

# FUNGI CAN'T HIDE FROM Sporanox®\*

itraconazole 100 mg

One of the notorious problems with fungal infections of the skin or the vagina is that the organism may penetrate the deeper layers of the epithelium, out of reach of topical medication. And besides, when treating fungal skin lesions locally, the infection is often already subclinically present at other sites of the body, waiting for a chance to start the trouble all over again.

Because Sporanox works **orally**, i.e. "from the inside out", it will destroy even the best hidden fungal cells. All the more so, because Sporanox has a strong affinity for epidermal and mucosal tissues as well as for the fungal cell wall itself where it must exert its fungicidal activity.

## SHORT AND SIMPLE ORAL THERAPY

**Standard dose in Dermatology:** 1 capsule (100 mg) once daily for 15 days  
(Sporanox will remain active in the stratum corneum for another 3-4 weeks)

**Standard dose in Gynaecology:** 2 x 2 capsules (400 mg) for 1 day only  
(Sporanox will remain active in the vaginal epithelium for another 3 to 4 days)

This product is not yet available in all countries.

\* Trademarks: SPORANOX, SEMPERA,  
TRISPORAL, SPORAL.

**Properties:** Sporanox (itraconazole), a triazole derivative, is orally active against infections with dermatophytes (*Trichophyton* spp., *Microsporum* spp., *Epidemophyton floccosum*), yeasts (*Candida* spp., *Pityrosporum* spp.), *Aspergillus* spp. and various other yeasts and fungi. **Indications:** Sporanox (itraconazole) is indicated for vulvovaginal candidosis, pityriasis versicolor, dermatophytoses, fungal keratitis and oral candidosis. **Dosage and administration:** Vulvovaginal candidosis: 2 cap-

sules (200 mg) morning and evening for 1 day. Pityriasis versicolor: 2 capsules (200 mg) once daily for 7 days.

- Tinea corporis, tinea cruris, tinea pedis, tinea manus: 1 capsule (100 mg) daily for 15 days; highly keratinized regions, as in plantar tinea pedis and palmar tinea manus, require 1 capsule (100 mg) daily for 30 days.

- Oral candidosis: 1 capsule (100 mg) daily for 15 days.

- Fungal keratitis: 2 capsules (200 mg) once daily for 21 days.

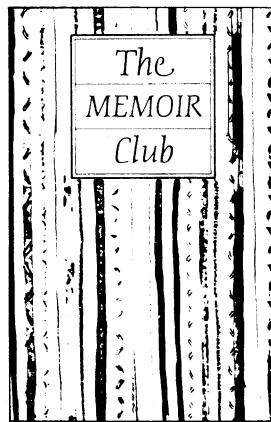
**Contra-Indications:** Sporanox (itraconazole) is contra-indicated during pregnancy. **Warnings and precautions:** Although clinically Sporanox (itraconazole) has not been associated with hepatic dysfunction, it is

advisable not to give this drug to patients with a known history of liver disease. **Nursing mothers:** It is recommended not to breast feed whilst taking Sporanox (itraconazole). **Drug interactions:** Sporanox (itraconazole) should not be given concomitantly with rifampicin.

Full prescribing information is available on request.

 **JANSSEN**  
PHARMACEUTICA  
2340 Beerse, Belgium  
the drug discovery company





**Surgical Roots and Branches** by Sir Reginald Murley

When Sir Reginald Murley became president of the Royal College of Surgeons in July 1977 he was described in the *Daily Telegraph* as a "redoubtable standard bearer" and as "one of the dwindling number of old style 'surgical characters'." In *Surgical Roots and Branches* he gives a lively account of the development of this character.

UK £14.95; Abroad £18.50

**Festina Lente – a Psychiatric Odyssey** by Henry R Rollin

Henry Rollin insists that *Festina Lente* is "in no way an autobiography. I prefer to regard it essentially as a history of psychiatry during the past half century as seen by one who has been witness to and played some small part in the shaping of events."

