

Take Precautions for Young International Travelers

BY GREG MUIRHEAD

Contributing Writer

MAUI, HAWAII — Foreign travel can pose particular dangers to infants and children. If it is important that young children travel internationally, specific precautions can reduce the risk of infectious complications and increase the likelihood that the trip will be safe and enjoyable, instructed Dr. Jay M. Lieberman.

In general, there should be risk assess-

ment for children traveling to other countries to determine the risks of the destination, mode of travel, and the special conditions of the traveler. Vaccinations should be given when indicated, and chemoprophylaxis should be used when appropriate, he added.

A key source of information for foreign travel is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site, www.cdc.gov/travel, Dr. Lieberman said at a meeting sponsored by the University Children's

Medical Group and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Common travel problems and preventives include sun hazards, countered by sunscreen; travel safety, enhanced with car seats and seat belts; mosquitoes, warded off by repellents and nets. Other problems may include animal bites, envenomation, sexually transmitted infections for adolescents, travelers' diarrhea, and altitude illness, Dr. Lieberman said at the meeting, which was also sponsored

by California Chapter 2 of the AAP.

Dr. Lieberman, professor of clinical pediatrics at the University of California, Irvine, provided the following advice on taking preventive measures prior to travel: **► Routine immunizations.** Review and complete the age-appropriate immunization schedule. DTaP, polio, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) conjugate, and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines may be given at 4-week intervals, if necessary, to complete the primary series before travel. Hepatitis B vaccine should be given if patients are not vaccinated already. "Infants 6-11 months old should receive one dose of measles vaccine—preferably monovalent," he recommended. Consider a second dose of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) and varicella vaccines before travel for children who have received only their first dose.

► Travelers' diarrhea. "Travelers' diarrhea is among the most common travel-related problem affecting young children," especially infants, he warned. This results from ingesting food and water contaminated by feces, and is caused by bacteria (85%), parasites (10%), and viruses (5%). For young infants, breast-feeding is the best way to avoid water- and food-borne illnesses. Otherwise, be scrupulous about washing hands and use only purified water in ice cubes and for drinking, brushing teeth, and mixing infant formulas. Avoid food from street vendors, raw or undercooked meat and seafood, and unpasteurized dairy products. Fresh fruits and vegetables must be adequately cooked or washed well and peeled. Other potential preventive measures include the use of probiotics and bismuth subsalicylate; antibiotics generally are not recommended for this purpose but may be brought along for empiric treatment, if needed.

► Malaria. "For chemoprophylaxis, the standard for a long time was chloroquine given weekly, but the emergence of resistance has dramatically limited its use," observed Dr. Lieberman. Options include mefloquine given weekly, although it has CNS side effects; doxycycline given daily, but not for children younger than 8 years; or atovaquone/proguanil given daily, but not for infants weighing less than 5 kg. Chemoprophylaxis should begin prior to travel and should be used continuously while in malaria-endemic areas and for 4 weeks (using chloroquine, mefloquine, or doxycycline) or 7 days (using atovaquone/proguanil) after leaving those areas. Detailed recommendations for preventing malaria are available 24 hours a day at 877-394-8747 or at the www.cdc.gov/travel Web site.

► Hepatitis A. Vaccination now is recommended routinely for all children, with the first dose at 12-23 months of age. Immune globulin is indicated for infants younger than 12 months; it can be given with the vaccine to ensure immediate protection if travel is imminent (although it's probably unnecessary, according to Dr. Lieberman).

