

Using a brush biopsy kit for oral cancer screening has high sensitivity and specificity and doesn't require local anesthesia.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION
These highlights do not include all the information needed to prescribe
Zipsor™ (dichorena cotassium) Uquid Filled Capsule safely and effectively.
See Zipsor full Prescribing information for complete usage and safety data.
Zipsor™ (dichofenac potassium) Liquid Filled Capsule
Rx Only
Initial U.S. Approval: [1996]

WARNING: RISK OF SERIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR AND GASTROINTESTINAL EVENTS

ardiovascular Risk Nonsteroidal anti-infla ardiovascular Risk Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) may increase the risk of serious cardiovascular (CV) thrombotic events, myocardial infarction and stroke, which can be fatal. This risk may increase with duration of use. Patients with cardiovascular disease or risk factors for cardiovas-cular disease may be at greater risk [see Warnings and Precautions]. Zipsor is contraindicated for the treatment of perioperative pain in the setting of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery [see Contraindications]. ations]. al Risk

NSAIDs increase the risk of serious gastrointestinal (GI) adverse read tions includes the two sectors of a sector of the store o CATIONS AND USAGE

INDICATIONS AND USAGE Zippor is indicated for relief of mild to moderate acute pain in adults (18 years of age or older). CONTRAINDICATIONS Zippor is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity (e.g., anaphy-actid reactions and serious skin reactions) to diclofenac [see Warnings and

Precautions]

Precautions): Zipsor is contraindicated in patients who have experienced asthma, urticaria, or other allergic-type reactions after taking aspirin or other NSAIDs. Severe, rarely fatal, anaphylactic-like reactions to NSAIDs have been reported in such patients [see Warnings and Precautions]. Zipsor is contraindicated for the treatment of perioperative pain in the setting of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery [see Warnings and Precautions]. Zipsor contrains gelatin and is contraindicated in patients with known hypersen-sitivity to bovine protein. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS Cardiovascular Thrombotic Events-Clinical trials of several COX-2 selective and nonselective NSAIDs of up to three years duration have shown an increased erisk of seriors cardiovascular (CQ) thrombotic events.

risk of serious cardiovascular (CV) thrombotic events, myocardial infarction, and stroke, which can be fatal. All NSAIDs, both COX-2 selective and nonselective, may have a similar risk. Patients with known CV disease or risk factors for CV disease may be at greater risk. To minimize the potential risk for an adverse CV event in patients treated with an NSAID, use the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration possible. Physicians and patients should remain alert for the

shortest duration possible. Physicians and patients should remain alert for the development of such events, even in the absence of previous CV symptoms. Inform patients about the signs and/or symptoms of serious CV events and the steps to take if they occur. Two large, controlled, clinical trials of a COX-2 selective NSAD for the treatment of pain in the first 10-14 days following CABG surgery found an increased inci-dence of myocardial infarction and stroke (see Contraindications). There is no consistent evidence that concurrent use of aspirin mitigates the increased risk of serious CV thrombotic events associated with NSAD use. The concurrent use of aspirin and an NSAD, such as diclofenac, does increase the risk of serious GI events [see Warnings and Precautions]. **Gastrointestinal (GI) Effects – Risk of GI Ulceration, Bleeding, and**

Perforation-NSAIDs, including diclofenac, can cause serious gastrointestinal (GI) adverse events including, bleeding, ulceration, and perforation of the stomach, small intestine, or large intestine, which can be fatal. These serious adverse

adverse events including, blebding, ubchadon, and perioritation on the sufficient, small intestine, or large intestine, which can be fatal. These serious adverse events can occur at any time, with or without warning symptoms, in patients treated with NSAIDs. Only one in five patients, who develop a serious upper GI adverse event on NSAID therapy, is symptomatic. Upper GI ulcers, gross bleeding or perforation caused by NSAIDs occur in approximately 1% of patients treated for 3-6 months, and in about 2%-4% of patients treated for one year. These trends continue with longer duration of use, increasing the likelihood of develop-ing a serious GI event at some time during the course of therapy. However, even short-term NSAID therapy is not without risk. Prescribe NSAIDs, including Zipsor, with extreme caution in patients with a prior history of ulcer disease and/or GI bleeding who use NSAIDs have a greater than 10-foid increased risk for developing a GI bleed compared to patients with neither of these risk factors. Other factors that increase the risk for GI bleeding in patients treated with NSAIDs include concomitant use of oral corticosteroids or anticoagulants, longer duration of NSAID therapy, smoking, use of alcohol, older age, and poor general health status. Most spontaneous reports of fatal GI events are in elderly of debilated patients, and therefore special care should be taken in treating this population. in treating this populatio