UK £14.95; Abroad £17.50

**Not a Proper Doctor** by David Sinclair

Sinclair was intent on a career in surgery when he graduated from St Andrew's University but fate, mainly in the shape of the second world war, decreed otherwise. As Professor Sinclair looks back at his varied life, there are moments of joy, sadness, and regret, but throughout a central core of humour and compassion.

UK £14.95; Abroad £18.50

**Not a Moment to Lose** by Sir David Smithers

Sir David Smithers believes that "one should aspire to be a realist, but retain a sense of wonder, a rationalist who is prepared to jump to conclusions, and a critical visionary who remains sensible of the humour of the human situation."

UK £14.95; Abroad £17.50

**One Man's Medicine** by Archie Cochrane with Max Blythe

The autobiography of Professor Archie Cochrane, who was one of Britain's most influential thinkers on health care and the quality of health services. His 30 years' association with the Rhondda Fach – and his work there on reducing the suffering inflicted on whole communities by pneumoconiosis – is almost legendary.

UK £14.95; Abroad £19.00

**Reap a Destiny – Divagations of a Taoist** by Douglas Swinscow

Former deputy editor of the *BMJ* Douglas Swinscow is also a world authority on lichens. A painstaking scientist and a lover of the arts, a philosopher who nevertheless thrived in a military role, he looks back at the events and choices that have shaped his life and character.

UK £14.95; Abroad £17.50

**Blood, Sweat, and Cheers** by Sir Ian Fraser

Former president both of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and of the British Medical Association, Sir Ian Fraser is eminent in his profession, but his book is not about being eminent, it is about life and its pleasures and pains, told with zest and humour and delightfully pictured in Ghislaine Howard's illustrations.

UK £14.95; Abroad £17.50

**Portraits from Memory** by Sir James Howie

Sir James Howie's intriguing and informative character studies of memorable personalities he has known in microbiology, and in military, hospital, and academic medicine.

UK £14.95; Abroad £17.50

**A Natural History of Everyday Life – A biographical guide for would-be doctors of society** by Lord Taylor of Harlow

As doctor, politician, and administrator the late Lord Taylor was a key figure in the formative years of some varied institutions: the National Health Service, Harlow New Town, and the Memorial University of Newfoundland. These lively memoirs detail his career and his views on the origins of some of society's ills – and their cures.

UK £19.95; Abroad £24.00

**Recollections and Reflections** by Sir Douglas Black

Emeritus professor of medicine at Manchester University and former chief scientist at the Department of Health and Social Security, Sir Douglas Black recollects moments from his remarkable career.

UK £14.95; Abroad £17.50

**Not Always on the Level** by E J Moran Campbell

A rich, amusing, romantic, and at times sadly moving collection of memoirs describing life as the son of an Irish GP in Yorkshire, as a medical student in London, as a struggling clinical scientist both in Britain and in the United States, as a medical educator in Canada . . . and as a manic depressive.

UK £14.95; Abroad £18.50

**Doctors in Science and Society – Essays of a Clinical Scientist** by Sir Christopher Booth

In this collection of essays Christopher Booth examines the lives and times of some eighteenth century medical scientists and also considers the role of modern medicine, its technology, and some of its institutions.

UK £14.95; Abroad £19.50

## The BMJ's series of books of general interest by medical writers



**ORDER FORM**      **British Medical Journal, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE.**

Please send me the following books:

QTY	TITLE	AUTHOR/EDITOR	AMOUNT

Prices include postage, by air abroad. BMA members please deduct £1.00 from the price of The Memoir Club books

TOTAL £

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(print clearly)

Membership No \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed (made payable to British Medical Journal) £ \_\_\_\_\_  
Debit my AMERICAN EXPRESS/VISA/MASTERCARD

