Assessing the Value of Fusidic Acid in Dermatology

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Contents

List of contributors ................................................................. 4

Chairman’s Introduction: Assessing the value of fusidic acid in dermatology
Donald Y. M. Leung ................................................................. 5

Chapter 1. Fusidic acid: a valuable agent for controlling Staphylococcus aureus skin infections
Dimitris Rigopoulos and Georgios Larios ........................................ 7

Chapter 2. Fusidic acid in skin and soft-tissue infections
Barry H. Long ........................................................................... 14

Chapter 3. The role of Staphylococcus aureus in atopic eczema
Donald Y. M. Leung .................................................................. 21

Chapter 4. Antibacterial/steroid combination therapy in infected eczema
Anthony C. Chu ......................................................................... 28

Chapter 5. Treatment success factors: diagnostic and treatment choices, and patient education
Thomas L. Diepgen .................................................................... 35
List of contributors

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Speakers at the LEO Symposium (left to right): Dr Tony Chu, Dr Dimitris Rigopoulos, Professor Donald Leung, Professor Thomas Diepgen, Dr Barry Long.
Chairman’s Introduction:
Assessing the value of fusidic acid in dermatology

This supplement covers the contents of a symposium that was held in Vienna, Austria, on 17 May 2007 at the 16th Congress of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology.

Fusidic acid has been a mainstay in the treatment of dermatological infections, particularly those caused by *Staphylococcus aureus*, for many years. The aim of the symposium was to present a comprehensive account of the characteristics, clinical effectiveness and potential for resistance development of fusidic acid, placed in context with other drugs also used in dermatology. This compilation adds the results of newer studies, not previously reviewed, to those of older ones. It is timely, in light of the recent launch of a new fusidic acid/steroid combination formulation, namely fusidic acid 2%/betamethasone valerate 0.1% lipid cream (Fucicort® Lipid).

The first article, by Dr D. Rigopoulos, presents a brief overview of the value of fusidic acid for controlling *S. aureus*. This is followed by a review of the evidence for the clinical efficacy of plain fusidic acid formulations, by Dr B. Long. I then discuss the role of *S. aureus* in atopic eczema, highlighting the effects of superantigens released by the bacterium. The article by Dr T. Chu reviews the use of antibacterial/steroid combination therapy to combat the “vicious cycle” of dryness of the skin, inflammation and infection that is seen in infected eczema. Finally, Dr T. Diepgen’s paper reports on an interactive session in which case histories formed the basis for a discussion of treatment success factors and the importance of patient education.

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