dige, alloy poor getterain interior status, musc sportmensor ropes clair care should be taken in treating this population.
To minimize the potential risk for an adverse GI event in patients treated with an NSAID, use the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible duration. Patients and physicians should remain alert for signs and symptoms of GI ulceration and bleeding during Zipsor therapy and promptly initiate additional evaluation and treatment if a serious GI adverse event is suspected. This should include dis-continuation of Zipsor until a serious GI adverse event is ruled out. For high risk patients, alternative therapies that do not include NSAIDs, should be considered. Hepatic Effects-Borderline elevations (less than 3 times the upper limit of the normal [ULN] range) or greater elevations (less than 3 times the upper limit of the normal [ULN] range) or greater elevations (less than 3 times the upper limit of the norming of liver ripury.
In clinical trials of a dicleferae - misoprostol combination product, meaningful elevations (i.e., more than 3 times the ULN) of AST (SGOT) occurred in about 2% of approximately 5,700 patients at some time during diclofenac treatment (ALT was not measured in all studies).
In an open-label, controlled trial of 3,700 patients treated for 2–6 months, pa-tients were monitored first at 8 weeks and 1,200 patients were monitored again at 24 weeks. Meaningful elevations (i-ALT and/or AST cocurred in about 2% of the 3,700 patients. In this open-label study, a higher incidence or bor-drine (less than 3 times the ULN), moderate (3–8 times the ULN) in about (>8 times the ULN) elevations of ALT or AST was observed in patients received (>8 times the ULN) elevations of ALT or AST was observed in patients received (>8 times the ULN) elevations of ALT or AST was observed in patients received indiciferia. When compared to other NSAIDs. Elevations in transaminases were detected

seen more frequently in patients with osteoarthritis than in those with rhe toid arthritis. Almost all meaningful elevations in transaminases were dete before patients became symptomatic.

toid arthritis. Almost all meaningful elevations in transaminases were detected before patients became symptomatic. Abnormal tests occurred during the first 2 months of therapy with diclofenac in 42 of the 51 patients in all trials who developed marked transaminase elevations. In postmarketing reports, cases of drug-induced hepatotoxicity have been report-ed in the first month, and in some cases, the first 2 months of NSAID therapy. 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. In a European retrospective population-based, case-controlled study, 10 cases of diclofenac associated drug-induced liver injury with current use compared with non-use of diclofenac were associated with a statistically significant 4-fold adjusted odds ratio of liver injury. In this paticular study, based on an overail number of 10 cases of liver injury associated with diclofenac, the adjusted odds ratio increased further with female gender, doses of 150 mg or more, and dura-tion of use for more then 90 days. Physicians should measure transaminases (ALT and AST) periodically in patients receiving long-term therapy with diclofenac, because severe hepatotoxicity may develop without a prodrome of distinguishing symptoms. The optimum times for

making the first and subsequent transaminase measurements are not known. Based on clinical trial data and postmarketing experiences, transaminases should be monitored within 4 to 8 weeks after initiating treatment with diclof-enac. However, severe hepatic reactions can occur at any time during treatment with diclofenae. If abnormal liver tests persist or worsen, if clinical signs and/ or symptoms consistent with liver disease develop, or if systemic manifesta-tions occur (e.g., eosinophilia, rash, abdominal pain, diarrhea, dark urine, etc.), discontinue Zipsor immediately. To minimize the possibility that hepatic injury will become severe between trans-aminase measurements, inform patients of the warning signs and symptoms of hepatotoxicity (e.g., nausea, fatigue, lethargy, diarrhea, pruntus, jaundice, right upper quadrant tenderness, and "flu-like" symptoms) and the appropriate action patients should take if these signs and symptoms appear. To minimize the potential risk for an adverse liver-related event in patients treated with Zipsor, use the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration pos-sible. Exercise caution when prescribing Zipsor with concomitant drugs that are known to be potentially hepatotoxic (e.g., acetaminophen, certain antibiotics, antiepipelipcis.). Caution patients to avoid taking uprescribed acetaminophen while using Zipsor.

