

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



News

Abbott Launches New Antibiotic for Acute Exacerbation of Chronic Bronchitis in Canada

Convenient, once-daily FACTIVE™ (gemifloxacin mesylate) now available for Canadians

MONTRÉAL, Quebec, March 23, 2007 — Abbott today announced the introduction of FACTIVE™ (gemifloxacin mesylate), a new five-day short-course quinolone antibiotic for acute exacerbation (worsening) of chronic bronchitis (AECB). This condition accounts for more than 1.5 million physician visits annually in Canada and is a cause of significant morbidity and mortality.¹

AECB often occurs in chronic bronchitis sufferers and is associated with increased frequency and severity of coughing, and a change in colour and thickness of sputum. It is often accompanied by severe chest congestion and discomfort.²

In two separate studies, FACTIVE has demonstrated excellent clinical success rates versus other anti-infectives (86 per cent versus 84.8 percent with clarithromycin³; 88.2 percent versus 85.1 percent with levofloxacin⁴). FACTIVE has also shown to be the most potent quinolone against *S. pneumoniae* (a bacteria commonly causing respiratory infections), as measured by the minimum inhibitory concentration¹ (the lowest concentration of an antimicrobial that will inhibit growth of a microorganism).

"The increase in the rates of chronic bronchitis in recent years has prompted the need for new antibiotics to effectively treat AECB, and FACTIVE definitely meets this need," said Anthony D'Urzo, M.D., director, Primary Care Lung Clinic, Toronto, Canada. "Not only does FACTIVE offer excellent efficacy, but it has an excellent safety and tolerability profile. The best news for patients is that discontinuation rates due to adverse events are low, which means significantly fewer return visits to the office, and that dosage adjustments are generally not required."

FACTIVE's dosing regimen is convenient for patients because it is a one 320-mg tablet taken once a day for five days, with or without food.⁵

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Safety Information⁵

- FACTIVE is contraindicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to gemifloxacin, fluoroquinolone antibiotics, or any of the product components.
- FACTIVE may prolong the QT interval in some patients and should be avoided in patients with a history of prolongation of the QTc interval, patients with uncorrected electrolyte disorders (hypokalemia or hypomagnesemia), and patients receiving Class IA (e.g., quinidine, procainamide) or Class III (e.g., amiodarone, sotalol) antiarrhythmic agents.
- FACTIVE should be discontinued immediately at the appearance of any sign of an immediate hypersensitivity skin rash or any other manifestation of a hypersensitivity reaction; the need for continued fluoroquinolone therapy should be evaluated.
- FACTIVE should be used with caution in patients with CNS diseases such as epilepsy, or in patients predisposed to convulsions.
- FACTIVE should be discontinued if the patient experiences pain, inflammation or rupture of a tendon.

About Abbott

Abbott is a global, broad-based health care company devoted to the discovery, development, manufacture and marketing of pharmaceutical and medical products, including nutritionals, devices and diagnostics. The company employs 65,000 people and markets its products in more than 130 countries.

In Canada, Abbott is headquartered in Montréal, Québec, employs almost 2,000 people and is one of the "50 Best Employers" in Canada according to a Hewitt Associates survey.

Abbott's news releases and other information are available on the company's Web sites at www.abbott.com and www.abbott.ca

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1 Balter M et al. Canadian Guidelines for the Management of Acute Exacerbations of Chronic Bronchitis. *Can Respir J* 2003; 10(Suppl B): 3B-32B.

2 http://www.medbroadcast.com/condition_info_details.asp?disease_id=285

3 Wilson R et al. Efficacy of once-daily gemifloxacin for 5 days compared with twice-daily clarithromycin for 7 days in the treatment of AECB. *Clin Therap* 2002; 24(4): 639-52.

4 Sethi S et al. A Randomized, Double-blind Study Comparing 5 days Oral Gemifloxacin with 7days Oral Levofloxacin in Patients with Acute Exacerbation of Chronic Bronchitis. *Respir Med* 2004; 98: 697-707.

5 FACTIVE Product Monograph. Abbott Laboratories, Limited. August 22, 2006.