

This Free E-Book is brought to you by Natural-Aging.com.

100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!

Life-Saving Pediatric Drug Becomes Readily Available to Those in Need

By ARA Content

Life-Saving Pediatric Drug Becomes Readily Available to Those in Need

by: **ARA Content**

(ARA) – We can all sympathize with the frustration people experience waiting for a new drug that is being tested for a certain disorder. Imagine you have a child with a rare disorder and the only drug effective for treating the disorder is not only extremely hard to obtain, but available only through a nationally-administered random selection process. For many American families, this dilemma is a harsh reality.

Patients suffering from a host of difficult to treat orphan disorders have found marked relief from using HP Acthar Gel. Some disorders Acthar helps include seizure complex in babies and young children, referred to as West's syndrome or infantile spasm; Still's disease and ulcerative colitis; Bell's palsy; multiple sclerosis; adrenocortical insufficiency and non-endocrine disorders that are responsive to glucocorticoids.

For the past four years, however, the drug has only been available through a limited access program administered by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), a federation of more than 135 non-profit health organizations serving people with rare disorders.

U.S. physicians who were interested in obtaining Acthar Gel for their patients with life-threatening or severely debilitating conditions who did not respond to any other treatment were given first access to the drug. Others with "non-life-threatening" cases had to enroll in a computerized random selection process administered by NORD.

An estimated 1,600 patients, primarily suffering from West's syndrome and multiple sclerosis who experience episodes of "flare," have been allowed access to HP Acthar Gel each year for the past four years under the limited access program. More than 5,000 additional patients whose physicians requested the drug were denied.

Life-Saving Pediatric Drug Becomes Readily Available to Those in Need

The origins of this drug shortage crisis date back to 1996 when Aventis Pharmaceuticals stopped making Acthar for a few months because of manufacturing difficulties.

But now, Questcor Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (AMEX: QSC) has signed an agreement with Aventis to acquire the worldwide rights to HP Acthar Gel. Questcor has also reached a manufacturing agreement with Aventis and will gradually move production to an independent manufacturing facility.

As a result, HP Acthar Gel is now back in full production and is returning to normal levels of distribution. Questcor began shipments of HP Acthar Gel to wholesalers the last week of September 2001, giving patients in need access to the product.

"We are delighted that Questcor is making this critically important product more widely available after this long period of restricted distribution," said Abbey S. Meyers, president of NORD. "We have been working closely with the company over the last several months to ensure that anyone with a need for Acthar Gel is now able to readily receive the product through more traditional channels. Too many

people have suffered as a result of limited access to Acthar Gel."

Questcor Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a fully integrated specialty pharmaceutical company that serves the needs of acute and critical care hospitals with its proprietary products. Visit www.questcor.com for more information on the company and its products.

If you are a patient with a disorder that can be treated with Acthar, ask your doctor to contact Questcor Pharmaceuticals at (510) 400-0700. For more information about Acthar, including distribution information, please visit www.Acthar.com.

Courtesy ARA Content,

; e-mail:

Dangers Of Prescription Drug Addiction

By Gareth Grazier

In recent years, we have seen a growing trend, a dangerous trend that has unfortunately, cost people's lives. While years ago drug addiction was related to street drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, or heroin, we now see the dangers of prescription drug addiction. In fact, trips to hospital emergency rooms for prescription drug abuse from 2000 to 2002 rose a staggering 56%. Because of the huge problem, a number of new programs have been established to help educate doctors, parents, and even children.

Unfortunately, doctors find themselves in a very difficult position, especially when it comes to treating chronic illness. For instance, treating people with painful illnesses such as MS, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, or Arthritis often requires narcotics to keep the pain at bay. For these people, pain

Life-Saving Pediatric Drug Becomes Readily Available to Those in Need

medication allows them a chance to live a relatively normal life. However, the problem arises when someone has a temporary injury and finds narcotics more of a stimulant than a treatment for the pain. With narcotics being addictive, it is easy to understand why people with temporary injuries become hooked.

The good news is that for people taking prescription medication for the excitement and the high rather than for the illness, addiction is a treatable disease of the brain. As more and more doctors become educated about the dangers of prescription drug addiction and the signs to watch for, the problem is being better addressed. The truth is that for people, who truly need prescription drugs, the situation is frustrating but as doctors gain more knowledge and confidence associated with drug abuse, they play a vital role in separating the real needs from the false ones.

Today, as much as 95% of all psychiatry residency programs throughout the United States are now offering education associated with prescription drug addiction. On the other hand, less than 30% of medical fields such as pediatric address the potential problem. Obviously, as more and more children are learning that they can get hold of parent or grandparent's prescriptions, educating these families, as well as doctors is vital.

Currently, the United States has more than 19 million regular prescription drug users. For many of these people, the prescription drugs treat a chronic illness, again giving them quality of life but for others, the prescription drugs were administered as a solution for a temporary condition that has led to addiction. In this case, doctors need to play a huge role in intervention for patients who do not need long-term care and those who have not yet become addicted to them.

To combat the problem of prescription drug addiction, the federal government is putting programs in place for intervention, screening, referral, and even treatment. Many of these programs are being incorporated into businesses to help employees get through the addiction. The key really falls back to the doctors in taking the time to know their patients, to understand the illness, and then to work closely with the patient when prescribing the medication. For example, someone with a rare disease or illness that is extremely painful would require the doctor to educate him or herself on this problem so that proper treatment could be provided and then monitored. The bottom line is that ongoing education is the key to the dangers of prescription medication, which takes time and persistency.

Gareth Grazier is the webmaster for Fed Addiction

which is a

comprehensive research center containing a ton of material addiction related. Feel free to add your own contribution at:

Related Content:

Read more Content at

Related Products:

: A genuine resource center for Quality Ebooks and Softwares



This Free E-Book has been brought to you by Natural-Aging.com.

100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!