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## GUEST COLUMN

### FIPWISE

### SEPTEMBER 2020



**Mrs. Manjiri Gharat, Principal In Charge, K M Kundnani Pharmacy  
Polytechnic, Ulhasnagar Vice-President, IPA Vice-President, FIP**

Building on this campaign, the "FIPWiSE toolkit for positive practice environments in education & science" is developed by FIP to identify and address inequalities in the workplace environments which affect women in pharmaceutical science and pharmacy education, with transferable learnings across the pharmaceutical workforce. The toolkit is designed to raise awareness and provide possible solutions. Colleagues, request all of you to go through the Toolkit at [https://www.fip.org/fip\\_wise#Toolkit](https://www.fip.org/fip_wise#Toolkit). Our country has a lot of scope to address these issues and encourage more women in pharmacy.

Since March 2020, the world has been going through unprecedented times. The pharmacy profession has demonstrated its value even more than before throughout this pandemic and has played a pivotal role as the pillar of the healthcare system. This has inspired the theme "Pharmacists: An Integral Part of Healthcare" for the IPA's 60th National Pharmacy Week (NPW) which will be celebrated from 15th to 21 November 2021. Like each year, I appeal to all to celebrate NPW and let's make the profession more known to all stakeholders including the public and the Government. Let's celebrate the profession, and let's be proud of the profession.

Launched as an initiative by the Indian Pharmaceutical Federation, FIPWiSE aspires to champion and enable women in the pharmacy field to achieve their fullest potential and to attract female students and young professionals into these fields. The World Health Organization estimates a shortage of **18 million health workers by 2030**, leading to poorer health outcomes and health worker well-being – a serious issue for health and development worldwide. There are many reasons stated but one prevailing reason is the poor quality of healthcare work environments that are undermining health service delivery and discouraging health professionals from going away from the healthcare field. World Health Professions Alliance has undertaken the campaign Positive Practice Environment.

(<https://www.whpa.org/activities/positivepracticeenvironments>)

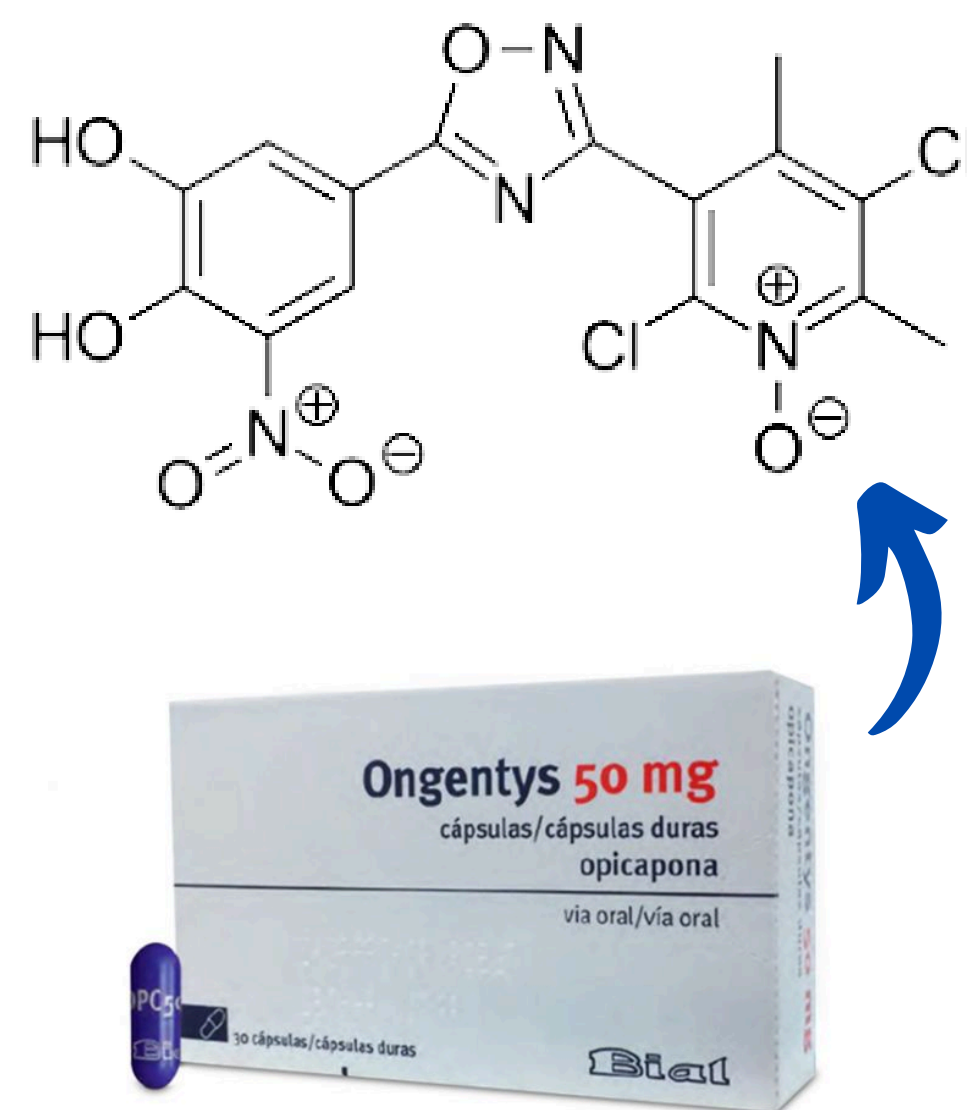
**Positive Practice Environments – healthcare settings that support excellence and decent work conditions – have the power to attract and retain staff provide quality patient care and strengthen the health sector as a whole.**