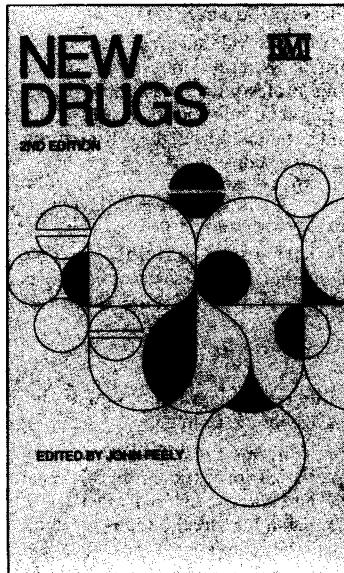
POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a BMJ book catalogue

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
BMJ books are also available from major booksellers or the BMJ bookshop in BMA House. Book tokens accepted, UK only.

## What's best for patients?

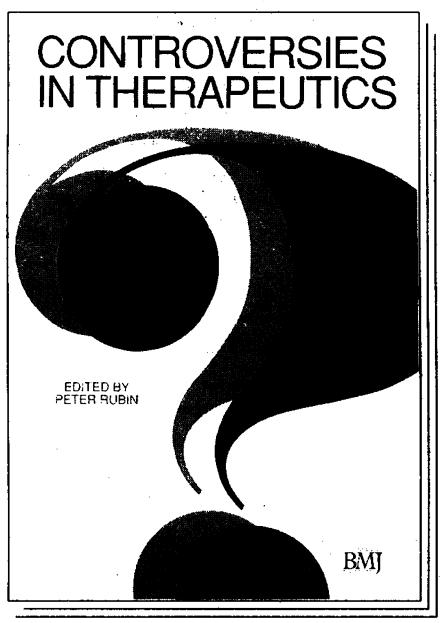


New drugs are continually being developed and knowledge about existing drugs is constantly expanding, so it is essential, but difficult, for doctors to keep up to date with the latest developments. *New Drugs* describes the most important therapeutic advances of the past decade and discusses the drugs that will be in common use in the 1990s. Completely revised and updated, this second edition has been expanded to include 11 additional chapters. Its coverage of practical aspects of drug use, avoidance of adverse reactions and interactions, and prescribing at extremes of age makes it an invaluable guide for busy practitioners who want to get the best out of the new drugs currently available.

**Chapters include:** Adverse reactions to drugs • Calcium antagonists

- Diuretic treatment • Antiarrhythmic drugs • Insulin • Lipid lowering drugs
- Antidepressant drugs • Centrally acting drugs • Controlling symptoms in advanced cancer

UK £14.95; Abroad £18.00 (BMA members £13.95 or £17.00)



Doctors do not always agree on what is the right treatment even for quite common conditions. Often definitive clinical trials have not been performed and no one knows for sure the best way to treat. *Controversies in Therapeutics* looks at some problems that arise in general practice. For each one it offers two different approaches; and Peter Rubin, professor of therapeutics and consultant physician at the University Hospital of Nottingham, provides an editorial comment on these which summarises the prevailing views and helps you to make up your own mind. Written by academic experts with everyday clinical experience, *Controversies in Therapeutics* is a must for all physicians and general practitioners—both those who think they know it all and those who know they don't.

**Chapters include:** Role of diet in treating atopic eczema • Risks of dependence on benzodiazepine drugs • Thrombolysis and the general practitioner • Depression in childhood • Theophylline in the management of airflow obstruction • Management of constipation

UK £9.95; Abroad £12.00 (BMA members £8.95 or £11.00)



### ORDER FORM      British Medical Journal, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9JR.

Please send me the following books:

QTY	TITLE	AUTHOR/EDITOR	AMOUNT

Prices include postage, by air abroad

TOTAL £

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(print clearly)

Membership No \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed (made payable to British Medical Journal) £ \_\_\_\_\_  
Debit my AMERICAN EXPRESS/VISA/MASTERCARD

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a book catalogue

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
BMJ books are also available from major booksellers or the BMJ bookshop in BMA House.



