: analysis of proprietary data submitted to US Food and Drug Administration. *BMJ.* 2009;339:b2880. doi: 10.1136/bmj.b2880 (Published 11 August 2009) Findings showed eight completed suicides, 134 suicide attempts, 10 patients who had made preparations without attempting suicide, and 378 patients who had thoughts about suicide but had not acted on them. These results suggest that, compared with placebo, the risks of suicidality associated with antidepressants are strongly age dependent - the risk is raised in people under 25, not affected in those aged 25-64, and reduced in those aged 65 and older, say the authors.

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FDA: Oct/06 Letter regarding venlafaxine overdose concern http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2006/effexor_DHCpLetter.pdf

FDA: Aug/11 Antidepressant citalopram (Celexa, Forest Laboratories) should not be used in doses higher than 40 mg per day because of concerns that it can cause potentially fatal changes in heart rhythm.

FDA: Dec/11 Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor Antidepressants: Use During Pregnancy & Potential Risk of Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension of the Newborn <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm283696.htm>

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Health Canada Oct/08 Venlafaxine overdose warning http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2008/venlafaxine_hpc-cps-eng.php

Health Canada Feb/11 **Methylene blue injectable** in combination with serotonin reuptake inhibitors - Association with serotonin toxicity Cases of serotonin toxicity have been reported and published in association with the use of methylene blue injectable in patients exposed to drugs with serotonin reuptake inhibition properties.

Health Canada Jan/12: Lundbeck Canada, in collaboration with Health Canada, would like to inform you that the antidepressant **Celexa® (citalopram hydrobromide; also marketed as generics)**, should no longer be used at doses greater than **40 mg per day** due to study results indicating a dose-dependent potential for QT prolongation.

Health Canada May/12 is informing Canadians of a labelling update for the prescription drug **Cipraxel** (the brand name of the drug **escitalopram**) regarding a dose-related risk of abnormal heart rhythms. Cipraxel is used to treat depression and belongs to a family of drugs known as Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs). 10 mg per day is the maximum recommended dose for patients who: are 65 years of age or older, or have liver problems, or are taking the heartburn drugs omeprazole or cimetidine which can increase the blood level of Cipraxel. 20 mg per day is still the maximum recommended dose for most other patients.

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Trivedi MH, et al. **STAR*D** Study Team. Medication **augmentation** after the **failure of SSRIs** for depression. n=565 *N Engl J Med*. 2006 Mar 23;354(12):1243-52. CONCLUSIONS: Augmentation of citalopram (40-60mg/d) with either sustained-release bupropion (~267mg/d) or buspirone (~41mg/d) appears to be useful in actual clinical settings. **Augmentation with sustained-release bupropion** does have certain advantages, including a greater reduction in the number and severity of symptoms and fewer side effects and adverse events. (InfoPOEMs: Buspirone and bupropion SR added to citalopram (Celexa) are similarly effective for patients with depression who do not initially respond to citalopram alone. **Bupropion SR is somewhat better tolerated**. The study was limited by the lack of a placebo control group. (LOE = 1b))

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ANTIPSYCHOTIC COMPARISON CHART

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SEDATIVE COMPARISON CHART

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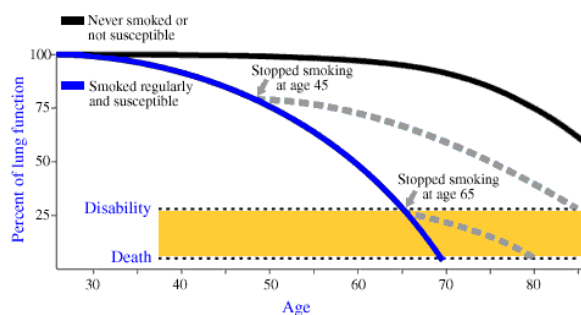
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Extras: **Rimonabant ACOMPLIA** –(not in Canada) cannabinoid receptor 1 blocker; 36% complete smoking cessation in final 4 wks of a 10 wk trial **Dose:** 20mg/d **SE:** nausea, **depression**, anxiety & ↓ weight. ^{xlviii,xlix,1??}Clonidine use Piper ME, Smith SS, Schlam TR, et al. A randomized placebo-controlled clinical trial of 5 smoking cessation pharmacotherapies. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2009 Nov;66(11):1253-62. {Nicotine lozenge, bupropion, and bupropion plus lozenge produced effects that were comparable with those reported in previous research, the nicotine patch plus lozenge produced the greatest benefit relative to placebo for smoking cessation.}

