



21 November 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Levobunolol (Betagan®) 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: product is being discontinued

Issue

1. Levobunolol (Betagan®) 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free are being discontinued from late December 2024.
2. Alternative preservative free, single dose beta-blocker eye drops remain available and are able to support the market.

Advice and Actions

3. Clinicians should identify patients prescribed levobunolol (Betagan®) 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free and consider:
 - prescribing timolol (Tiopex®) 1mg/g eye gel drops 0.4g unit dose preservative free or betaxolol (Betoptic®) 0.25% eye drops 0.25ml unit dose preservative free, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on any changes in preparation, dose and frequency (see additional information below); or
 - if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

4. The preservative free (single/unit dose) eye drops containing the beta blockers levobunolol (Betagan®), timolol (Tiopex®), and betaxolol (Betoptic®) are licensed for treatment of chronic open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension.
5. Dose frequency varies between preparations:
 - Levobunolol (Betagan®) 0.5% eye drops (0.4ml unit dose) are administered once or twice daily.
 - Timolol (Tiopex®) 1mg/g eye gel (0.4g unit dose) is administered once daily, in the morning.
 - Betaxolol (Betoptic®) 0.25% eye drops (0.25ml single dose) are administered twice daily.

*<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1842/medicine-supply-alert-notices-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.pdf>

Links to further information

- [BNF: Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension](#)
- [CKS-Glaucoma: Topical beta-blockers](#)
- [SmPC Betagan® Unit Dose](#)
- [SmPC Tiopex® 1mg/g eye gel in single-dose container](#)
- [SmPC Betoptic® Suspension single dose 0.25% eye drops](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

6. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with SPS have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool you need to register with the [SPS website](#). Registration for access to the website is available to UK healthcare professionals and organisations providing NHS healthcare. The tool is located under the Tools tab and then click on the Medicines Supply option.
7. We encourage prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool to stay up to date concerning medicines supply disruptions. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not always be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

Enquiries

8. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot (secondary care).