

Perindopril arginine DROP-List

Additional resources available:



Bulletin



Data pack



Audit
Patient letter

Weblink: <http://www.prescqipp.info/-perindopril-arginine/viewcategory/213>

Introduction

Across the PrescQIPP membership (20.3 million patients, Dec 2013) £681,528 is spent annually on perindopril arginine and branded Coversyl® (including Coversyl®, Coversyl® Arginine and Coversyl® Arginine Plus) (ePACT Dec 13). Switching to generic perindopril erbumine could release significant savings.

Key recommendations

- Commence new patients on perindopril erbumine, where perindopril is an appropriate angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor choice according to your local formulary.
- Review all patients on perindopril/Coversyl® Arginine and Coversyl® Arginine Plus preparations for suitability for switching to generic perindopril erbutamine. Switch all suitable patients to perindopril erbumine. As with all switches, these should be tailored to the individual patient.
- Caution is needed when selecting treatment on clinical prescribing systems to prevent inadvertent selection of perindopril arginine instead of perindopril erbumine.¹

Supporting evidence

- Perindopril arginine has no clinical benefit over perindopril erbumine³ and the same side-effect profile: asthenia (weakness), mood and sleep disturbances. This is in addition to the main side-effects for ACE inhibitors: persistent dry cough, angioedema, renal impairment, gastro-intestinal effects, altered liver function tests, pancreatitis, blood disorders. See BNF for more details.⁴
- The principal reason for the change in the Coversyl® Arginine formulation originally (from erbumine to arginine salt) was improved stability which makes it better suited to extremes of (the Australian) climate.⁵ The improved stability increases shelf life from two to three years.⁶ This is of minor consequence in the UK.
- See DROP-List (DRugs of IOw Priority) bulletin for further details on equivalence and switching advice.
<http://www.prescqipp.info/resources/viewcategory/171-drop-list>

References

1. Potential for confusion with new formulation of Coversyl®. 18th April 2008. NPC Rapid Review www.npc.nhs.uk/rapidreview Accessed 14.01.14
2. Drug Tariff online www.ppa.org/ppa/edt_intro.htm Accessed 13.01.14
3. Hughes D A, Ferner R E. New Drugs for Old: disinvestment and NICE. BMJ 2010; 340: C572
4. Joint Formulary Committee. British National Formulary. 66th ed. London: BMJ Publishing Group and Royal Pharmaceutical Society. December 2013 update. Available via NICE BNF app.
5. Kubler P. Editorial: New Drugs for Old. Aust Prescr 2006; 29: 148-9.
6. Telejko E. Perindopril arginine: benefits of a new salt of the ACE inhibitor perindopril. Curr Med Res Opin 2007 May; 23 (5): 953-60.

Costs and savings

Table 1: Price comparison of perindopril products²

Product (tablets)	Cost per 30 days
Perindopril erbumine 2mg	£1.43
Perindopril erbumine 4mg	£1.51
Perindopril erbumine 8mg	£1.63
Coversyl® Arginine 2.5mg	£4.43
Coversyl® Arginine 5mg	£6.28
Coversyl® Arginine Plus (Perindopril 5mg/indapamide 1.25mg)	£9.51
Coversyl® Arginine 10mg	£10.65

Switching from Coversyl® Arginine (perindopril arginine) to perindopril erbumine could save **£458,801 per year** across PrescQIPP membership (around 20.3 million patients). This equates to **£2,258 per 100,000 patients**.