



**DRUGS LOST  
 PATENT PROTECTION**

June 2008		
BRAND NAME	GENERIC NAME	INDICATION
EFFEXOR	venlafaxine hydrochloride	Anti-depressant
EFFEXOR XR	venlafaxine hydrochloride	Anti-depressant
NICODERM CQ	nicotine	Smoking cessation
TESTIM	testosterone	Male hormone

**COMMENTS:** Check your formularies to ensure that patients are paying generic copays for these drugs.

**HUMOR...HEMORRHOIDS TO ABS**

The latest trend is for men to spread Preparation H hemorrhoid cream on their chest to look "ripped". This is an off-label use of which Wyeth disapproves, but the trend is likely to continue. Preparation H contains phenylephrine HCL that shrinks swollen hemorrhoid tissues and works by constricting nearby blood vessels feeding blood and fluid to the area. But the ingredient doesn't distinguish what kind of tissue it will shrink, hence the street credibility for applying Preparation H under the eyes, on love handles or other places.

But even if you don't become muscle bound using Preparation H, you may feel your heart pound, however love won't be the cause. "Probably if you put enough of it on, it would raise your blood pressure," Darrell Rigel, clinical professor of dermatology at New York University Medical Center states. "It's not designed to cover the whole area of your chest. It's designed to cover a small part of your rear end."

**COMMENT:** This is just for fun. Please don't try it.

**LYMPHOMA FROM ARTHRITIS DRUGS?**

The FDA is conducting a safety review of Enbrel, Humira, Cimzia, and Remicade for a possible affiliation with lymphoma and other cancers in children and young adults that have Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) and Crohn's disease.

The FDA has received 30 reports over the past 10 years with half of those cancers being lymphomas (both Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's). The FDA notes that the drugs inhibit the immune system by blocking the activity of a substance that can cause inflammation and lead to immune system-related diseases like JIA, and Crohn's disease.

The FDA requested Nektar Therapeutics, manufacturer of Cimzia, to conduct a study to evaluate long-term risks, including lymphomas and other cancers beginning in 2009.

**COMMENT:** Add this to your physician communications, as MDs should be watchful of potential drug-induced disease.

**JCODE x NDC BRIDGE**

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