



Dear Colleague:

On April 1, 2005 Acorda Therapeutics® launched Zanaflex® Capsules (tizanidine hydrochloride). The new dosage form is available as 2mg, 4mg and new 6mg capsules. As part of an ongoing educational initiative, I would like to update you on some important product differences between Zanaflex Capsules and the currently available tablet formulations of tizanidine.

Pharmacokinetic studies show that Zanaflex Capsules have a different pharmacokinetic profile when given with food. Because this pharmacokinetic disparity can result in clinically significant differences in response, Zanaflex Capsules are not considered interchangeable with tizanidine or Zanaflex® tablets (tizanidine hydrochloride). Zanaflex Capsules are not AB-rated due to this clinically important difference.

The current prescribing information contains the following statement:

“Food has complex effects on tizanidine pharmacokinetics, which differ with different formulations. These pharmacokinetic differences may result in clinically significant differences when switching formulations, or changing administration between a fed and fasted state. Clinically significant differences, such as increased adverse events, may be most prevalent when switching formulations from the Capsule to the tablet in the fed state.”


Based on this information, any switch in dose, administration, or formulation should only be in consultation with the prescribing physician.

In addition, please note that Acorda is supporting a Zanaflex Capsules sample program. Many physicians have started patients on Zanaflex Capsules by providing these samples. As noted above, the greatest potential for adverse events may occur when switching from Zanaflex Capsules to a tablet formulation when given with food. Therefore, it is critical that the prescribing physician determine if switching from Capsule to tablet is appropriate.

Acorda Therapeutics is committed to ensuring that Zanaflex Capsules and Zanaflex tablets are used safely and effectively. A copy of the full prescribing information for Zanaflex is enclosed. All healthcare professionals are advised to carefully review this information for Zanaflex Capsules and tablets. If you have any questions or require further information regarding the Zanaflex product line, please contact Acorda's Medical Information department by calling toll free: 1-800-367-5109 or by email at: Acorda@medcomsol.com. Your Acorda Area Business Manager can be contacted at this same toll free number.

My colleagues and I look forward to working in collaboration with you for the safety and well-being of all patients receiving Zanaflex. Please review the enclosed Zanaflex prescribing information for full discussion of pharmacokinetics and safety.

Sincerely,



Herbert R. Henney III, PharmD
Vice President, Medical Affairs

Enclosures:

15 SKYLINE DRIVE
HAWTHORNE, NY 10532

PHONE: (914) 347-4300
FAX: (914) 347-4560

EMAIL: ACORDA@ACORDA.COM
WEBSITE: WWW.ACORDA.COM