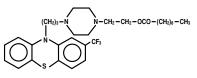
# 45849F/Revised: September 2010

# FLUPHENAZINE DECANOATE INJECTION, USP

# DESCRIPTION:

Fluphenazine decanoate is the decanoate ester of a trifluoromethyl phenothiazine derivative. It is a highly potent behavior modifier with a markedly extended dura-tion of effect and has the following structural formula:



C32H44F3N3O2S

M.W. 591.8

Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection, USP is available as a clear, pale yellow solution for intramuscular (IM) or subcutaneous (SC) use providing 25 mg fluphenazine decanoate per mL in a sesame oil vehicle with 12 mg benzyl alcohol as a preservative.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: The basic effects of fluphenazine decanoate appear to be no different from those of fluphenazine hydrochlo-ride, with the exception of duration of action. The ester-flication of fluphenazine markedly prolongs the drug's duration of effect without unduly attenuating its bene-ficial action

duration of offect without unduly attenuating its bene-ficial action. Fluphenazine decanoate has activity at all levels of the central nervous system (CNS) as well as on multiple organ systems. The mechanism whereby its therapeutic action is exerted is unknown. Fluphenazine differs from other phenothiazine deriv-atives in several respects: it is more potent on a mil-ligram basis, it has less potentiating effect on CNS depressants and anesthetics than do some of the phenothiazines and appears to be less sedating, and it is less likely than some of the older phenothiazines to produce hypotension (nevertheless, appropriate cautions should be observed, see PRECAUTIONS and ADVERSE REACTIONS).

ADVERSE HEACTIONS). INDICATIONS AND USAGE: Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection is a long-acting parenteral antipsychotic drug intended for use in the management of patients requiring prolonged parenteral neuroleptic therapy (e.g., chronic schizophrenics). Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection has not been shown effective in the management of behavioral com-plications in patients with mental retardation.

plications in patients with mental retardation. **CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Phenothiazines are contraindicated in patients with suspected or established subcortical brain damage. Phenothiazine compounds should not be used in patients receiving large doses of hypnotics. Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection is contraindicated in comatose or severely depressed states. The presence of blood dyscrasia or liver damage precludes the use of fluphenazine decanoate. Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection is not intended for use in children under 12 years of age. Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection is contraindicated in patients who have shown hypersensitivity to fluphen-azine; cross-sensitivity to phenothiazine derivatives may occur. occur

# WARNINGS

Tardive Dyskinesia Tardive dyskinesia, a syndrome consisting of potentially reversible, involuntary, dyskinetic consisting of potentiality irreversible, involuntary, dyskinetic movements, may develop in patients treated with neuroleptic (antipsy-chotic) drugs. Although the prevalence of the syndrome appears to be highest among the elderly, especially elderly women, it is impossible to rely upon prevalence estimates to predict, at the inception of neuroleptic treat-ment, which patients are likely to develop the syndrome.

Whether neuroleptic drug products differ in their poten-tial to cause tardive dyskinesia is unknown. Both the risk of developing the syndrome and the likelihood that it will become irreversible are believed to increase as the duration of treatment and the total cumulative dose of neuroleptic drugs administered

cumulative dose of neuroleptic drugs administered to the patient increase. However, the syndrome can develop, although much less commonly, after relatively brief treatment periods at low doses. There is no known treatment for established cases of tardive dyskinesia, although the syndrome may remit, partially or completely, if neuroleptic treatment is withdrawn. Neuroleptic treatment, itself, however, may suppress (or partially suppress) the signs and symp-toms of the syndrome and thereby may possibly mask the underlying disease process. The effect that symp-tomatic suppression has upon the long-term course of the syndrome is unknown.

the syndrome is unknown. Given these considerations, neuroleptics should Given these considerations, neuroleptics should be prescribed in a manner that is most likely to mini-mize the occurrence of tardive dyskinesia. Chronic neuroleptic treatment should generally be reserved for patients who suffer from a chronic illness that, 1) is known to respond to neuroleptic drugs, and, 2) for whom alternative equally effective, but potentially less harmful treatments are *not* available or appropriate. In patients who do require chronic treatment, the smallest dose and the shortest duration of treatment producing a satisfactory clinical response should be sought. The need for continued treatment should be reassessed periodically.

need for continued treatment should be reassessed periodically. If signs and symptoms of tardive dyskinesia appear in a patient on neuroleptics, drug discontinuation should be considered. However, some patients may require treatment despite the presence of the syndrome. (For further information about the description of tardive dyskinesia and its clinical detection, please refer to the sections on PRECAUTIONS, Information for Patients, and ADVERSE REACTIONS, Tardive Dyskinesia.) for Patients Dyskinesia.)

### Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS)

Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS) A potentially fatal symptom complex sometimes referred to as Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS) has been reported in association with antipsychotic drugs. Clinical manifestations of NMS are hyperpyrexia, muscle rigidity, altered mental status and evidence of autonomic insta-bility (irregular pulse or blood pressure, tachycardia, diaphoresis, and cardiac dysrhythmias). The diagnostic evaluation of patients with this syn-drome is complicated. In arriving at a diagnosis, it is important to identify cases where the clinical presen-tation includes both serious medical illness (e.g., pneu-monia, systemic infection, etc.) and untreated or inad-

tation includes both serious medical illness (e.g., pneu-monia, systemic infection, etc.) and untreated or inad-equately treated extrapyramidal signs and symptoms (EPS). Other important considerations in the differential diagnosis include central anticholinergic toxicity, heat stroke, drug fever and primary CNS pathology. The management of NMS should include 1) imme-diate discontinuation of antipsychotic drugs and other drugs not essential to concurrent therapy, 2) intensive symptomatic treatment and medical monitoring, and 3) treatment of any concomitant serious medical prob-lems for which specific treatments are available. There is no general agreement about specific pharmacological

If a patient requires antipsychic transmission and available. There is no general agreement about specific pharmacological treatment regimens for uncomplicated NMS. If a patient requires antipsychotic drug treatment after recovery from NMS, the potential reintroduction of drug therapy should be carefully considered. The patient should be carefully monitored, since recurrences of NMS have been reported.