e-Cigarettes: 1) nicotine containing electronic cigarettes (misnomer as aerosolizing delivery device + cartridge). They are illegal in Canada. Current controversies with regulation in the USA. Counsel patients to avoid; alternate products/approaches available for smoking cessation. 2) Concerns: a) risk becoming starter product & skirt smoke free laws, b) potential toxicities, c) lack evidence for benefit as smoking cessation aid & strong potential to ↑ addiction, d) diversion of devices for use in delivering alternate drugs of abuse. e) short term use found to have adverse physiological effects, increased flow resistance and decreased FeNO. f.) toxic and carcinogenic compounds still delivered in e-cigarettes but in lower concentration than traditional cigarettes

Cytisine: Derived from an extract of golden rain acacia seeds; (1.5 mg oral tablets) in 740 adults who smoked ≥ 10 cigarettes/day and were willing to attempt to stop smoking permanently. Patients were randomized to cytisine vs. placebo for 25 days. The dose was 6 tablets for the first 3 days, followed by 5 tablets/day on days 4-12, 4 tablets/day on days 13-16, 3 tablets/day on days 17-20, and finally 2 tablets/day on days 21-25. All patients received minimal counseling during 4 clinical visits and 3 telephone calls over 12 months. Cytisine is currently available in Russia and Poland (at the equivalent of \$6 to \$15 per course).^{West 2011}

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Modified Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence

1. How soon after you wake up do you smoke your first cigarette?

- Within 5 minutes (3 points)
- 5 to 30 minutes (2 points)
- 31 to 60 minutes (1 point)
- After 60 minutes (0 points)

2. Do you find it difficult not to smoke in places where you shouldn't, such as in church or school, in a movie, at the library, on a bus, in court or in a hospital?

- Yes (1 point)
- No (0 points)

3. Which cigarette would you most hate to give up; which cigarette do you treasure the most?

- The first one in the morning (1 point)
- Any other one (0 points)

4. How many cigarettes do you smoke each day?

- 10 or fewer (0 points)
- 11 to 20 (1 point)
- 21 to 30 (2 points)
- 31 or more (3 points)

5. Do you smoke more during the first few hours after waking up than during the rest of the day?

- Yes (1 point)
- No (0 points)

6. Do you still smoke if you are so sick that you are in bed most of the day, or if you have a cold or the flu and have trouble breathing?

- Yes (1 point)
- No (0 points)

Scoring: 7 to 10 points = highly dependent; 4 to 6 points = moderately dependent; less than 4 points = minimally dependent.

FIGURE 1. Modified Fagerström test for evaluating intensity of physical dependence on nicotine.

Adapted with permission from Heatherton TF, Kozlowski LT, Frecker RC, Fagerström KO. The Fagerström test for nicotine dependence: a revision of the Fagerström Tolerance Questionnaire. *Br J Addict* 1991;86:1119-27.

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mild to moderate levels and tending to subside over time. Possible links with serious adverse events, including depressed mood, agitation and suicidal thoughts, have been reported but are so far not substantiated. There is a need for further independent community-based trials of varenicline, to test its efficacy and safety in smokers with varying co-morbidities and risk patterns. There is a need for further trials of the efficacy of treatment extended beyond 12 weeks. **Cytisine** may also increase the chances of quitting, but the evidence at present is inconclusive.

