PRODUCT UPDATE

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NEW PRODUCTS

Pyxis® Unveils Upgrade to Delivery System

Cardinal Health Systems has introduced a variation on its Pyxis® delivery systems. Pyxis MedStation has long been recognized for its benefits in improving patient medication delivery safety and controlling inventories. The new Pyxis DuoStation has the added functionality of being a medical supply delivery station. The ability to more easily and accurately capture charges for supplies compared to traditional "scan-and-run" approaches to supply acquisition also may be a benefit. According to Cardinal Health, a "one-stop" approach in gathering patient-specific medications and supplies provides for improved efficiency. However, this reviewer would caution that efficiency should not be the sole factor for purchasing a new system without careful evaluation. For example, in a large unit with multiple nurses queing at the same machine, the need to use one machine may be a hindrance to efficiency.

For more information on the DuoSystem as well as a separate Pyxis SupplyStation system, visit www.cardinalhealth.com.

Bra Designed for Women With Lymphedema

The Compression Comfort Bra by Bellise was designed for breast cancer survivors with chronic lymphedema. Unlike a mastectomy bra or surgical camisole, this bra was designed to provide gentle compression and, therefore, reduce swelling and pain related to lymphedema.

For more information, visit www.bellise.com.

Diagnostic Test Identifies Likely Source of Tumor

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted approval to Pathwork Diagnostic's Tissue of Origin Test, which assists in the identification of poorly differentiated tumors. Treatment delays or inappropriate treatment choices may result from the difficulty in identifying tumor origin when tissue samples reveal a poorly differentiated tumor. Knowing the tumor origin provides the ability to give more targeted therapy than the standard one-size-fits-all approach to metastatic tumors of unknown primary origin. The Tissue of Origin Test compares gene expression on tumor samples to 15 known tumor types and 60 morphologies in identifying a tumor's likely source of origin.

For more information, visit www.pathworkdx.com.

Delivery System Approved for Prostate Cancer Treatment

Watson Pharmaceuticals has obtained FDA approval for Mixject™, a delivery system for its palliative prostate cancer triptorelin pamoate (Trelstar®, Watson Pharmaceuticals) for injectable suspension. Mixject's features include needleless drug preparation, a smaller gauge needle for patient injection, and a shield to cover the needle before and after injections.

Trelstar is a leutenizing hormone-releasing hormone agonist and, as such, it serves as an alternative approach to treatment when orchiectomy or estrogen therapy are contraindicated or undesired approaches to suppressing testosterone production in patients with prostate cancer.

Device Monitors Drug Storage Temperatures

The Dickson Drug Recorder may help organizations ensure compliance with safety and regulatory requirements overseeing temperatures of refrigerators and freezers used in medication storage. The product is small, runs on one AA battery, and measures temperatures in the range of –22°F to +122°F. Functional attributes include an ability to easily print out temperature logs and monitor temperatures during off hours.

By providing continual data, the device may eliminate unnecessary drug destruction related to questionable temperature variances. For example, in the event of a refrigerator's loss of power, logs could be reviewed to determine whether medications were compromised.

For more information, visit www.dicksondata.com/results/result_725.php.

PHARMACY CORNER

Bortezomib Approved for Use in First-Line Setting

The FDA has granted approval for bortezomib to be used in the first-line setting for multiple myeloma. Previously, bortezomib was approved for use with multiple myeloma when at least one other therapy had been attempted.

Approval was based on an international, multicenter, open-label, active-control trial of 682 patients, which showed an improved time to progression (TTP) with the addition of bortezomib to standard MP (oral melphalan plus prednisone) therapy. The bortezomib and MP arm (n = 344) demonstrated a median TTP of 20.7 months compared to 15 months in the MP arm (n = 338) (hazard ratio: 0.54 [95% confidence interval: 0.42, 0.70], p = 0.000002).

Patients enrolled in the study received nine six-week cycles of oral melphalan (9 mg/m^2) on days 1–4 and prednisone 60 mg/m^2 on days 1–4. The bortezomib arm added IV bortezomib (1.3 mg/m^2) to the first four six-week cycles on days 1, 4, 8, 11, 22, 25, 29, and 32. This was followed by five additional six-week cycles with bortezomib given on days 1, 8, 22, and 29.

For more information, visit www.ons.org/news.shtml.

GlaxoSmithKline Submits Application for Casopitant

Armed with the results of two phase III studies demonstrating efficacy of casopitant (Rezonik™, GlaxoSmithKline) in preventing chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) when added to standard dexamethasone and ondansetron therapy, GlaxoSmithKline has submitted a new drug application to the FDA. Casopitant is an NK-1 receptor antagonist. Currently, aprepitant is the only FDA-approved NK-1 antagonist and is considered the standard of care in the prevention of CINV with highly

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