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response to mese mergapies when taking NAUS. Congestive Heart Faiture and Edema-Fluid retention and edema have been observed in some patients taking NSADS. Use Zipsor with caution in patients with fluid retention or heart failure. Renal Effects-Use caution when initiating treatment with Zipsor in patients with

Renal Effects-Use caution when initiating treatment with Zipsor in patients with considerable dehydration. Long-term administration of NSAIDs has resulted in renal papillary necrosis and other renal injury. Renal toxicity has also been seen in patients in whom renal prostaglandins have a compensatory role in the maintenance of renal perfusion. In these patients, administration of an NSAID may cause a dose-dependent reduction in prostaglandin formation and, secondarily, in renal blood flow, which may precipitate overt renal decompensation. Patients at greatest risk of this reaction are those with impaired renal function, heart failure, liver dysfunction, those taking duretics and ACE inhibitors, and the elderly. Discontinuation of NSAID therapy is usually followed by recovery to the pretreatment state. No information is available fc inhibitors, and disease. Therefore, treatment with Zipsor is not recommended in patients with advanced renal disease. Therefore, treatment with Zipsor is not recommended in patients with advanced renal disease. If Zipsor therapy nust be initiated, close monitoring of the patient's renal function is advisable. **Anaphylactoid Reactions**-As with other NSAIDs, anaphylactoid reactions may occur in patients with the aspirin triad. This symptom complex typically occurs in astimatic patients with advanced renal disease and patients without known prior exposure to Zipsor is contraindi-cated in patients with the aspirin triad. This symptom complex typically occurs in asthmatic patients with advanced non as polype, or who exhibit severe, potentially fatal bronchospasm after taking aspirin or other

In astimultic patients who experience rhinitis with or without nasal polyps, or who exhibit severe, potentially tatal bronchospasm after taking aspirin or other NSAIDs (see Contraindications and Warnings and Precautions). Adverse Skin Reactions-NSAIDs, including dicidence, can cause serious skin adverse reactions such as exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS), and toxic epidermal neorolysis (TEN), which can be fatal. These serious events may occur without warning. Patients should be informed about the signs and symptoms of serious skin manifestations, and to discontinue Zipsor at the distance of chin probe on works rism of hunarsansitying.

and symptoms of serious skin manifestations, and to discontinue Zipsor at the first appearance of skin rash or any other sign of hypersensitivity. **Pregnancy-Starting at 30 weeks gestation.** Zipsor, as with other NSAIDs, should be avoided by pregnant women as premature closure of the ductus arteriosus in the fetus may occur. **Corticosteroid Treatment-Zipsor** cannot be expected to substitute for cortico-steroids or to treat corticosteroid insufficiency. Abrupt discontinuation of cortico-steroids or to treat corticosteroid therapy should have their therapy tapered slowly if a decision is made to discontinue corticosteroid. **Masking of Inflammation and Fever**-The pharmacological activity of diclofenac in reducing inflammation, and possibly fever, may diminish the utility of diag-nostic signs in detecting infectious complications of presumed noninfectious, painful conditions. **Hematological Effects-A**nemia may occur in natients receiving MCADe. This

ical Effects-Anemia may occur in patients receiving NSAIDs. This

may be due to fluid retention, occult or grooms fabloat scorm grant and the fabre of the described effect upon erythropoiesis. In patients on long-term therapy with NSADs, including diclofenac, check hemoglobin or hematocrit if they exhibit any signs or symptoms of anemia or blood loss. Zipsor is not indicated for long-term

signs or symptoms of anemia or blood russ. Lipsor is not increase to the symptoms of anemia or blood russ. Lipsor is not increase the treatment. NSADs inhibit platelet aggregation and have been shown to prolong bleeding time in some patients. Unlike aggin, their effect on platelet function, is quantita-tively less, of shorter duration, and reversible. Carefully monitor patients treated with Zipsor who may be adversely affected by alterations in platelet function, such as those with coagulation disorders or patients receiving anticoagulants. Use in Patients with Preexisting Asthma-Patients with asthma may have aspi-n-sensitive asthma. The use of aspirin in patients with asthma may have aspi-ne-sensitive asthma. The use of aspirin in patients with aspirin-sensitive asthma has been associated with severe bronchospasm which can be fatal. Since cross reactivity, including bronchospasm, between aspirin and other NSAIDs has been renorted in such aspirin-sensitive patients, Zipsor is contraindicated in patients reported in such aspirin-sensitive patients, Zipsor is contraindicated in patients with this form of aspirin sensitivity and should be used with caution in all pa-tients with preexisting asthma.

tients with preexisting asthma. Monitoring-Because serious GI tract ulcerations and bleeding can occur without warning symptoms, physicians should monitor for signs or symptoms of GI bleeding. For patients on long-term treatment with NSAIDs, periodically check a CBC and a chemistry profile. Discontinue Zipsor if abnormal liver tests or renal tests persist or worsen. Zipsor is not indicated for long-term treatment.