Cahill K, Stead LF, Lancaster T. **Nicotine receptor partial agonists for smoking cessation**. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2012, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD006103. Cytisine increases the chances of quitting, although absolute quit rates were modest in two recent trials. Varenicline at standard dose increased the chances of successful long-term smoking cessation between two- and threefold compared with pharmacologically unassisted quit attempts. Lower dose regimens also conferred benefits for cessation, while reducing the incidence of adverse events. More participants quit successfully with varenicline than with bupropion. Two open-label trials of varenicline versus NRT suggested a modest benefit of varenicline but confidence intervals did not rule out equivalence. Limited evidence suggests that varenicline may have a role to play in relapse prevention. The main adverse effect of varenicline is nausea, but mostly at mild to moderate levels and tending to subside over time. Possible links with serious adverse events, including serious psychiatric or cardiovascular events, cannot be ruled out.

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FDA Chantix/**Champix** Warning Feb/2008: 491 **suicide** reports; **39 completed**. **Canada: 46 psychiatric** adverse reactions reported from April 1-Nov23/07

FDA and Public Health Experts Warn About **Electronic Cigarettes** July,2009 Laboratory analysis of electronic cigarette samples has found that they contain carcinogens and toxic chemicals such as diethylene glycol, an ingredient used in antifreeze. <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm173222.htm>

FDA Aug. 2009 — Announced the launch of a new division, the **Center for Tobacco Products**, "in an historic effort to curb the hundreds of thousands of deaths caused by those products each year." The new center will oversee the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama in June 2009.

FDA May/11 has decided to oversee **electronic cigarettes** the same way it does tobacco products.

FDA June/11 drug safety communication: **Chantix (varenicline) may increase the risk of certain cardiovascular adverse events** in patients with cardiovascular disease.

FDA Quit Smoking package **images** 2011 <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/TobaccoProducts/Labeling/UCM259401.pdf>

FDA July/11 has approved an updated drug label for the smoking cessation aid Chantix (**varenicline**) to include information about the efficacy and safety of the drug in two patient populations who may benefit greatly from giving up smoking—those with cardiovascular disease and those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

FDA/Oct/11 has reviewed the results from two FDA-sponsored epidemiological studies that evaluated the risk of **neuropsychiatric adverse events** associated with the smoking cessation drug **Chantix (varenicline)**. Neither study found a difference in risk of neuropsychiatric hospitalizations between Chantix and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT; e.g., NicoDerm patches). However, both studies had a number of study design limitations, including only assessing neuropsychiatric events that resulted in hospitalization, and not having a large enough sample size to detect rare adverse events (see 10/24/2011 Drug Safety Communication below for more information). Healthcare professionals and patients should continue to follow the recommendations in the physician label and the patient Medication Guide,

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Harvard Study Confirms **Rise in Nicotine Delivery of Cigarettes** A reanalysis of data released last summer confirms that the nicotine yield from cigarettes increased about 11% from 1998 to 2005. A Harvard School of Public Health review of the data, which are annually reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health by cigarette manufacturers, was released online. It found the nicotine increase across brands from the four major manufacturers and in all categories of cigarettes, such as menthol and ultralight. The report said the nicotine boost was accomplished both by increasing the amount of nicotine in the cigarettes and by redesigning them to burn more slowly, so users take more puffs per cigarette. <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nicotine/trends.pdf>

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Health Canada July/07 Unauthorized Smoking Cessation Product **Resolve** May Pose Health Risk - Consumer Information. The product contains an unacceptable amount of an ingredient labeled as "CESTEMENOL-350." Consuming excessive amounts of this ingredient might result in damage to the kidney, liver or red blood cells.

Health Canada June/08 Pfizer Canada in collaboration with Health Canada would like to notify healthcare professionals of important safety information regarding **CHAMPIX**, and post-marketing reports of serious **neuropsychiatric adverse events**, including depressed mood, agitation, hostility, changes in behaviour, suicidal ideation and suicide, as well as worsening of pre-existing psychiatric illness (previously diagnosed or not). Since introduction of CHAMPIX in Canada, in April 2007 through April 30, 2008, a total of **226 Canadian cases** of neuropsychiatric adverse events have been reported. For the same time period, there have been **708 534 prescriptions filled** for CHAMPIX in Canada. All patients attempting to quit smoking with CHAMPIX, their families & caregivers should be alerted about the need to monitor for symptoms of neuropsychiatric adverse events. Patients should be instructed to stop taking CHAMPIX and contact their healthcare provider immediately if they have or if their families or caregivers observe depressed mood, agitation, hostility or changes in behavior, that are not typical for the patient, or if the patient has suicidal ideation or suicidal behavior. Patients with concomitant psychiatric conditions, even if well controlled, or with a history of psychiatric symptoms, should be diligently monitored.

