

**MEDIA ALERT**

**1 December 2009**

**RU486, flying and thromboembolism, and other  
articles in *Australian Prescriber***

The December edition of *Australian Prescriber* is out now and looks at topical issues including:

**Mifepristone: an overview of Australian practice**

Mifepristone (RU486) has received considerable media attention over the last three years for its use in medical abortion, however it has other uses. Professor David Healy of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Monash University discusses the pharmacology of this drug, and dosing regimens, as well as its use in uterine fibroids, Cushing's syndrome, meningioma and breast cancer.

**Flying and thromboembolism**

Authors Frank Firkin and Harshal Nandurkar of St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, advise there is no evidence that aspirin protects against venous thromboembolism. They recommend travellers at high risk of venous thromboembolism be considered for anticoagulant prophylaxis when undertaking lengthy air travel.

**Biosimilars are not (bio)generics**

As the use of biological drugs increases, Professor Ross McKinnon and research fellow Christine Lu of the Sansom Institute in Adelaide explain the difference between biosimilars and 'generic' equivalents of innovator products, and highlight some of the challenges presented by this new era of complex pharmaceutical products.

**Managing otitis media**

Drs Peter Morris and Amanda Leach of the Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin, discuss the different interventions to treat middle ear infections, including 'wait and see' prescribing if the child is not in a high-risk group. While they maintain that otitis media often resolves without specific treatment, they recommend antibiotics for children with or at risk of persistent bacterial infection.

**Mouthwashes**

Dental researchers Camile Farah, Lidija McIntosh and Michael McCullough warn of the potential side effects of using mouthwashes containing alcohol. Although these products are widely advertised, they are at best an adjunct to flossing and tooth-brushing.

For full copies of these and other articles, visit [www.australianprescriber.com](http://www.australianprescriber.com).

**NPS News #65**

The December edition of *NPS News* looks at managing urinary incontinence in primary care.

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