

Drug Class Review Monograph – GPI Class 51 – Digestive Aids

Review Time Frame: 02/2016 – 01/2017

Previous Class Review: N/A

Background:

Digestive aids consist of products that contain enzymes, which are necessary during digestion to break down the food. These enzymes are either present in or released into the gastrointestinal tract. Digestive enzymes are classified based on their target substrates. Following activation in the alkaline pH of the duodenum, pancrelipase releases high levels of lipase, amylase, and protease, which facilitate the hydrolysis of fats into glycerol and fatty acids, starches into dextrins and sugars, and proteins into peptides. Factors that influence the effectiveness of pancrelipase are those that affect the quantity of enzymatic activity reaching the small intestine, such as dose, gastrointestinal pH, and the microsphere size of the product.

New treatment guideline recommendations:

- None identified

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Newly approved drugs:

- None identified

Newly approved formulations:

- None identified

Newly approved generics:

- None identified

Discontinued drugs:

- None identified

FDA Safety Alerts/black box warnings:

- None identified

Pipeline alerts:

Agents pending FDA approval include:

- None identified

References:

1. Freedman SD. Treatment of chronic pancreatitis. Whitcomb DC, Grover S (Eds.), UpToDate. Waltham, MA. Accessed January 2016⁷.
2. ~~Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2015. URL: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/>. Updated January 2016.~~
3. ~~2. US Script Oracle PBM: Medi-Span® Master Drug Data Base. January- 2017⁶.~~
4. ~~3. WWW.FDA.GOV.~~