Health Canada Mar/09 is advising Canadians not to purchase or use **electronic smoking products**, as these products may pose health risks and have not been fully evaluated for safety, quality and efficacy by Health Canada. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/_2009/2009_53-eng.php (FDA and Public Health Experts Warn About Electronic Cigarettes <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm173222.htm>)

Health Canada June/10 **CHAMPIX** (varenicline tartrate) - Changes to the Canadian Product Monograph - Pfizer Canada Inc. Changes include: 1- a boxed warning highlighting recommendations about neuropsychiatric adverse events, 2- a warning about rare reports of serious allergic and skin reactions, 3- a guidance for prescribers about information to be shared with their patients prior to and during treatment, and 4- an additional dosing option for CHAMPIX.

Health Canada Jan/12 is informing Canadians that our **review of Champix** is now complete and the label has been updated with new information with respect to cardiovascular safety. Champix (brand name for varenicline tartrate) is a prescription drug used to help patients quit smoking in combination with supportive counselling. Health Canada evaluated data from a quit-smoking clinical trial involving 700 smokers with cardiovascular disease (approximately 350 who received Champix and 350 who received a placebo or "sugar pills"). Cardiovascular disease is a broad term for any condition that affects the heart and/or blood vessels, including heart attack and stroke. Although a slightly increased number of patients experienced serious heart-related events in the group treated with Champix compared to the group treated with placebo, the study was not adequately designed to be able to test the cardiovascular safety of Champix. The small study size combined with other study design weaknesses make it impossible to draw conclusions based on these data. The possibility of an increased risk of heart attack or stroke in patients with cardiovascular disease can neither be confirmed nor ruled out at this time.

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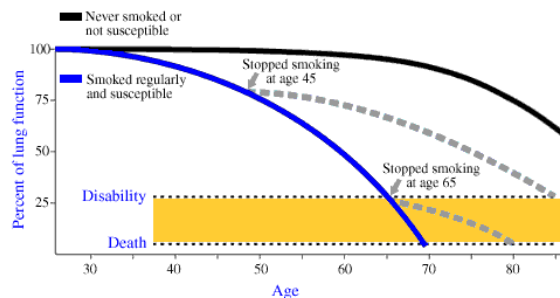
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May/09 **CNN**: The average potency of marijuana, which has risen steadily for three decades, has **exceeded 10 percent** for the first time, the U.S. government will report on Thursday. Scientists working for the government predict that potency, as measured by the drug's concentration of the psychoactive ingredient THC, will continue to rise. At the University of Mississippi's Potency Monitoring Project, where thousands of samples of seized marijuana are tested every year, project director Mahmoud ElSohly said some samples have THC levels exceeding 30 percent. Average THC concentrations will continue to climb before leveling off at 15 percent or 16 percent in five to 10 years, ElSohly predicted. The average THC for tested marijuana during 2008 was 10.1 percent, according to the government, compared to 1983 when it was reportedly under 4 percent. Even drugs seized at the United States' southwest border are showing increasing potency, the Office of National Drug Control Policy says. The median potency increased from 4.8 percent in 2003 to 7.3 percent in 2007. Marijuana from Mexico and other southern sources traditionally had lower THC content than other sources. <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/marijuana/index.html>
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Additional information about Mircera (Web-only)

