Hypersalivation Options

There is currently an international shortage of hyoscine hydrobromide tablets due to a problem with the ingredient. Unfortunately only one company, Bayer, manufacturers this product worldwide so there is no alternative source available. There is no date yet when this product will be back in the UK supply chain. Pharmacy will be obtaining an unlicensed version from Australia which should be here week commencing 13.2.17. There is also a supply problem with the hyoscine hydrobromide patch. The patch should be back in stock after the 10/2/17 so should filter down the supply chain 1-2 weeks after this date.

Pharmacy will try and keep service users on their hyoscine for as long as possible but once our stocks are exhausted there will be no alternative but to switch a service user to one of the alternative products below. Inpatients will be switched off hyoscine hydrobromide first to maintain supplies for as long as possible to outpatients on repeat clozapine prescriptions.

Treatment Options

Various mechanisms have been proposed for clozapine-induced hypersalivation including M4 agonism, alpha 2 antagonism, or inhibition of the swallowing reflex. The list below is not done in order of preference.

1. Pirenzepine – this is an unlicensed medication in the UK. You won’t find it in the BNF. It is a selective M1, M4 antagonist that we import from continental Europe. The dose is 25-50mg up to TDS. It comes as scored 50mg tablets. This is commonly used within the Trust if hyoscine hasn’t worked.

2. Antimuscarinics have been used such as:
   - trihexyphenidyl (usual dose 5-15mg/day, max dose is 20mg/day. Come as 2mg and 5mg tablets, or 5mg/5ml liquid)
   - propantheline (usual dose 7.5mg/day, up to 15mg TDS, come as 15mg tablets but are not scored)

3. Atropine eye drops 1% given sublingually – 1 drop at night (max 1 BD). Can be given neat or put in 10ml of water and used as a mouthwash.

4. Amisulpride 100-400mg/day – unlicensed indication but has a positive randomised controlled trial showing benefit. May allow decrease in clozapine dose.

5. Moclobemide 150-300mg/day (comes as 150mg and 300mg tablets)

6. Hyoscine hydrobromide patch (when back in stock) - apply 1 patch every 72 hours

All of the above are not licensed for hypersalivation but options 2-5 are licensed for other indications in the UK whereas option 1 is not licensed at all in the UK. It should be noted hyoscine hydrobromide is not licensed for the treatment of hypersalivation either.

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References

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6. UKMI. Medicines Q&As Hypersalivation – can hyoscine hydrobromide be used to treat it? Q&A 51.5 25/6/15.
7. Palliative care formulary www.palliativedrugs.com (accessed 2.2.17)