tests persist or worsen. Zipsor is not indicated for long-term treatment. **ADVERSE REACTIONS** The following serious adverse reactions are discussed elsewhere in the label-ing: Cardiovascular thrombotic events and gastrointestimal effects [see Boxed Warning and Warnings and Precautions] **Clinical Study Experience-**Because and Precautions] **Clinical Study Experience-**Because clinical trials or a drug varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared with the rates in clinical trials of a drug and not reflect the rates observed in princip. The safety of Zipsor was evaluated in 965 subjects. In patients treated with Zipsor 25 mg (N=343) or a higher dose, three or forur times a day, for 4 to 5 days, the most common adverse reactions (i.e., reported in ≥ 1% of Zipsor treated patients) were as follows: gastrointestinal experiences including abdominal pain, constipation, diartrea, dyspepsia, nausea, vontiting, dizines, headache,

patients) were as follows: gastrointestinal experiences including abdominal pati, constipation, diarrhea, dyspepsia, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, headache, somnolence, pruritus, and increased sweating. In patients taking other NSAIDs, the most frequently reported adverse experi-ences occurring in approximately 1%-10% of patients are: Gastrointestinal experiences including: abdominal pain, constipation, diarrhea, dyspepsia, flatulence, gross bleeding/perforation, heartburn, nausea, Gi ulcers (gastric/duodenal) and vomiting. Abnormal renal function, anemia, diziness, edema, elevated liver enzymes, headaches, increased bleeding time, pruritus, rashes, and timitus. se experiences reported in patients taking other NSAIDs oc-

Additional adverse experiences reported in patients taking other NSAIDs oc-casionally include: Body as a Whole: fever, infection, sepsis; Cardiovascular System: congestive heart failure, hypertension, tachycardia, syncope; Digestive System: dry mouth, esophagitis, gastric/peptic ulcers, gastritis, gastrointestinal bleeding, glossitis, hematemesis, hepatitis, jaundice; Hemic and Lymphatic System: echymosis, eosionphila, leukopenia, melane, purpura, rectab leeding, stomatitis, thrombocy topenia; Metabolic and Nutritional: weight changes; Nervous System: anxiety, asthenia, confusion, depression, dream abnormalities, drowsiness, insomnia, malaise, nervousness, paresthesia, somolence, tremors, vertigo; Respiratory System: asthma, dyspnea; Skin and Appendages: alopecia, photosensitiv-

Oral Cancer Screening Is Effective in Primary Care

BY BRUCE JANCIN

ESTES PARK, COLO. — A brush biopsy kit is highly useful for doing oral cancer screening when patients balk at being cut in the mouth or a physician is uncomfortable doing cold-steel biopsies. "This is a very effective tool you might want to have in your office. The sensi-

ity, sweating increased; **Special Senses:** blurred vision; **Urogenital System:** cystitis, dysuria, hematuria, interstitial nephritis, oliguria/polyuria, proteinuria, renal failure.

cystus, oysuna, nematurna, interstrutai neprintus, oiguna/polyuna, proteinuna, renal failure. *Other adverse reactions in patients taking other NSAIDs, which occur rarely are: Body as a Whole:* anaphylactic reactions, appetite changes, death; *Cardiovascular System:* arthythmia, hypotension, myccardial infarction, palpitations, vasculitis; *Digestive System:* colitis, eructation, liver failure, pan-creatitis; *Hemic and Lymphatic System:* agranulocytosis, hemolytic anemia, aplastic anemia, lymphadenopathy, pancytopenia; *Metabolic and Nutritional:* hyperglycemia; *Nervous System:* convulsions, coma, hallucinations, men-ingitis, *Respiratory System:* respiratory depression, pneumonia; *Skin and Appendages:* angloedema, txxic epidermal necrolysis, erythema multiforme, exfoliative dematitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, urticaria; *Special Senses:* conjunctivitis, hearing impairment *DRUG INTERACTIONS*