<p>Methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta MIRCERA¹¹</p>  <p>Single-dose vials (solution): 50, 100, 200, 300, 400, 600, 1000 µg/mL</p> <p>Single-dose pre-filled syringes: 50µg/0.3mL, 75µg/0.3mL, 100µg/0.3mL, 150µg/0.3mL, 200µg/0.3mL, 250µg/0.3mL, 400µg/0.6mL, 600µg/0.6mL</p>	<p>✓ Tx of anemia with CKD</p> <p>Pre-filled syringes: sterile & do not contain preservatives. Store in fridge at 2-8°. (Do not freeze) Keep in original package to protect from light. Stable at room temperature ≤ 25° C for up to 1 month Allow to reach room temp. before inj.</p>		<p>SubQ in ND-CKD & PD-CKD; IV or SubQ in HD-CKD Not currently on ESA tx: 0.6 mcg/kg every 2 weeks as a single IV or SQ inj Pts on ESA: can convert to MIRCERA given once a month as a single IV or SQ inj. Monthly Mircera starting IV or SQ dose <small>mcg/monthly:</small> 120 <small>if <40 Aranesp or <8,000 Eprex</small>; 200 <small>if <40-80 Aranesp or <8-16,000 Eprex</small>; 360 <small>if >80 Aranesp or >16,000 Eprex (Aranesp in mcg/week, Eprex in IU/week)</small> Equivalent with IV or SQ. If Hgb target is reached, may give once monthly using a dose equal to twice the previous every two week dose.</p>	<p>✗ ⊗ Not on formulary. Not yet avail. in Canada, but NOC received Mar 2008</p>
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Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESA) in Anemia of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD): Therapeutic Alternatives

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FDA Feb/10 and Amgen notified healthcare professionals and patients that all ESAs must be used under a REMS risk management program. As part of the risk management program, a Medication Guide explaining the risks and benefits of ESAs must be provided to all patients receiving an ESA. Under the ESA APPRISE Oncology program, Amgen will ensure that only those hospitals and healthcare professionals who have enrolled and completed training in the program will prescribe and dispense ESAs to patients with cancer. Amgen is also required to oversee and monitor the program to ensure that hospitals and healthcare professionals are fully compliant with all aspects of the program. FDA is requiring a REMS because studies show that ESAs can increase the risk of tumor growth and shorten survival in patients with cancer who use these products. Studies also show that ESAs can increase the risk of heart attack, heart failure, stroke or blood clots in patients who use these drugs for other conditions.

FDA June/11 notified healthcare professionals that new, modified recommendations for more conservative dosing of Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents (ESAs) in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) have been approved to improve the safe use of these drugs. FDA has made these recommendations because of data showing increased risks of cardiovascular events with ESAs in this patient population. The new dosing recommendations are based on clinical trials showing that using **ESAs to target a hemoglobin level of greater than 11 g/dL in patients with CKD provides no additional benefit** than lower target levels, and increases the risk of experiencing serious adverse cardiovascular events, such as heart attack or stroke.
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Extras:

Oct/11 The FDA has granted accelerated approval for **deferiprone (Ferriprox)** to treat transfusion-related iron overload in patients with thalassemia who do not respond to prior chelation therapy. The drug, an oral iron chelator, is the first new treatment approved for this disorder since 2005, according to the agency. Agranulocytosis was noted in about 2% of patients in clinical studies. Other adverse effects included nausea, arthralgia, vomiting, neutropenia, and increased alanine aminotransferase levels.

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Red Flags for calciphylaxis?

Natural Products Database Search on phosphate-containing products:

Enemol Sodium Phosphate Enema (Dominion Pharnacal): Each 60 ml serving contains: Sodium Phosphate dibasic, heptahydrate 6 g. • Sodium Phosphate monobasic, anhydrous 16 g. Other Ingredients: Benzalkonium Chloride, Edetate Disodium, Purified Water. NPN 02096900.

Enema (HJ Sutton): Each 30 mL serving contains: Dibasic Sodium Phosphate 7 g (118 mL) • Monobasic Sodium Phosphate 19 g (118 mL). Other Ingredients: Benzalkonium Chloride, Disodium EDTA, Purified Water. NPN 02231170.

Kali Phosphoricum 6x (Thompson's Homeopathic Supplies Ltd): For 'stress and tension'. Potassium Phosphate 6X. Other Ingredients: Ground Corn Starch, Lactose. DIN-HM 00190101

Magnesia Phosphorica 6x tabs (Thompson's Homeopathic Supplies Ltd): Oral Laxative. Magnesium Phosphate 6X. Other Ingredients: Ground Corn Starch, Lactose. DIN-HM 00189995.