# OPICAPONE

## The Novel Drug

Opicapone, a **COMT inhibitor** has been approved to treat patients with **Parkinson's disease (PD)** who are having "off" episodes during their treatment (levodopa and carbidopa). Opicapone being a selective and reversible inhibitor of catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) inhibits catalysis involving the transfer of the methyl group of Sadenosyl-L-methionine to the phenolic group of substrates that contain a catechol structure. The drug also enhances the effects of levodopa and keeps it active for longer. Opicapone is available in the form of 25mg and 50mg capsules and the dose is 50mg OD at bedtime, in addition to drugs for the treatment of Parkinson's disease. The recommended dosage in patients with moderate hepatic impairment is 25 mg OD and is contraindicated in severe hepatic impairment.



## The Secret of

# ZOLGENSMA

Zolgensma is an **adeno-associated virus (AAV)** based gene therapy medicine for treating the rare genetic disorder **spinal muscular atrophy**, a serious condition of the nerves that causes muscle wasting and weakness. Approved by US FDA on May 24, 2019. It is the most expensive drug of **Rs. 18 crores**. The active ingredient in it is onasemnogene abeparvovec passes into the nerves and restores the gene, which then produces proteins necessary for nerve function and controlling muscle movement.

## FDA DRUG ALERT

USFDA has issued an alert concerning the **OCEAN clinical trial results of Pepaxto (melphalan flufenamide)** which showed an increased risk of death in patients with multiple myeloma. The OCEAN trial compared Pepaxto with low-dose dexamethasone to pomalidomide with low-dose dexamethasone in patients with relapsed or refractory (resistant) multiple myeloma following 2-4 lines of prior therapy and in patients who were resistant to lenalidomide in the last line of therapy. Due to overall detrimental results on the survival of the patients, the USFDA has ordered the manufacturer to stop enrollment in the trial. Those who are clinically benefiting from the trial may continue to participate but they should be informed about the risk of such use and proper consent should be taken before such use of Pepaxto.



## PHARMACIST INTERVENTION

A 55-year-old male patient with a k/c/o diabetes mellitus for 7 years, post-COVID and an operated case of mucormycosis was prescribed **Tab. Posaconazole 100mg 3-0-0**; presented with c/o generalized weakness and backache. On examination, his serum potassium levels were found to be severely **low (Sr. K<sup>+</sup> = 1.9mEq/L)** and **ECG showed QT prolongation** s/o posaconazole-induced hypokalemia. A pharmacist Intervention was made and **Inj. Kesol in 500ml NS** was administered until his serum potassium levels were under control (Sr. K<sup>+</sup> = 2.4 => 2.9 => 3.7 mEq/L). Posaconazole was continued with suggestive constant monitoring of serum electrolytes.