► Meningococcal vaccine. The conjugate vaccination now is recommended routinely for all children aged 11-18 years. For

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Brief Summary of Prescribing Information (Nos. 1541, 1543, 1544, 3046, 7309, 7311) 03-5366-R24-Brf. Rev. July, 2004

PREVACID® (lansoprazole) Delayed-Release Capsules

PREVACID® (lansoprazole) For Delayed-Release Oral Suspension

PREVACID® SoluTab™ (lansoprazole) Delayed-Release Orally Disintegrating Tablets

Rx only

PREVACID® Delayed-Release Capsules, PREVACID® SoluTab Delayed-Release Orally Disintegrating Tablets and PREVACID® For Delayed-Release Oral Suspension are indicated for:

Short-Term Treatment (4 weeks) of Active Duodenal Ulcer

H. pylori Eradication to Reduce the Risk of Duodenal Ulcer Recurrence

Triple Therapy: PREVACID/amoxicillin/clarithromycin

Dual Therapy: PREVACID/amoxicillin

Who are either allergic or intolerant to clarithromycin or in whom resistance to clarithromycin is known or suspected.

Maintenance of Healed Duodenal Ulcers

Controlled studies do not extend beyond 12 months.

Short-Term Treatment (up to 8 weeks) of Active Benign Gastric Ulcer

Healing of NSAID-Associated Gastric Ulcer

In patients who continue NSAID use. Controlled studies did not extend beyond 8 weeks.

Risk Reduction of NSAID-Associated Gastric Ulcer

In patients with a history of documented gastric ulcer who require the use of an NSAID. Controlled studies did not extend beyond 12 weeks.

Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)

Short-Term Treatment of Symptomatic GERD

Short-Term Treatment (up to 8 weeks) of Erosive Esophagitis

For patients who do not heal with PREVACID for 8 weeks (5-10%), it may be helpful to give an additional 8 weeks of treatment. If there is a recurrence of erosive esophagitis an additional 8-week course of PREVACID may be considered.

Maintenance of Healing of Erosive Esophagitis

Controlled studies did not extend beyond 12 months.

Pathological Hypersecretory Conditions Including Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome

CONTRAINDICATIONS

PREVACID is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to any component of the formulation of PREVACID.

Amoxicillin is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to any penicillin. Clarithromycin is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to clarithromycin, erythromycin, and any of the macrolide antibiotics.

Concomitant administration of clarithromycin with cisapride, pimozide, astemizole, or terfenadine is contraindicated. There have been post-marketing reports of drug interactions when clarithromycin and/or erythromycin are co-administered with cisapride, pimozide, astemizole, or terfenadine resulting in cardiac arrhythmias (QT prolongation, ventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation, and torsades de pointes) most likely due to inhibition of metabolism of these drugs by erythromycin and clarithromycin. Fatalities have been reported.

(Please refer to full prescribing information for amoxicillin and clarithromycin before prescribing.)

WARNINGS

CLARITHROMYCIN SHOULD NOT BE USED IN PREGNANT WOMEN EXCEPT IN CLINICAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE NO ALTERNATIVE THERAPY IS APPROPRIATE. IF PREGNANCY OCCURS WHILE TAKING CLARITHROMYCIN, THE PATIENT SHOULD BE APPRISED OF THE POTENTIAL HAZARD TO THE FETUS. (SEE WARNINGS IN PRESCRIBING INFORMATION FOR CLARITHROMYCIN.)

Pseudomembranous colitis has been reported with nearly all antibacterial agents, including clarithromycin and amoxicillin, and may range in severity from mild to life threatening. Therefore, it is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who present with diarrhea subsequent to the administration of antibacterial agents.

Treatment with antibacterial agents alters the normal flora of the colon and may permit overgrowth of clostridia. Studies indicate that a toxin produced by *Clostridium difficile* is a primary cause of "antibiotic-associated colitis."

After the diagnosis of pseudomembranous colitis has been established, therapeutic measures should be initiated. Mild cases of pseudomembranous colitis usually respond to discontinuation of the drug alone. In moderate to severe cases, consideration should be given to management with fluids and electrolytes, protein supplementation, and treatment with an antibacterial drug clinically effective against *Clostridium difficile* colitis.

