



THYROID FLYER

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Newsletter of Thyroid Australia Ltd

Volume 8 No 1 April 2007

Medication update

Editorial

By *Christopher McDermott*

Welcome to our first Thyroid flyer issue for 2007. The feature of this issue is medication.

The main article has been written by Professor Jim Stockigt who has had a long association with and interest in Thyroid Australia.

His article is about the inaccuracies of sources of information on thyroid medications. Conflicting "scientific" information (continued page 7)

Call for Volunteers

Do you live in/near Mount Waverley? Are you able to donate a few hours of your time? Thyroid Australia (TA) is a not-for-profit organisation which was founded on the passion to provide leading edge information for people with a thyroid condition. Thyroid Australia was founded by volunteers and is still run by volunteers and receives NO Government funding

We are currently looking for people who can spare a few hours on a regular or even casual basis to assist Brenda, our office manager, @ Thyroid Australia's Mount Waverley office with light administration tasks. No experience is necessary, just a keenness to assist!!!

Please contact Brenda:

Phone: (03) 9888 2588

Fax: (03) 9561 4798

E-Mail: support@thyroid.org.au

Thank you in advance!!!

Inaccurate, out-of-date pharmaceutical product information for thyroid-related medications:

Consumers beware!

By *Jim R Stockigt, MD, FRACP, FRCPA*

Abbreviations

TGA: Therapeutic Goods Administration

MIMS: Monthly Index of Medical Specialities (Annual)

PI: Product Information

CMI: Consumer Medicine Information

Introduction

In a recent review in the Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) January 15, 2007

(http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/186_02_150107/contents_150107.html),

I have drawn attention to inaccurate, out-of-date product information (PI) on thyroid-related medications in standard reference sources that pharmacists and some medical practitioners use as a basis for patient information. The texts in question are Monthly Index of Medical Specialities (MIMS) Annual 2006, MIMS On-line and the Australian Prescription Products Guide. It is my aim here to place practical points in perspective, so that those who use thyroid medications will know whether or not they need to be concerned. It is also important to consider the reasons for the current unsatisfactory situation and how that might be fixed up. We should all be concerned if the health of even one or two percent of the 200,000 or so Australians who use thyroid medications were impaired as a result of flawed, out-of-date pharmaceutical PI.

Importance of thyroid-related drug information

In countries such as Australia about 5% of the population have a thyroid disorder; about a quarter of this number needs to take medication, either to correct deficiency, or to control thyroid hormone excess. In 2005, over 700,000 Pharmaceutical Benefits prescriptions were filled in Australia for thyroxine, with about 80,000 scripts for the antithyroid drugs carbimazole or propylthiouracil. Those who take thyroid-related medications need reliable information to help them achieve self-confidence and self-sufficiency with their treatment, especially as long term follow-up usually extends beyond contact with any one medical adviser. Reliable information about medications is crucial to allow people to make an informed choice between various treatment alternatives, for example in thyrotoxicosis. Further, people need to have confidence in information that they get from health professionals so that they are not misled by the overflow of electronic disinformation on thyroid-related products. Consumers should be able to assume that information from health professionals will be reliable, which in turn depends on the quality of the sources that these professionals use.

**Annual Melbourne Meeting
Camberwell Civic Centre 29th July 2007**

Put this date in your diary now!

A special event not to be missed with leading speaker.

THYROID AUSTRALIA

MEMBER BENEFITS

Full access to Thyroid Flyer is restricted to paid up members of Thyroid Australia.

Thyroid Australia's services are funded by membership fees and donations from individual member of the public.

Membership is not expensive and your money goes towards the cost of maintaining and hosting this site, staffing our office, producing our newsletter and researching thyroid problem an treatments.

Please visit the About Us section of our web site for details on how you can join Thyroid Australia and help us help others just like you.