# MEDICATION ERRORS

## *A Clinical Pharmacist's Analysis*

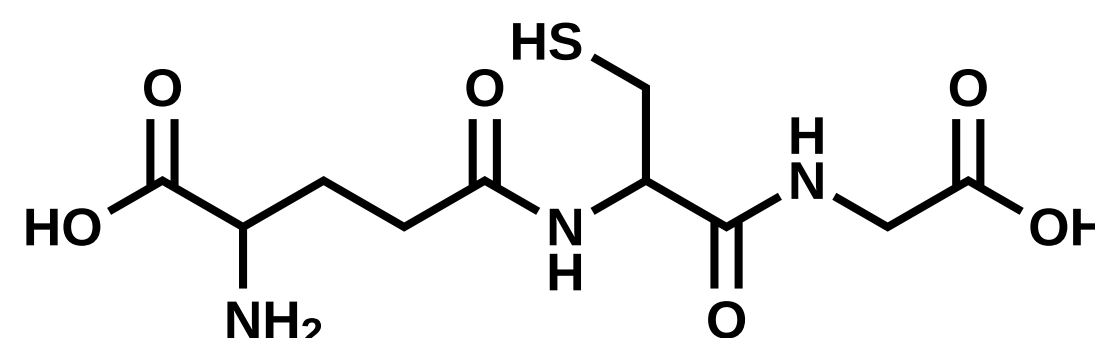
The patient was an operated case of left side clavicle fracture due to a road traffic accident. Post-surgery, Cefuroxime 1.5 g was prescribed for surgical prophylaxis. However, the hospital guidelines advise prescribing 750 mg TDS to prevent opportunistic infections. Hence, as a clinical pharmacist, a dosing intervention was done and the dose was corrected after acknowledgement by the resident doctor.

The analysis was:

1. The wrong dose was prescribed, and dose modification was needed.
2. Informed the nursing staff for the right dosage of antibiotics.
3. Informed the Resident doctor to step down to a lower dose for surgical prophylaxis.

## GLUTATHIONE

### *OFF LABELED DRUG USE*



Glutathione, a supplement produced by the liver is involved in various body processes such as tissue regeneration and repair as well as immune system functions. Over the past decade, the drug has been extensively used in the management of hepatic impairment. Apart from the main indication, the drug is also used in cosmetic products as a skin-whitening agent. Recently, during the COVID-19 outbreak, glutathione has been widely used in intensive care units for the **management and prevention of Cytokine Storm Syndrome, Oxidative stress and related complications.**



## ADVERSE DRUG REACTION

A 18 Y/O female, case of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia developed Gullian-Barre syndrome during her remission phase. She was on chemotherapy which included Vincristine. Vincristine has been documented to cause neurotoxicity and GBS. Upon ADR identification, the chemotherapy was halted and GBS was managed using intravenous Immunoglobulin and supportive care.

## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- Gohel KH, Patel PB, Shah PM, Patel JR, Pandit N, Raut A. Knowledge and perceptions about COVID19 among the medical and allied health science students in India: An online cross-sectional survey. Clin Epidemiol Glob Health. 2021;9:104-109.
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- Atmaram Pawar, Vividha Dhapte-Pawar. Paralleling the Quality and Economy of Levofloxacin Hemihydrate and Cefuroxime Axetil Tablets. Indian Journal of Pharmaceutical Education and Research. 2021; 55(1):136-145
- Panda, B., Bajaj, R., Surve, D., & Deshpande, R. (2021). Safety evaluation following immunization of pentavalent vaccine (multi-dose vial): experiences and comparative study. International Journal of Contemporary Pediatrics; 8(2), 243-247
- Pawar Atmaram P., Bothiraja C., Gaikwad Vinod L. Comparative Pharmaceutical Evaluation of Variable Retail Priced Medicines Containing Biopharmaceutical Classification System Class-II or Class-IV Drugs. Indian Drugs. 2021 (58 ) 63-73
- Asawari Raut , Kavita Krishna , Utkarsha Adake , Apurva A Sharma , Anitta Thomas, Jignesh Shah..Off-label Drug Prescription Pattern and Related Adverse Drug Reactions in the Medical Intensive Care Unit. Indian Journal of Critical Care Medicine. (2021): 10.5005



# PHARM.D STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS



Vaibhav Suryawanshi secured the prize of Best Poster Presentation at CPCON 2021, Manipal.



Nishat Girkar secured 1st position in the Oral presentation at the International conference by NITTE (deemed to be University), Mangalore.



Shruti Akshantal secured 1st position in the Oral presentation at the ISMTM Conference and 2nd position at the PURE Foundation World Asthma Day competition.



Aayush Gandhi secured 3rd position in the Isthmus Urja Poster Presentation at NMIMS Shobhaben Paratpbhai Patel School Of Pharmacy And Technology Management

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