Natrum Phosphoricum 6x tabs (Thompson's Homeopathic Supplies Ltd.): Oral laxative. Each tablet contains: Sodium Phosphate 6X. Other Ingredients: Corn Starch, Lactose. DIN-HM 00190160

Naturally Sourced Calcium from Milk with Vit D and Magnesium (Immunotec Inc): Oral Laxative. Two tablets contain: Calcium Phosphate 250 mg • Magnesium 15 mg • Vitamin D (D3) 100 IU. Other Ingredients: Acacia Gum, Carmauba Wax, Croscarmellose Sodium, Hypromellose, Magnesium Stearate, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Polyethylene Glycol, Purified Water. NPN 02243453

New Era Biochemic Tissue Salt 10, 2, 6, 8 (Seven Seas Limited): Each tablet contains: Sodium Phosphate 6x 0.07 mcg. Other Ingredients: Acacia Gum, Lactose Monohydrate. DIN-HM 00169355.

New Era Combination F Biochemic Tissue Salts (Seven Seas Limited): Each tablet contains: Magnesium Phosphate 6x 0.0175 mcg • Potassium Phosphate 6x 0.0175 mcg • Silicon Dioxide 6x 0.0175 mcg • Sodium Chloride 6x 0.0175 mcg. Other Ingredients: Acacia Gum, Lactose Monohydrate. DIN-HM 00147028

New Era Combination G Biochemic Tissue Salts (Seven Seas Limited): Each tablet contains: Calcium Fluoride 6x 0.0175 mcg • Calcium Phosphate 6x 0.0175 mcg • Potassium Chloride 6x 0.0175 mcg • Sodium Chloride 6x 0.0175 mcg. Other Ingredients: Acacia Gum, Lactose Monohydrate. DIN-HM 00147036

New Era Combination N Biochemic Tissue Salts (Seven Seas Limited): Oral Laxative. Each tablet contains: Calcium Phosphate 6x 0.0175 mcg • Magnesium Phosphate 6x 0.0175 mcg • Potassium Chloride 6x 0.0175 mcg • Potassium Phosphate 6x 0.0175 mcg. Other Ingredients: Acacia Gum, Lactose Monohydrate. DIN-HM 00534862

Oral Laxative (HJ Sutton Industries): Each 1 tsp serving contains: Dibasic Sodium Phosphate 0.9 g. Other Ingredients: Glycerin, Sodium Saccharin, Sodium Benzoate, Purified Water. NPN 80003212

Phoslag: Oral Laxative (Odan Laboratories Ltd): Each one tsp serving contains: Dibasic Sodium Phosphate 0.9 g. • Monobasic Sodium Phosphate 2.4 g. Other Ingredients: Glycerin, Natural Ginger Flavour, Natural Lemon Flavour, Sodium Benzoate, Purified Water. NPN 80000669

Schuessler Tissue Salts General Debility Comb B (Martin & Pleasance): Oral Laxative. Each tablet contains: Calcium Phosphate 6.0 X • Ferrum Phosphoricum 6.0 X • Kali Phosphoricum 6.0 X. Other Ingredients: Anhydrous Calcium Hydrogen Phosphate, Lactose, Magnesium Stearate. DIN-HM 80003543

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Academic Detailing:

- BC CDUP: <http://www.cdup.org/>
- Dalhousie: <http://cme.medicine.dal.ca/ADS.htm>
- Pennsylvania (RxFacts.org): <http://www.rxfacts.org/detailing.php>

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- **Academic Detailing - Canada**

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ⁱ Groves KE, Sketris I, Tett SE. Prescription drug samples--does this marketing strategy counteract policies for quality use of medicines? J Clin Pharm Ther. 2003 Aug;28(4):259-71.

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Extras Continued:

Quotes

- ♦ "it takes more than 2½ minutes to assess a patient for a possible opioid prescription" ; a challenge, especially for busy walk-in and minor emergency types of practice
- ♦ "it takes only 30 minutes to argue, but only 30 seconds to write a Rx"; reflecting the realities and frustrations of everyday practice.
- ♦ "Its OK to say 'No'"
- ♦ "I didn't realize how big a problem Rx opioids were on the street"

UK Study Ranking - most harmful drugs: overall, to individual and to society.

