

bronchospasm, faintness), **even when mild**, the patient should be observed until these have resolved completely.

- **PREGNANCY** Should be avoided in pregnant women—consult product literature.
- **MONITORING REQUIREMENTS** The first dose of grass pollen extract (*Grazax*<sup>®</sup>) should be taken under medical supervision and the patient should be monitored for 20–30 minutes.
- **DIRECTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION** Oral lyophilisates should be placed under the tongue and allowed to disperse. Advise patient not to swallow for 1 minute, or eat or drink for 5 minutes after taking the tablet. The first should be taken under medical supervision and the patient should be monitored for 20–30 minutes.
- **PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING INFORMATION** Each set of allergen extracts usually contains vials for the administration of graded amounts of allergen to patients undergoing hyposensitisation. Maintenance sets containing vials at the highest strength are also available. Product literature must be consulted for details of allergens, vial strengths, and administration.
- **PATIENT AND CARER ADVICE** Patients or carers should be given advice on how to administer oral lyophilisates.

- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug.

#### Suspension for Injection

- ▶ **Pollinex Grasses + Rye** (Allergy Therapeutics (UK) Ltd)  
Pollinex Grasses + Rye suspension for injection treatment and extension course vials | 4 vial [PoM] £450.00

#### Oral lyophilisate

- ▶ **Grazax** (ALK-Abello Ltd)  
Pheum pratense 75000 SQ-T Grazax 75,000 SQ-T oral lyophilisates sugar-free | 30 tablet [PoM] £80.12 DT = £80.12

## Tree pollen extract

### ● INDICATIONS AND DOSE

**Treatment of seasonal allergic hay fever due to tree pollen in patients who have failed to respond to anti-allergy drugs**

- ▶ BY SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION
- ▶ Child: (consult product literature)

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

#### DESENSITISING VACCINES

In view of concerns about the safety of desensitising vaccines, it is recommended that they are used by specialists and only for the following indications:

- seasonal allergic hay fever (caused by pollen) that has not responded to anti-allergic drugs;
  - hypersensitivity to wasp and bee venoms.
- Desensitising vaccines should generally be avoided or used with particular care in patients with asthma.

- **CONTRA-INDICATIONS** Children under 5 years · consult product literature
- **CAUTIONS** Consult product literature
- **INTERACTIONS** → Appendix 1: tree pollen extract
- **SIDE-EFFECTS**

**SIDE-EFFECTS, FURTHER INFORMATION** Hypersensitivity reactions to immunotherapy can be life-threatening. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation must be immediately available and patients need to be monitored for at least 1 hour after injection. If symptoms or signs of hypersensitivity develop (e.g. rash, urticaria, bronchospasm, faintness), **even when mild**, the patient should be observed until these have resolved completely.

- **PREGNANCY** Should be avoided in pregnant women—consult product literature.

- **PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING INFORMATION** Each set of allergen extracts usually contains vials for the administration of graded amounts of allergen to patients undergoing hyposensitisation. Maintenance sets containing vials at the highest strength are also available. Product literature must be consulted for details of allergens, vial strengths, and administration.

- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug.

#### Suspension for injection

- ▶ **Pollinex Trees** (Allergy Therapeutics (UK) Ltd)  
Pollinex Trees No 3 suspension for injection 1ml vials | 1 vial [PoM] [X]  
Pollinex Trees No 2 suspension for injection 1ml vials | 1 vial [PoM] [X]  
Pollinex Trees No 1 suspension for injection 1ml vials | 1 vial [PoM] [X]  
Pollinex Trees suspension for injection treatment and extension course vials | 4 vial [PoM] £450.00

## Wasp venom extract

### ● INDICATIONS AND DOSE

#### Hypersensitivity to wasp venom

- ▶ BY SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION
- ▶ Child: (consult product literature)

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

#### DESENSITISING VACCINES

In view of concerns about the safety of desensitising vaccines, it is recommended that they are used by specialists and only for the following indications:

- seasonal allergic hay fever (caused by pollen) that has not responded to anti-allergic drugs;
  - hypersensitivity to wasp and bee venoms.
- Desensitising vaccines should generally be avoided or used with particular care in patients with asthma.

- **CONTRA-INDICATIONS** Children under 5 years · consult product literature

- **CAUTIONS** Consult product literature

- **INTERACTIONS** → Appendix 1: wasp venom extract

- **SIDE-EFFECTS**

**SIDE-EFFECTS, FURTHER INFORMATION** Hypersensitivity reactions to wasp venom extracts can be life-threatening; cardiopulmonary resuscitation must be immediately available and patients need to be monitored for at least 1 hour after injection. If symptoms or signs of hypersensitivity develop (e.g. rash, urticaria, bronchospasm, faintness), **even when mild**, the patient should be observed until these have resolved completely.

- **PREGNANCY** Avoid.

- **PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING INFORMATION** Each set of allergen extracts usually contains vials for the administration of graded amounts of allergen to patients undergoing hyposensitisation. Maintenance sets containing vials at the highest strength are also available. Product literature must be consulted for details of allergens, vial strengths, and administration.

- **NATIONAL FUNDING/ACCESS DECISIONS**

#### NICE decisions

- ▶ **Pharmalgen**<sup>®</sup> for bee and wasp venom allergy (February 2012) NICE TA246

**Pharmalgen**<sup>®</sup> is an option for the treatment of IgE-mediated bee and wasp venom allergy in those who have had:

- a severe systemic reaction to bee or wasp venom;
- a moderate systemic reaction to bee or wasp venom and who have a raised baseline serum-tryptase concentration, a high risk of future stings, or anxiety about future stings.