

Vesicare (Solifenacin Succinate) Now Available In Canada

Markham, Ontario, November 16, 2006 — Vesicare (Solifenacin succinate) has been approved by Health Canada and is now available for the treatment of overactive bladder (OAB). Approximately 12 per cent of Canadians suffer from OAB¹ a chronic medical condition causing a person to feel the overwhelming urge to urinate even when their bladder is not full.

Vesicare is a new once-daily oral treatment for OAB, offering relief and control over the number one symptom of OAB – the sudden urge to urinate.^{2 3} Additionally, Vesicare treats the other symptoms of OAB, including frequency and urge incontinence.

“Overactive bladder is an embarrassing yet common medical condition that can have a significant impact on a patient’s quality of life,” says Dr. Sender Herschorn, Division Chair, Urology, University of Toronto. “A new medication is good news for people with overactive bladder.”

WHAT IS OVERACTIVE BLADDER?

In an individual with OAB, the bladder muscle (known as the detrusor muscle) starts to contract while the bladder is filling with urine, rather than when the bladder is full. This results in patients experiencing urgency – the number one symptom of OAB – frequency, and urge incontinence (the involuntary loss of urine).² This can occur at any time during the day or night.^{4 5}

“Many patients are embarrassed to speak with their physician about OAB, feeling like they just have to grin and bear it. Often sufferers will develop coping techniques such as mapping out bathroom locations, carrying extra clothing – always concerned about having an accident,” states Dr. Herschorn. “We need to open up the dialogue around OAB to help stop women from suffering in silence.”

Often thought of as a condition affecting seniors, OAB is not caused by aging. The overall cause of OAB is unknown but possible risk factors may include pregnancy, menopause, obesity, growth of the prostate gland in men, nerve damage or neurological disease (e.g., multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, etc.) or stroke.^{6 2}

While women are more likely to suffer with OAB than men (13 per cent vs. 11 per cent)¹ OAB remains an often under-diagnosed and under-treated condition.

ABOUT VESICARE

Vesicare was approved by Health Canada in February 2006 and is a once-daily oral medication. Vesicare is indicated for the treatment of overactive bladder in adults with symptoms of urinary urgency, urge urinary incontinence, and urinary frequency. It is not indicated for the management of stress incontinence, which can occur when the bladder leaks urine during exercise, coughing, or sneezing.²

Vesicare targets and is highly specific for muscarinic receptors in the bladder, which control the detrusor muscle and cause it to relax. This allows the bladder to fill normally and reduces the sense of urgency that a patient feels.

CLINICAL STUDIES

Vesicare, 5 mg and 10 mg, has been evaluated in four (4) placebo-controlled, double-blind, randomized trials involving over 3,000 men and women.²

“In a head-to-head study examining the treatment of overactive bladder with solifenacin succinate, it was demonstrated that solifenacin provides superior relief and control over most symptoms of overactive bladder,” states Dr. Luc Valiquette, urologist, and Chief of Urology at le Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM).

About Astellas Pharma Canada Inc.

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