Serious and occasionally fatal hypersensitivity (anaphylactic) reactions have been reported in patients on penicillin therapy. These reactions are more apt to occur in individuals with a history of penicillin hypersensitivity and/or a history of sensitivity to multiple allergens.

There have been well-documented reports of individuals with a history of penicillin hypersensitivity reactions who have experienced severe hypersensitivity reactions when treated with a cephalosporin. Before initiating therapy with any penicillin, careful inquiry should be made concerning previous hypersensitivity reactions to penicillins, cephalosporins, and other allergens. If an allergic reaction occurs, amoxicillin should be discontinued and the appropriate therapy instituted.

SERIOUS ANAPHYLACTIC REACTIONS REQUIRE IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY TREATMENT WITH EPINEPHRINE, OXYGEN, INTRAVENOUS STEROIDS, AND AIRWAY MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING INTUBATION, SHOULD ALSO BE ADMINISTERED AS INDICATED.

PRECAUTIONS

General

Symptomatic response to therapy with lansoprazole does not preclude the presence of gastric malignancy.

Information for Patients

PREVACID is available as a capsule, orally disintegrating tablet and oral suspension, and is available in 15 mg and 30 mg strengths. Directions for use specific to the route and available methods of administration for each of these dosage forms is presented below. PREVACID should be taken before eating. PREVACID products SHOULD NOT BE CRUSHED OR CHEWED.

Phenylketonurics: Contains Phenylalanine 2.5 mg per 15 mg Tablet and 5.1 mg per 30 mg Tablet.

Administration Options

1. **PREVACID Delayed-Release Capsules**

PREVACID Delayed-Release Capsules should be swallowed whole.

Alternatively, for patients who have difficulty swallowing capsules, PREVACID Delayed-Release Capsules can be opened and administered as follows:

- Open capsule.
- Sprinkle intact granules on one tablespoon of either applesauce, ENSURE® pudding, cottage cheese, yogurt or strained pears.
- Swallow immediately.

PREVACID Delayed-Release Capsules may also be emptied into a small volume of either apple juice, orange juice or tomato juice and administered as follows:

- Open capsule.
- Sprinkle intact granules into a small volume of either apple juice, orange juice or tomato juice (60 mL – approximately 2 ounces).
- Mix briefly.
- Swallow immediately.

To ensure complete delivery of the dose, the glass should be rinsed with two or more volumes of juice and the contents swallowed immediately.

USE IN OTHER FOODS AND LIQUIDS HAS NOT BEEN STUDIED CLINICALLY AND IS THEREFORE NOT RECOMMENDED.

2. **PREVACID SoluTab Delayed-Release Orally Disintegrating Tablets**

PREVACID SoluTab should not be chewed. Place the tablet on the tongue and allow it to disintegrate, with or without water, until the particles can be swallowed. The tablet typically disintegrates in less than 1 minute.

Alternatively, for children or other patients who have difficulty swallowing tablets, PREVACID SoluTab can be delivered in two different ways.

PREVACID SoluTab – Oral Syringe

For administration via oral syringe, PREVACID SoluTab can be administered as follows:

PREVACID SoluTab – Nasogastric Tube Administration (≥ 8 French)

For administration via a nasogastric tube, PREVACID SoluTab can be administered as follows:

- Place a 15 mg tablet in a syringe and draw up 4 mL of water, or place a 30 mg tablet in a syringe and draw up 10 mL of water.
- Shake gently to allow for a quick dispersal.
- After the tablet has dispersed, inject through the nasogastric tube into the stomach within 15 minutes.
- Refill the syringe with approximately 5 mL of water, shake gently, and flush the nasogastric tube.