Conjunctivitis, hearing impairment DRUG INTERACTIONS Aspirin-When administered with aspirin, diclofenac's protein binding is reduced. The clinical significance of this interaction is not known; however, as with other NSAIDs, concomitant administration of Zipsor and aspirin is not generally recom-mended because of the potential of increased adverse effects. Anticoagulants-The effects of anticoagulants such as of warfarin and NSAIDs on GI bleeding are synergistic, such that users of both drugs together have a risk of serious GI bleeding higher than that with use of either drug alone. ACE-inhibitors-NSAIDs may diminish the antihypertensive effect of angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors. This interaction should be given consideration in patients taking zipsor concomitantly with ACE-inhibitors. Diartetise-Clinical studies, as well as post-marketing observations, have shown that NSAIDs can reduce the natriuretic effect of trussemitors (5.6)], as well as to source duretic effectary. Lithium-NSAIDs have produced an elevation of plasma lithium levels and a reduction in renal lithium clearance. The enam minimum lithium concentration increased 15% and the renal clearance was decreased by approximately 20%. These effects have been attributed to inhibition of renal prostaglandin synthesis. by the NSAID. Thus, when Zipsor and lithium textered concountant kinew been reported to competitively inhibitum textered concountant increased 15% and the renal clearance was decreased by approximately 20%. These effects have been attributed to inhibition of renal prostaglandin synthesis. by the NSAID. Thus, when Zipsor and lithium tare administered concurrently, observe patients carefully for signs of lithium mare administered concurrently. Cyclosporine-Dicidenac, like other NSAIDs, may enhance the toxicity of methotrexate. Cyclosporine-Dicidenac, like other NSAIDs, may effect renal prostaglandins and increase the toxicity of certain drugs. Therefore, concomitant therapy with Zipsor may increase cyc may increase cyclosporine's nephrotoxicity. Use caution when Zipsor is adminis-trend concomitantly with cyclosporine. Inhibitors or Substrates of Cytochrome P450 2C9 Other Considerations-Diclofenac is metabolized predominantly by cytochrome P450 2C9. Co-administration of diclofenac with another drug medication known to be metabolized by or that which inhibito. Stychcrome P450 2C9 may unpredictably affect the pharmacokinetics of diclofenac or the co-administered drug medication. Caution should be used to evaluate each patient's medical history when consideration is given to prescribing Zipsor [see Clinical Pharmacology in full Prescribing Information]. USE IN SPECIEP OPPII LATINS

Medical history when consideration is given to prescribing Lipsor [see Lillical Pharmacology in full Prescribing Information]. USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS Pregnancy-Treatogenic Effects: Pregnancy Category C prior to 30 weeks gesta-tion; Category D starting 30 weeks gestation. Starting at 30 weeks gestation, Zipsor, and other NSAIDs, should be avoided by pregnant women as premature closure of the ductus arteriosus in the fetus may occur. Zipsor can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman starting at 30 weeks gestation. If this drug is used during this time period in pregnancy, the patient should be apprised of the potential hazard to a fetus. There are no adeguate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Prior to 30 weeks gestation, Zipsor should be used during pregnant women. Prior to 30 weeks gestation, Zipsor should be used during pregnant women. Prior to 30 weeks gestation, Zipsor should be used during pregnant women. Prior to 30 weeks gestation, Zipsor should be used during pregnant women. Prior to 30 weeks gestation, Zipsor should be used during pregnant women. Prior to 30 weeks gestation, Zipsor should be used during pregnant women. Prior to 30 weaks gestation, Zipsor should be used during pregnant women. Prior to 30 weaks gestation, Zipsor should be used during bregnant would avaid to a fetus. Thera ere out to 10 mg/kg/day or 60 mg/m/Yady for rats. And 80 mg/m/Yady for rabbits, 1-fold and 2-fold an adult human daily dose of 100 mg/day, respec-tively, and hear revealed no evidence of teratogenicity despite the induction of maternal toxicity and fetal toxicity. In rats, maternally toxic doses were associ-ated with dystocia, prolonged gestation, reduced fetal weights and growth, and reduced fetal survival. Diclofena chas been shown to cores the placental barrier in mice, rats, and humans. Literature studies have shown that diclofenac has been shown to exert direct teratogenic effects on rat embryos in vitro at concentrations of 7.5 and 15 µg/

