Bisolvon: Boehringer Ingelheim. No.1, Carl Frei 112 keyless concert organ.

Contributors

Boehringer Ingelheim, Ltd.

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Boehringer Ingelheim



Rhonchi and rales may be a charming, even inseparable, characteristic of a fairground organ but in the bronchitic patient they denote the need for effective mucolytic expectorant therapy.

British Clinical Trials have shown that Bisolvon can

thin sputum1, 2 ease expectoration2, 3 improve pulmonary function4 produce clinical improvement2, 3, 4

1 Brit. med. J., 1970, 3, 260 2 Brit. J. clin. Pract., 1969, 23, 501 3 Practitioner, 1970, 204, 303 4 Lancet, 1969, 2, 1094

British Clinical Evidence for Bisolvon: No. 4

In a double-blind controlled crossover trial 48 outpatients with respiratory disease characterised by difficulty in expectorating tenacious mucoid or mucopurulent sputum received Bisolvon 8 mg. three times a day, or a placebo, for one week. Even after this relatively short period Bisolvon was measurably more effective than the placebo. Using a whole body plethysmograph the authors demonstrated that:

Bisolvon improves pulmonary function

"A preliminary simple analysis was made by noting in which treatment period the better results were obtained for individual patients. This showed that a significantly larger proportion of patients experienced improvement in vital capacity during treatment with bromhexine. Differences in numbers of patients showing improved F.E.V.1.0, airways resistance, and F.R.C. were not statistically significant, but all favoured bromhexine*."

Bisolvon produces clinical improvement

"In comparison with assessment after placebo, no patient was considered on clinical grounds to be in a worse condition at the end of the week taking the active preparation. There was no clinically detectable change in nineteen patients, but in the other twenty-nine there was in every case a favourable change after bromhexine."

Bisolvon produces all-round improvement

In summarising their findings they had this to say:

"The drug increased ventilatory capacity, induced clinical improvement, or produced both effects, in a greater number of patients than did a placebo, and this difference was highly significant.'

"Effect of Bromhexine on Ventilatory Capacity in patients with a variety of Chest Diseases." Lancet, 1969, 2, 1094

*approved name for Bisolvon



Bisolvon Basic Data

Bisolvon®

Bisolvon is N-cyclohexyl-N-methyl-(2-amino-3,5-dibromobenzyl)-amine hydrochloride. (Approved name: bromhexine hydrochloride).

Indications

Chronic Bronchitis—Any other conditions where tenacious sputum is a problem. During acute infective episodes Bisolvomycin (Bisolvon 8 mg. plus oxytetracycline hydrochloride B.P. 250 mg.) should be used.

Contra-indications

There are no absolute contra-indications, but in patients with gastric ulceration relative caution should be observed in the use of Bisolvon tablets and elixir.

Precaution

Although no antibacterial activity is conclusively attributable to Bisolvon, the findings of one investigator suggest that the drug retards the development of colonies of tubercle bacilli. When a patient under treatment for tuberculosis is receiving Bisolvon, therefore, sputum cultures for tubercle bacilli should be continued for at least three months before a negative result may be assumed.

Side-effects

Occasional gastrointestinal side-effects may be caused but these are almost invariably mild. In a few patients a transient rise in serum transaminase levels may be seen during treatment with Bisolvon. Despite continuation of the drug, the transaminase levels should fall

again, even in those patients in whom there pre-exists some impairment of hepatic function.

Dosage

Adults:

8 mg. three times daily. This may be increased up to 16 mg. four times daily if necessary.

Children age 5 to 10: 4 mg. four times daily. Children under 5: 4 mg. twice daily.

Availability

Tablets, 8 mg.

Elixir, 4 mg. in 5 ml. (with 17.5 mg. chloroform).

Approximate Daily Cost of Treatment (basic NHS; UK only)

Tablets:

1s. 0d. (3 tablets ex 1,000 pack)

Elixir:

1s. 9d. (30 ml. ex 1 L. pack)

Hospital treatment costs are about 10% lower.

Further information is available on request from Boehringer Ingelheim Limited, Isleworth, Middlesex.



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Fairground Organs: No.4 of a Series

Carl Frei 112 Keyless Concert Organ

Photograph by permission of G. T. Cushing Esq., Thursford, Norfolk.

This organ was built as a 100-key instrument in 1910 by Carl Frei of Antwerp. It was rediscovered and completely rebuilt as a 112-keyless organ in Waldkirch, Germany, to the present owner's specifications. A unique feature of this instrument is the carillon which is used as an introduction to each piece of music—a signature tune in fact of the makers. The bass notes are particularly rich and deep. Together the conductor and drummers perform splendidly. This is, perhaps, the most exciting example of a fairground organ.