TRADEMARK

# Prepulsid

## Gets stomach and oesophagus back to work.

### Prepulsid. The force behind G.I. motility.

**Prescribing information** - Prepulsid (cisapride) is a gastro-intestinal prokinetic agent. Prepulsid enhances and co-ordinates gastro-intestinal propulsive motility, thereby preventing stasis and reflux. **Therapeutic indications:** 1. Gastroparesis. 2. Symptoms of X-ray or endoscopy negative upper digestive discomfort. 3. Gastro-oesophageal reflux disorders, including oesophagitis. 4. Intestinal pseudo-obstruction. **Contra-indications:** No absolute contra-indications are known. **Warnings:** Caution should be observed in patients in whom an increase in gastro-intestinal motility could be harmful. **Precautions:** *Pregnancy:* Although, in animals, there is no effect on primary fertility, no primary embryotoxic and no teratogenic effect, the anticipated therapeutic benefits should be weighed against the potential hazards before Prepulsid is given during pregnancy, especially during the first trimester. *Nursing mothers:* Although the excretion in breast milk is minimal, nursing mothers are advised not to breast feed while taking Prepulsid. **Driving and machine-operating ability:** Prepulsid does not affect psychomotor function and does not induce sedation or drowsiness. Prepulsid may, however, accelerate the absorption of central nervous system depressants, such as barbiturates and alcohol. Caution should therefore be exercised when Prepulsid is administered with these drugs. **Interactions:** - The acceleration by Prepulsid of gastric emptying may affect the rate of absorption of drugs: absorption of drugs

from the stomach may be diminished, whereas absorption of drugs from the small bowel may be accelerated (e.g. benzodiazepines, anticoagulants, paracetamol, H<sub>2</sub>-blockers). - In patients receiving anticoagulants, the coagulation times may somewhat increase. It is advisable to check the coagulation time one week after the start of Prepulsid treatment to adapt the anticoagulant dose if necessary. The sedative effects of benzodiazepines and of alcohol may be accelerated. - The effects of Prepulsid on gastro-intestinal motility are, for the most part, antagonized by anticholinergic drugs. - In hepatic and renal insufficiency, it is recommended to halve the initial daily dose. Subsequently, this dose can be adapted, depending on the therapeutic effects or possible side-effects. - In the elderly, steady-state plasma levels are generally higher, due to a moderate prolongation of the elimination half-life. Therapeutic doses, however, are similar to those used in younger patients. - In the case of drugs that require individual titration, it may be useful to monitor plasma levels of such drugs when Prepulsid is associated. **Adverse reactions:** In line with the pharmacological activity of Prepulsid, transient abdominal cramping, borborygmi and diarrhoea may occur. Mild and transient headache or lightheadedness have been reported occasionally. When diarrhoea occurs in babies or infants, the dose should be reduced. There are isolated reports of CNS effects, i.e. convulsive seizures and

extrapyramidal effects. **Dosage:** - Adults: according to the severity of the condition, 15 to 40 mg daily, to be given in 2 to 4 intakes, to be taken as tablets or as oral suspension (the full plastic 5-ml spoon contains 5 mg). As a rule the following doses have proven adequate: • less severe conditions: 5 mg i.i.d. (dose can be doubled); • severe conditions (gastroparesis, oesophagitis, refractory constipation): 10 mg i.i.d. to 10 mg q.i.d. (before the 3 main meals and before retiring). - Infants and children: on the average 0.2 mg/kg per intake, 3 to 4 times daily. For the suspension, intakes are indicated on the dosing pipet as a function of body weight.

**Full prescribing information available on request.**

**Note:** Prepulsid (cisapride) is not yet available in all countries and not all indications have been approved everywhere.

 **JANSSEN**  
PHARMACEUTICA  
B-2340 Beerse, Belgium