Literature studies have shown that diclofenac has been shown to exert direct teratogenic effects on rat embryos in vitro at concentrations of 7.5 and 15 µg/ mL, and diclofenac exposure to pregnant rats (1 mg/kg, IP) can lead to prolonged gestation as well as liver toxicity and neuronal loss in offspring. Labor and Delivery-The effects of Zipsor on labor and delivery in pregnant women are unknown. In rat studies maternal exposure to NSAIDs, as with other drugs known to inhibit prostaglandin synthesis, increased incidence of dystocia, delayed parturition, and decreased pup survival. **Nursing Mothers-**It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk, however, there is a case report in the literature indicating that diclofenac can be detected at low levels in breast milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in ursing infants from Zipsor, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug to the mother. Pediatric Use-The safety and effectiveness of Zipsor in pediatric patients has

not been established. Geriatric Use-Clinical studies of Zipsor did not include sufficient numbers of Genative use-Linical studies of Lipsor due not include sumcient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differ-ences in responses between the elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and concomitant disease or other drug therapy. Diclofenac is known to be substantially excreted by the kidney, and the risk of Diciofenac is known to be substantially excreted by the kidney, and the risk of adverse reactions to this drug may be greater in patients with impaired renal function. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, care should be taken in dose selection, and it may be useful to monitor renal function. Older age increases the risk tor GI bleeding. Most spontaneous reports of fatal GI events are in elderly or debilitated patients, and therefore special care should be taken in treating this population [see Gastrointestinal (GI) Effects – Risk of GI Ulceration, Bleeding, and Perforation]. OVERDOSAGE

OVERDOSAGE Symptoms following acute NSAID overdoses include lethargy, drowsiness, nau-sea, voniting, and epiqastric pain, which are generally reversible with supportive care. Gastrointestinal bleeding can occur. Hypertension, acute renal failure, respiratory depression and coma may occur. Patients should be managed by symptomatic and supportive care following an NSAID overdose. There are no specific antidotes. Activated charcoal (60 to 100 g in adults, 1 to 2 g/kg in children) and/or somotic cathartic may be indicated in patients seen within 4 hours of ingestion with symptoms or following a large overdose (5 to 10 times the usual dose). Forced diuresis, alkalinization of urine, Hemodialysis, or hemoperfusion may not be useful due to high protein binding. For additional information about overdose treatment, call a poison control center 1-800-222-1222.

To consider an advance and the availability of a Medication Guide for NSAIDs that accompanies each prescription dispensed, and instruct them to read the NSAID Medication Guide prior to using Zipsor.

Marketed by: Xanodyne charmaceuticals, Inc. Newport, KY

Brief Summary of PI-592-A Rev. 06/2009

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tivity and specificity are both about 98%. It doesn't require local anesthesia. It's very simple to do, and an instruction sheet is included with each kit. The company faxes you the results in 3 days," John McDowell, D.D.S., said at a conference on internal medicine sponsored by the University of Colorado.

The OralCDx kits are marketed by OralCDx Laboratories Inc. They are available through the company (www. sopreventable.com or 877-712-7874) at about \$17 per kit. The test is widely covered by insurance as well as Medicare, said Eric Hirsch, a spokesperson for OralCDx.

'Nobody in my family owns stock in the company, and I don't advocate the brush biopsy because when I see a suspicious lesion I cut. But I do have patients who don't want to be cut on," noted Dr. McDowell, professor and director of oral medicine and forensic sciences in the university's school of dentistry.

The brush biopsy report does not specify tissue type or location, stating only whether atypical cells or malignant cells were present. But those aren't huge disadvantages because the brush biopsy is typically performed to check out a visually suspicious lesion, and more than 90% of all oropharyngeal cancers are squamous cell carcinomas, he said.

A thorough screening exam takes only 2-5 minutes, and can be lifesaving as part of routine primary care. Oral cancer is the sixth most common type of cancer in the United States. Five-year survival after diagnosis is less than 60%, because oropharyngeal cancers are often diagnosed at an advanced stage. They generally start small and are slow growing, but are typically asymptomatic.

The classic oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma is a mixture of red and white in color and is hard, with depth to the lesion. "The vast majority of these squamous cell carcinomas are visible clinically at an early stage, but they're only visible if you're looking for them. A few years ago the American Dental Association did a survey showing only about half of dentists do a regular oral cancer screening exam," Dr. McDowell continued.

The average age at diagnosis of oropharyngeal cancer is 65 years. Men outnumber women 2:1. "The vast majority of squamous cell carcinomas that I see, diagnose, and treat are in men who have been smoking and drinking throughout their lives," the dental researcher noted.

The tongue accounts for 30% of cases of oropharyngeal cancer. "If you're not looking at the base of the tongue, you're doing your patients a disservice," he said. "It only takes a couple seconds. Grab the tongue with a gauze pad, stick a tongue blade in, pull the cheek out to the side, and then look at the base of the tongue. That's where the great majority of cancers on the tongue occur."

Any irritation or nonhealing sore in the mouth or throat that persists beyond 2 weeks "definitely needs evaluation," Dr. McDowell stressed.