

The Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee approved and has recommended for approval to the Executive Committee of the Medical Board the following drugs:

Drug Name	Therapeutic Category
Oxcarbazine (Trileptal ® )	Antiepileptic
Ofloxacin (Floxin ® )	Antibiotic otic drops
Permethrin (Elimite ® )	Scabicide/pediculocide cream
Terbinafine (Lamisil ® )	Antifungal tablet

**Clarification:** In the last edition of the Pharmacy Newsletter it was stated that itraconazole (Sporanox ® ) was deleted from the formulary, only the oral form was deleted. Physicians may still prescribe itraconazole injection.

The Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee also approved the readmission of lansoprazole (Prevacid ® ) capsules to the formulary on a restricted basis. Because Prevacid ® can be given by NG tube its use will be restricted to those patients having an NG tube needing a proton pump inhibitor.



**The Question Corner (by Ira Dinerman, RPh, MS, Drug Information Specialist)**

Recently, a number of questions have been asked about mannitol injection in treating cerebral edema in children.

Mannitol works by drawing fluid from the brain by way of osmotic pressure. Fluid is drawn out of the brain and into the blood or intravascular space in an attempt to dilute the mannitol that is confined there.

Reabsorption of mannitol by the kidney is minimal and consequently the osmotic pressure of the glomerular filtrate is increased, the reabsorption of water in the renal tubule is inhibited promoting diuresis.

In order to be effective, renal function must be adequate enough for mannitol to

reach the tubule to exert its effects. Therefore, before a therapeutic dose of mannitol can be given, a test dose to assess renal function must be administered.

Two hundred milligrams per kilogram (maximum dose of 112.5g) is given over 3 to 5 minutes to produce a urine flow of at least 1ml per kilogram per hour for 1 to 3 hours. In the absence of this response mannitol cannot be given.

Once adequate renal function has been confirmed, an initial dose of 0.5 to 1g per kilogram is followed by a maintenance dose of 0.25 to 0.5g per kilogram every 4 to 6 hours. The dose may be given as a 15 to 20% solution over 30 to 60 minutes.

To prepare a 15% mannitol solution, add 50ml of mannitol 25% to 33.3ml of D5W.  
The 20% solution is prepared by adding 50ml of mannitol 25% to 12.5ml of D5W.

An unfortunate characteristic of mannitol is its tendency to crystallize. Always visually inspect all vials of mannitol for particulate matter prior to dilution and always use an in-line 5 micron filter during administration.

Mannitol solutions should not be mixed with potassium chloride or sodium chloride due to possible precipitate formation. Mannitol should also not be added to whole blood for transfusions because it may cause crenation and agglutination of the red cell content.

**JCAHO News:** JCAHO is now requiring hospitals to treat patients' pain. Every patient admitted to the hospital must have his pain measured regularly, just like his vital signs, and the pain must be relieved.

Adults will have their pain measured using a pain scale. The scale is rated from 0 to 10 with 0 being "no pain" and 10 "the worst pain imaginable". Advantages of this scale are its reproducibility, simplicity, and ability to detect small changes in pain severity.

Children can have their pain assessed using a Faces Pain Rating Scale. This scale depicts 5 sketches of facial features, each with a numeric value, ranging from a happy smiling face to a sad, teary face. To extrapolate this scale to the adult scale, multiply the value chosen by 2.

One of our own  
is leaving



The Department of Pharmacy is losing one of its most dedicated employees. Madiha Abdelmalak, RPh is retiring after 26 years of service. Mrs. Abdelmalak started working at SUNY Downstate in 1974 as a pharmacist. Because of her leadership qualities, she was promoted to Pharmacy Supervisor in 1987 and ultimately, Associate Director of Pharmacy in 1990. We will all miss her enthusiasm and sense of humor, but most of all, we will miss her commitment and dedication to patient care.