3. **PREVACID For Delayed-Release Oral Suspension**

PREVACID For Delayed-Release Oral Suspension should be administered as follows:

- Open packet.
- To prepare a dose, empty the packet contents into a container containing 2 tablespoons of **WATER. DO NOT USE OTHER LIQUIDS OR FOODS.**
- Stir well, and drink immediately.
- If any material remains after drinking, add more water, stir, and drink immediately.
- **This product should not be given through enteral administration tubes.**

Drug Interactions

Lansoprazole is metabolized through the cytochrome P₄₅₀ system, specifically through the CYP3A and CYP2C19 isozymes. Studies have shown that lansoprazole does not have clinically significant interactions with other drugs metabolized by the cytochrome P₄₅₀ system, such as warfarin, antipyrine, indomethacin, ibuprofen, phenytoin, propranolol, prednisone, diazepam, or clarithromycin in healthy subjects. These compounds are metabolized through various cytochrome P₄₅₀ isozymes including CYP1A2, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2D6, and CYP3A. When lansoprazole was administered concomitantly with theophylline (CYP1A2, CYP3A), a minor increase (10%) in the clearance of theophylline was seen. Because of the small magnitude and the direction of the effect on theophylline clearance, this interaction is unlikely to be of clinical concern. Nonetheless, individual patients may require additional titration of their theophylline dosage when lansoprazole is started or stopped to ensure clinically effective blood levels.

In a study of healthy subjects neither the pharmacokinetics of warfarin enantiomers nor prothrombin time were affected following single or multiple 60 mg doses of lansoprazole. However, there have been reports of increased International Normalized Ratio (INR) and prothrombin time in patients receiving proton pump inhibitors, including lansoprazole, and warfarin concomitantly. Increases in INR and prothrombin time may lead to abnormal bleeding and even death. Patients treated with proton pump inhibitors and warfarin concomitantly may need to be monitored for increases in INR and prothrombin time.

Lansoprazole has also been shown to have no clinically significant interaction with amoxicillin. In a single-dose crossover study examining lansoprazole 30 mg and omeprazole 20 mg each administered alone and concomitantly with sucralofate 1 gram, absorption of the proton pump inhibitors was delayed and their bioavailability was reduced by 17% and 16%, respectively, when administered concomitantly with sucralofate. Therefore, proton pump inhibitors should be taken at least 30 minutes prior to sucralofate. In clinical trials, antacids were administered concomitantly with PREVACID Delayed-Release Capsules; this did not interfere with its effect.

Lansoprazole causes a profound and long-lasting inhibition of gastric acid secretion; therefore, it is theoretically possible that lansoprazole may interfere with the absorption of drugs where gastric pH is an important determinant of bioavailability (e.g., ketoconazole, ampicillin esters, iron salts, digoxin).

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

In two 24-month carcinogenicity studies, Sprague-Dawley rats were treated orally with doses of 5 to 150 mg/kg/day, about 1 to 40 times the exposure on a body surface (mg/m²) basis, of a 50-kg person of average height (1.46 m² body surface area) given the recommended human dose of 30 mg/day (22.2 mg/m²). Lansoprazole produced dose-related gastric enterochromaffin-like (ECL) cell hyperplasia and ECL cell carcinoids in both male and female rats. It also increased the incidence of intestinal metaplasia of the gastric epithelium in both sexes. In male rats, lansoprazole produced a dose-related increase of testicular interstitial cell adenomas. The incidence of these adenomas in rats receiving doses of 15 to 150 mg/kg/day (4 to 40 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) exceeded the low background incidence (range = 1.4 to 10%) for this strain of rat. Testicular interstitial cell adenoma also occurred in 1 of 30 rats treated with 50 mg/kg/day (15 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) in a 1-year toxicity study.

In a 24-month carcinogenicity study, CD-1 mice were treated orally with doses of 15 to 600 mg/kg/day, 2 to 80 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area. Lansoprazole produced a dose-related increase of incidence of gastric ECL cell hyperplasia. It also produced an increase of incidence of liver tumors (hepatocellular adenoma plus carcinoma). The tumor incidences in male mice treated with 300 and 600 mg/kg/day (40 to 80 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) and female mice treated with 150 to 600 mg/kg/day (20 to 80 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) exceeded the ranges of background incidences in historical controls for this strain of mice. Lansoprazole treatment produced adenoma of rete testis in male mice receiving 75 to 600 mg/kg/day (10 to 80 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area).