- o Nutt DJ, King LA, Phillips LD: on behalf of the Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs. Lancet. 2010 Oct 29. Drug harms in the UK: a multicriteria decision analysis.
- o BACKGROUND: Proper assessment of the harms caused by the misuse of drugs can inform policy makers in health, policing, and social care. We aimed to apply multicriteria decision analysis (MCDA) modelling to a range of drug harms in the UK. METHODS: Members of the Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs, including two invited specialists, met in a 1-day interactive workshop to score 20 drugs on 16 criteria: nine related to the harms that a drug produces in the individual and seven to the harms to others. Drugs were scored out of 100 points, and the criteria were weighted to indicate their relative importance. FINDINGS: MCDA modelling showed that heroin, crack cocaine, and metamfetamine were the most harmful drugs to individuals (part scores 34, 37, and 32, respectively), whereas alcohol, heroin, and crack cocaine were the most harmful to others (46, 21, and 17, respectively). Overall, alcohol was the most harmful drug (overall harm score 72), with heroin (55) and crack cocaine (54) in second and third places. INTERPRETATION: These findings lend support to previous work assessing drug harms, and show how the improved scoring and weighting approach of MCDA increases the differentiation between the most and least harmful drugs. However, the findings correlate poorly with present UK drug classification, which is not based simply on considerations of harm. FUNDING: Centre for Crime and Justice Studies (UK).

Salvia leaves (magic mint, diviner's sage, sally D, purple sticky)

- o Member of mint family, smoked or chewed. Contains salvinorin A, a selective kappa opioid receptor antagonist: does not bind to 5HT_{2A} receptors like other hallucinogens. Halucinogen effects rapid & last <30min. SE: dysphoria, diuresis, chills, headache, insomnia, exhaustion, loss of control, impaired coordination & judgement (= DANGEROUS!). Sensationalized in SK by Saskatoon media DJ who smoked herb on live broadcast in Dec 2010.

Angel's Trumpet: (Angel's tears, Apple of Peru, Green Dragon, Devil's trumpet)

- o Alkaloid (atropine, scopolamine) containing flowers & stem. Each flower contains 0.2mg atropine & 0.65mg scopolamine; 3-6 flowers causes hallucinations; 9+ flowers can be life-threatening. Commonly ingested by making a tea. Effects in 1-4hrs; duration 24+hrs. SE: mydriasis, dry mouth, tachycardia, fever, erythema, constipation, ↑↑ thirst, retrograde amnesia & anxiety; arrhythmias & CV collapse / respiratory failure in high doses. (= DANGEROUS!)

"Bath Salts" PABS for abuse: are actually designer stimulants (e.g. methylendioxypropylone-MDPV, NRG-1; mephedrone-M-Cat, Meow, 4-MMC, Bubbles; methylone-methylenedioxyamfetamine, bk-MDMA,M1, Explosion) being sold in shops & online. Cloud 9, Ivory Wave, Vanilla Sky, Purple Wave, Blizzard, Blue Silk, etc. Common in UK, now USA via New Orleans, India, China.

Similar effects (↑HR, paranoia, psychosis) & tx as stimulants. May/11 CDC: MMWR- Emergency Department Visits After Use of a Drug Sold as "Bath Salts" --- Michigan, November 13, 2010--March 31, 2011 <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm60e0518.pdf>

Two common ingredients: MDPV (a dopamine & norepinephrine (NE) reuptake inhibitor → stimulant); mephedrone: MAOI effects that ↑ 5HT, NE, & DA at neuronal synapses (AEs: agitation, aggression, anxiety, bruxism, chest pain, confusion, diaphoresis, headache, hyperreflexia, ↑BP, N&V, palpitations, peripheral vasoconstriction, paresthesia, psychosis, seizure, ↑HR)

Sep/11: DEA invoked its emergency authority necessary to protect the public & will make Schedule 1 substances in 30 days from now.

Ross EA, Watson M, Goldberger B. Bath Salts Intoxication. NEJM. 2011 Sep 8;365(10):967-8.

