

Santen Launches Anti- rheumatic METOLATE® Tablets 2mg

Osaka, Japan, July 20, 2004 – Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. announced that Santen launched the anti-rheumatic METOLATE® tablets 2mg (generic name: methotrexate) in Japan. METOLATE® tablets 2mg has shown efficacy in low-dose weekly administrations.

Santen markets anti-rheumatics including RIMATL® Tablets and AZULFIDINE® EN Tablets. The new product launch enhances Santen's anti-rheumatic product portfolio and will allow Santen to offer more detailed therapeutic options tailored to each patient's condition.

Date of launch: July 20, 2004
Name of product: METOLATE® tablets 2mg
Package: A box contains 48 tablets in press-through packages (4 PTPs, 12 tablets each; 12 dosage instruction sheets enclosed)

1. Features

- Anti-rheumatics containing 2mg of methotrexate per tablet
- Dosage form: tablet with split line
- Low-dose weekly administration
- Severe side effects associated with this pharmaceutical include shock, anaphylactoid reactions, bone marrow depression, infection, liver disorder, renal disorder, skin disorder, enteritis, interstitial pneumonia, pulmonary fibrosis, pancreatitis, and osteoporosis.

2. Indication

Rheumatoid arthritis

3. Dosage and administration

The recommended dosage is 6mg once weekly; a tablet (2mg methotrexate) to be orally taken three times with an interval of 12 hours in the first two days, followed by a cessation of five days. Continue this cycle every week.

Dosage should be adjusted according to the patient's age, symptom, tolerability and reaction to this drug. Maximum dosage should be up to 8mg once weekly.

4. National Health Insurance drug price: JPY284.00 per tablet

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