Lansoprazole was not genotoxic in the Ames test, the *in vivo* rat hepatocyte unscheduled DNA synthesis (UDS) test, the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test or the rat bone marrow cell chromosomal aberration test. It was positive in *in vitro* human lymphocyte chromosomal aberration assays.

Lansoprazole at oral doses up to 150 mg/kg/day (40 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) was found to have no effect on fertility and reproductive performance of male and female rats.

Pregnancy, Teratogenic Effects.

Pregnancy Category B

Lansoprazole
Teratology studies have been performed in pregnant rats at oral doses up to 150 mg/kg/day (40 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) and pregnant rabbits at oral doses up to 30 mg/kg/day (16 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to lansoprazole.

There are, however, no adequate or well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Pregnancy Category C

Clarithromycin

See **WARNINGS** (above) and full prescribing information for clarithromycin before using in pregnant women.

Nursing Mothers

Lansoprazole or its metabolites are excreted in the milk of rats. It is not known whether lansoprazole is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from lansoprazole, and because of the potential for teratogenicity shown for lansoprazole in rat carcinogenicity studies, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatric Use

The safety and effectiveness of PREVACID have been established in pediatric patients 1 to 17 years of age for short-term treatment of symptomatic GERD and erosive esophagitis. Use of PREVACID in this population is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of PREVACID in adults with additional clinical, pharmacokinetic, and pharmacodynamic studies performed in pediatric patients. The adverse events profile in pediatric patients is similar to that of adults. There were no adverse events reported in U.S. clinical studies that were not previously observed in adults. The safety and effectiveness of PREVACID in patients <1 year of age have not been established.

1 to 11 years of age

The pediatric safety of PREVACID Delayed-Release Capsules has been assessed in 66 pediatric patients aged 1 to 11 years of age. Of the 66 patients with GERD 85% (56/66) took PREVACID for 8 weeks and 15% (10/66) took it for 12 weeks.

The most frequently reported (2 or more patients) treatment-related adverse events in patients 1 to 11 years of age (N=66) were constipation (5%) and headache (3%).

12 to 17 years of age

The safety of PREVACID Delayed-Release Capsules has been assessed in these 87 adolescent patients. Of the 87 adolescent patients with GERD, 6% (5/87) took PREVACID for <6 weeks, 93% (81/87) for 6-10 weeks, and 1% (1/87) for >10 weeks.

The most frequently reported (at least 3%) treatment-related adverse events in these patients were headache (7%), abdominal pain (5%), nausea (3%) and dizziness (3%). Treatment-related dizziness, reported in this package insert as occurring in <1% of adult patients, was reported in this study by 3 adolescent patients with nonerosive GERD, who had dizziness concurrently with other events (such as migraine, dyspnea, and vomiting).

Use in Women

Over 4,000 women were treated with lansoprazole. Ulcer healing rates in females were similar to those in males. The incidence rates of adverse events were also similar to those seen in males.

Use in Geriatric Patients

Ulcer healing rates in elderly patients are similar to those in a younger age group. The

incidence rates of adverse events and laboratory test abnormalities are also similar to those seen in younger patients. For elderly patients, dosage and administration of lansoprazole need not be altered for a particular indication.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Clinical
Worldwide, over 10,000 patients have been treated with lansoprazole in Phase 2-3 clinical trials involving various dosages and durations of treatment. The adverse reaction profiles for PREVACID Delayed-Release Capsules and PREVACID For Delayed-Release Oral Suspension are similar. In general, lansoprazole treatment has been well-tolerated in both short-term and long-term trials.