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Synthetic Cannabinoids – common in herbal incense products

- Full agonists of CB1 & therefore ↑potential for overdose & toxicity
- ↑ association with seeking medical attention. AEs: agitation, altered time perception, anxiety, dysphoria, ↑BP, listlessness, hallucinations/psychosis, nausea, paranoia, seizures, tachycardia.

Videos – informational related to teen drug recreational drug use (for teens, by teens) - Canada

- ♦ Unwasted - 4 videos by teens regarding gambling, alcohol, marijuana, opioids/oxycontin: <http://unwasted.ca/>; or <http://unwasted.ca/the-pressures> (★★★★★)
- ♦ Mixing prescription drugs and alcohol. <http://itdoesntmix.ca/>
- ♦ Your when moment (videos from Nova Scotians): <http://changingtheculture.ns.ca/>

Videos – other

- ♦ Addressing the risk of diversion of Rx drugs; secure storage of medications. Powerful. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sunbJDZe1w> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sunbJDZe1w>

Guidelines of interest:

Buprenorphine/Naloxone for Opioid Dependence: Clinical Practice Guideline CAMH: http://www.cpso.on.ca/uploadedFiles/policies/guidelines/office/buprenorphine_naloxone_qdlns2011.pdf

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ED visits involving nonmedical use of benzodiazepines increased 89% during 2004-2008 (from 143,500 to 271,700 visits) and 24% during 2007-2008.

CDC July/11 Drug **Overdose Deaths** --- Florida, 2003—2009 http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6026a1.htm?s_cid=mm6026a1_x

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Health Canada Mar/11 **Salvia divinorum** (S. divinorum) is a species of sage belonging to the mint family. Some street names for S. divinorum include: Sally D, Lady Sally, Maria pastora, ska Maria pastora, ska pastora, diviner's sage, magic mint, puff, incense special, and salvia. Canadians are cautioned against the use of products containing S. divinorum and/or salvininorin A because these products are known to cause hallucinations and little is known about the long-term effects of these substances on the brain and body.

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Krokodil (desomorphin): roughly same effect as heroin but is at least three times cheaper & extremely easy to make. The active component is codeine, & addicts mix it with ingredients including gasoline, paint thinner, hydrochloric acid, iodine and red phosphorous, which they scrape from the striking pads on matchboxes.

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Organ Transplant Facts:

Canada: There were 2,083 solid organ transplants in Canada, as compared with 2,188 in 2007, according to Canadian Organ Replacement Register statistics (http://cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=AR3230_E&cw_topic=3230). The total number of organ donors also decreased, to 1038 from 1046 in 2007. Roughly 4380 Canadians were on waiting lists for transplants as of Dec. 31, 2008. — Sabrina Doyle, Ottawa, Ont. http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=media_20091222_e

Organ Donor Activity in Canada, 1999 to 2008 http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/products/CORR_AiB_EN_20091222_rev20100106.pdf

During the past decade, the number of organ donors in Canada increased from 812 to 1,038 per year; living donors accounted for 69% of this increase. While there were increases in organ donation during the past decade, the demand for organs also grew. For example, in the case of kidneys, the incidence rate of end-stage renal disease increased from 149 to 168 per million population. The availability of donated organs in Canada rose by more than one-quarter (28%) over the past decade, but this increase is not keeping pace with demand. More than 1,000 Canadians donated organs in 2008, up from 812 in 1999, according to a new study released today by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). With an increase in the number of Canadians with organ failure, combined with medical advancements that are keeping these patients alive longer, the results show an increase in the demand for organs. Last year, about 215 Canadians died while waiting for an organ transplant. A national paired exchange program has been launched for donor and recipient pairs who do not match as an initiative to maximize the number of live-donor organs available at <http://www.ccdt.ca/english/ldpe/index.htm> called the Living Donor Paired Exchange Registry (LDPE).

According to the Canadian Organ Replacement Registry's 2008 annual report, there were an estimated 33,832 people with end-stage renal disease in Canada at the end of 2006, an increase of 69.7% since 1997. Of these, 20,465 were on dialysis and 13,367 were living with a functioning kidney transplant.

US Dept of Health and Human Services: Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Data reports: <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/latestData/viewDataReports.asp>

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