



Therapeutic Class ReviewSM

Neurology: Antiepileptics – Keppra XRTM

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Evidence:

- There are no trials comparing levetiracetam extended-release (Keppra XR) to levetiracetam immediate-release (Keppra) or any other antiepileptic drug at this time.
- The efficacy of levetiracetam extended-release (Keppra XR) was established on the data from the immediate-release product and on one small clinical trial. The unpublished randomized clinical trial compared levetiracetam extended-release (Keppra XR) to placebo in 158 patients who had refractory partial onset seizures. The study concluded that 2x500 mg levetiracetam extended-release tablets (Keppra XR) given once daily reduced the weekly frequency of partial onset seizures better than placebo over a 12-week treatment period.

Decision

Levetiracetam extended-release (Keppra XR) is non-preferred/non-formulary because:

- There is no evidence that it provides any clinical advantages over less expensive generic and preferred/formulary brand treatment alternatives.
- The safety of transitioning patients from the immediate-release to the extended-release product is uncertain (equivalent dosing is unknown).
- The extended-release formulation does not decrease pill burden because it is available in 500 mg tablets only.

References:

1. Keppra XRTM (levetiracetam extended-release tablets) prescribing information. September 2008. UCB Inc., Smyrna, GA.
2. UCB 2007 Annual Report available at : http://www.ucb-group.com/documents/UC_070444_RA2007-UK.pdf. Accessed September 26, 2008.
3. Drug Facts and Comparisons. Drug Facts and Comparisons 4.0 [online]. 2008. Available from Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. at: <http://online.factsandcomparisons.com/index.aspx> accessed September 29, 2008.