The following adverse events were reported by the treating physician to have a possible or probable relationship to drug in 1% or more of PREVACID-treated patients and occurred at a greater rate in PREVACID-treated patients than placebo-treated patients:

Treatment-Related Adverse Events in Short-Term, Placebo-Controlled Studies	Incidence of Possibly or Probably	
	PREVACID (N= 2768)	Placebo (N= 1023)
Body System/Adverse Event	%	%
Body as a Whole		
Abdominal Pain	2.1	1.2
Digestive System		
Constipation	1.0	0.4
Diarrhea	3.8	2.3
Nausea	1.3	1.2

Headache was also seen at greater than 1% incidence but was more common on placebo. The incidence of diarrhea was similar between patients who received placebo and patients who received lansoprazole 15 mg and 30 mg, but higher in the patients who received lansoprazole 60 mg (2.9%, 1.4%, 4.2%, and 7.4%, respectively).

The most commonly reported possibly or probably treatment-related adverse event during maintenance therapy was diarrhea.

In the risk reduction study of PREVACID for NSAID-associated gastric ulcers, the incidence of diarrhea for patients treated with PREVACID was 5%, misoprostol 22%, and placebo 3%. Additional adverse experiences occurred in <1% of patients or subjects in domestic trials are shown below. Refer to **Postmarketing** for adverse reactions occurring since the drug was marketed.

Body as a Whole – abdomen enlarged, allergic reaction, asthenia, back pain, candidiasis, carcinoma, chest pain (not otherwise specified), chills, edema, fever, flu syndrome, halitosis, infection (not otherwise specified), malaise, neck pain, neck rigidity, pain, pelvic pain; **Cardiovascular System** – angina, arrhythmia, bradycardia, cerebrovascular accident/cerebral infarction, hypertension/hypotension, migraine, myocardial infarction, palpitations, shock (circulatory failure), syncope, tachycardia, vasodilatation; **Digestive System** – abnormal stools, anorexia, borborygmi, cardiospasm, cholelithiasis, colitis, dry mouth, dyspepsia, dysphagia, enteritis, eructation, esophageal stenosis, esophageal ulcer, esophagitis, fecal discoloration, flatulence, gastric nodules/fundic gland polyps, gastritis, gastroenteritis, gastrointestinal anomaly, gastrointestinal disorder, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, glossitis, gum hemorrhage, hematemesis, increased appetite, increased salivation, melena, mouth ulceration, nausea and vomiting, nausea and vomiting and diarrhea, oral moniliasis, rectal disorder, rectal hemorrhage, stomatitis, tenesmus, thirst, tongue disorder, ulcerative colitis, ulcerative stomatitis; **Endocrine System** – diabetes mellitus, goiter, hypothyroidism; **Hemic and Lymphatic System** – anemia, hemolytic anemia, lymphadenopathy; **Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders** – gout, dehydration, hyperglycemia/hypoglycemia, peripheral edema, weight gain/loss; **Musculoskeletal System** – arthralgia, arthritis, bone disorder, joint disorder, leg cramps, musculoskeletal pain, myalgia, myasthenia, myositis; **Nervous System** – abnormal dreams, agitation, amnesia, anxiety, apathy, confusion, convulsion, depersonalization, depression, diplopia, dizziness, emotional lability, hallucinations, hemiplegia, hostility aggravated, hyperkinesia, hypertension, hypesthesia, insomnia, libido decreased/increased, nervousness, neurosis, paresthesia, sleep disorder, somnolence, thinking abnormality, tremor, vertigo; **Respiratory System** – asthma, bronchitis, cough increased, dyspnea, epistaxis, epistaxis, hiccup, hiccups, interstitial pneumonia, laryngitis, pleural disorder, pneumonia, respiratory disorder, upper respiratory inflammation/infection, rhinitis, sinusitis, stridor; **Skin and Appendages** – acne, alopecia, contact dermatitis, dry skin, fixed eruption, hair disorder, maculopapular rash, nail disorder, pruritus, rash, skin carcinoma, skin disorder, sweating, urticaria; **Special Senses** – abnormal vision, blurred vision, conjunctivitis, deafness, dry eyes, ear disorder, eye pain, otitis media, parosmia, photophobia, retinal degeneration, taste loss, taste perversion, tinnitus, visual field defect; **Urogenital System** – abnormal menses, breast enlargement, breast pain, breast tenderness, dysmenorrhea, dysuria, gynecostasia, impotence, kidney calculus, kidney pain, leukorrhea, pneumonia, menstrual disorder, penis disorder, polyuria, testis disorder, urethral pain, urinary frequency, urinary tract infection, urinary urgency, urination impaired, vaginitis.

Postmarketing
On-going Safety Surveillance: Additional adverse experiences have been reported since lansoprazole has been marketed. The majority of these cases are foreign-sourced and a relationship to lansoprazole has not been established. Because these events were reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events are listed below by COSTART body system.

Body as a Whole – anaphylactoid-like reaction; **Digestive System** – hepatotoxicity, pancreatitis, vomiting; **Hemic and Lymphatic System** – agranulocytosis, aplastic anemia, hemolytic anemia, leukopenia, neutropenia, pancytopenia, thrombocytopenia, and thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura; **Skin and Appendages** – severe dermatologic reactions including erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis (some fatal); **Special Senses** – speech disorder; **Urogenital System** – urinary retention.

Combination Therapy with Amoxicillin and Clarithromycin

In clinical trials using combination therapy with PREVACID plus amoxicillin and clarithromycin, and PREVACID plus amoxicillin, no adverse reactions peculiar to these drug combinations were observed. Adverse reactions that have occurred have been limited to those that had been previously reported with PREVACID, amoxicillin, or clarithromycin.

Triple Therapy: PREVACID/amoxicillin/clarithromycin
The most frequently reported adverse events for patients who received triple therapy for 14 days were diarrhea (7%), headache (6%), and taste perversion (5%). There were no statistically significant differences in the frequency of reported adverse events between the 10- and 14-day triple therapy regimens. No treatment-emergent adverse events were observed at significantly higher rates with triple therapy than with any dual therapy regimen.

Dual Therapy: PREVACID/amoxicillin
The most frequently reported adverse events for patients who received PREVACID t.i.d. plus amoxicillin t.i.d. dual therapy were diarrhea (8%) and headache (7%). No treatment-emergent adverse events were observed at significantly higher rates with PREVACID t.i.d. plus amoxicillin t.i.d. dual therapy than with PREVACID alone.

For more information on adverse reactions with amoxicillin or clarithromycin, refer to their package inserts, **ADVERSE REACTIONS** sections.

Laboratory Values

The following changes in laboratory parameters for lansoprazole were reported as adverse events:

Abnormal liver function tests, increased SGOT (AST), increased SGPT (ALT), increased creatinine, increased alkaline phosphatase, increased globulins, increased GGTP, increased/decreased/abnormal WBC, abnormal AG ratio, abnormal RBC, bilirubinemia, eosinophilia, hyperlipemia, increased/decreased electrolytes, increased/decreased cholesterol, increased glucoctricoids, increased LDH, increased/decreased/

Dexamethasone Fails to Benefit in Bronchiolitis

BY MARY ANN MOON
Contributing Writer

Dexamethasone neither prevented hospital admission nor improved the respiratory status of babies aged 2-12 months who presented to the emergency department with moderate to severe bronchiolitis, reported Dr. Howard M. Corneli of the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, and his associates.

The corticosteroid also did nothing to reduce the patients' visits to the hospital or to physicians during the week following the emergency department visit, the researchers said.

Treatment for bronchiolitis is controversial. An estimated 25% of babies hospitalized with the disorder are given corticosteroids, even though the agents' efficacy has never been established definitively.

Dr. Corneli and his associates assessed outcomes in 600 babies treated for a first episode of moderate to severe bronchiolitis at 20 emergency departments throughout the United States during flu seasons in 2004-2006. The patients were randomly assigned to receive oral dexamethasone or placebo, as well as any bronchodilators or other therapies that their treating physicians deemed necessary.

Four hours after treatment, the propor-

tion of patients admitted to the hospital for observation and further treatment was 40% in the dexamethasone group and 41% in the placebo group, a difference that was not statistically significant.

Similarly, there was no significant difference between the two groups in mean scores on a measure of respiratory distress 4 hours after treatment. For patients who were admitted to the hospital, there was no significant difference in length of stay between those who received dexametha-

sone and those who received placebo.

The two study groups also showed no significant differences in the rates of hospitalization, physician visits, or adverse drug reactions in the week following their emergency department visits, the investigators said (*N. Engl. J. Med.* 2007;357:331-9).

These results held true regardless of whether or not the babies had eczema or a family history of asthma, which indicates that the response to corticosteroids was no different whether or not they had atopy.

Because respiratory syncytial virus can cause bronchiolitis, the researchers assessed outcomes according to whether or not patients tested positive for the virus. Again, they found no significant difference in response to dexamethasone between babies who had the virus and those who did not.

Given these findings, "we recommend evaluation of other treatments and preventive strategies for bronchiolitis," Dr. Corneli and his associates said. ■

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children aged 2-10 years, only the polysaccharide vaccine is licensed.

► **Typhoid fever.** There are two "moderately effective" vaccines available: Ty21a live attenuated oral vaccine, given as a four-dose series on alternate days for persons 6 years of age or older; or Vi capsular polysaccharide vaccine, single dose, for persons 2 years of age or older.

► **Yellow fever.** This is endemic in equatorial Africa and South America, Dr. Lieberman noted, and proof of vaccination is required for entry in some countries. A live, attenuated virus vaccine is available. Vaccine side effects include headaches, myalgias, fever, and encephalitis. Infants are at increased risk for encephalitis from the vaccine. Travelers with infants younger than 9 months should be strongly advised to not travel to yellow fever-endemic areas.

► **Japanese encephalitis.** This is endemic in Southeast Asia, he said. Immunization for this is given as a series of three injections on days 0, 7, and 30, with a booster given 24 months later. Children aged 1-2 years receive a 0.5-mL dose. There may be associated local reactions and mild systemic effects such as fever, headache, and myalgias. For a short-term stay in an urban area, immunization is not recommended.

► **Rabies.** The decision to vaccinate should be based on the itinerary and expected activities. As prophylaxis, the vaccine should be given as a four-dose series of injections on days 0, 7, 21, and 28.

Dr. Lieberman disclosed that he has a financial relationship as a consultant and as a member of the speakers' bureaus for GlaxoSmithKline, Sanofi Pasteur, and Merck & Co. ■

BenzaClin^{topical gel}
clindamycin 1% - benzoyl peroxide 5% gel
Rx with confidence.

* Visible results seen at Week 2 of pivotal trial.
Reference: 1. Data on file, Dermik Laboratories.

BenzaClin[®] Topical Gel is indicated for the treatment of acne vulgaris.

Important Safety Information: BenzaClin[®] is well tolerated. Adverse events reported in clinical trials include dry skin (12%), application site reaction (3%), pruritus (2%), peeling (2%), erythema (1%), and sunburn (1%). BenzaClin[®] Topical Gel is contraindicated in those individuals who have shown hypersensitivity to any of its components or to lincomycin. It is also contraindicated in those having a history of regional enteritis, ulcerative colitis, or antibiotic-associated colitis. Diarrhea, bloody diarrhea, and pseudomembranous colitis have been reported with topical clindamycin. Discontinuation is recommended if significant diarrhea develops.

Please see brief summary of full Prescribing Information on next page.

DERMIK[®]
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