### Others

The use of this drug may impair the mental and physical abilities required for driving a car or operating heavy

Physicians should be alert to the possibility that severe adverse reactions may occur which require immediate

acverse reactions may occur which require immediate medical attention. Potentiation of the effects of alcohol may occur with the use of this drug. Since there is no adequate experience in children who have received this drug, safety and efficacy in children have not been established.

Usage In Pregnancy

Usage in Pregnancy The safety for the use of this drug during pregnancy has not been established; therefore, the possible haz-ards should be weighed against the potential benefits when administering this drug to pregnant patients.

# PRECAUTIONS:

General Because of the possibility of cross-sensitivity, fluphenazine decanoate should be used cautiously in patients who have developed cholestatic jaundice, der-matoses, or other allergic reactions to phenothiazine

derivatives Psychotic patients on large doses of a phenothiazine Psychotic patients on large doses of a phenothiazine drug who are undergoing surgery should be watched carefully for possible hypotensive phenomena. More-over, it should be remembered that reduced amounts of anesthetics or CNS depressants may be necessary. The effects of atropine may be potentiated in some patients receiving fluphenazine because of added anticholinergic effects. Fluphenazine decanoate should be used cautiously in patients exposed to extreme heat or phosphorus insecticides. The preparation should be used with caution in

The preparation should be used with caution in

The preparation should be used with caution in patients with a history of convulsive disorders, since grand mal convulsions have been known to occur. Use with caution in patients with special medical dis-orders such as mitral insufficiency or other cardiovas-cular disease and pheochromocytoma. The possibility of liver damage, pigmentary retinopa-thy, lenticular and corneal deposits, and development of irreversible dyskinesia should be remembered when patients are on prolonged therapy. Outside state hospitals or other psychiatric institu-tions, fluphenazine decanoate should be administered under the direction of a physician experienced in the

tions, fluphenazine decanoate should be administered under the direction of a physician experienced in the clinical use of psychotropic drugs, particularly phe-nothiazine derivatives. Furthermore, facilities should be available for periodic checking of hepatic function, renal function, and the blood picture. Renal function of patients on long-term therapy should be monitored; if blood urea nitrogen (BUN) becomes abnormal, treat-ment should be discontinued. As with any phenothiazine, the physician should be allert to the possible development of "silent pneumo-nias" in patients under treatment with fluphenazine decanoate.

decanoate.

Neuroleptic drugs elevate prolactin levels; the ele-Neurolepic orugs elevate protactin levels, the ele-vation persists during chronic administration. Tissue culture experiments indicate that approximately one-third of human breast cancers are prolactin dependent *in vitro*, a factor of potential importance if the prescrip-tion of these drugs is contemplated in a patient with a previously detected breast cancer. Although disturpreviously detected breast cancer. Although distur-bances such as galactorrhea, amenorrhea, gyneco-mastia, and impotence have been reported, the clini-cal significance of elevated serum prolactin levels is unknown for most patients. An increase in mammary neoplasms has been found in rodents after chronic administration of neuroleptic drugs. Neither clinical studies nor epidemiologic studies conducted to date, however, have shown an association between chronic administration of these drugs and mammary tumorigen-esis; the available evidence is considered too limited to be conclusive at this time.

Pregnancy Non-teratogenic Effects Neonates exposed to antipsychotic drugs, during the third trimester of pregnancy are at risk for extrapyramidal and/or withdrawal symptoms following delivery. There have been reports of agitation, hypertonia, hypotonia, tremor, somnolence, respiratory distress and feed-ing disorder in these neonates. These complications have varied in severity: while in some cases symptoms have been self-limited, in other cases neonates have required intensive care unit support and prolonged hospitalization.

Nospitalization. Fluphenazine Decanoate should be used during preg-nancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

risk to the fetus. Leukopenia, Neutropenia and Agranulocytosis In clinical trial and postmarketing experience, events of leukopenia/neutropenia and agranulocytosis have been reported temporally related to antipsychotic agents. Possible risk factors for leukopenia/neutrope-nia include pre-existing low white blood cell count (WBC) and history of drug induced leukopenia/ neutropenia. Patients with a pre-existing low WBC or a history of drug induced leukopenia/neutrope-nia should have their complete blood count (CBC) monitored frequently during the first few months of therapy and should discontinue Fluphenazine Decanoate injection, USP at the first sign of a decline in WBC in the absence of other causative factors. in WBC in the absence of other causative factors.

Patients with neutropenia should be carefully moni-tored for fever or other symptoms or signs of infection and treated promptly if such symptoms or signs occur. Patients with severe neutropenia (absolute neutrophil count <1000/mm<sup>3</sup>) should discontinue Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection, USP and have their WBC followed until recovery.

## Information for Patients

Given the likelihood that a substantial proportion of patients exposed chronically to neuroleptics will develop tardive dyskinesia, it is advised that all patients in whom chronic use is contemplated be given, if possible, full information about this risk. The decision to inform patients and/or their guardians must obviously take into account the clinical circumstances and the competency of the patient to understand the information provided.

# ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Central Nervous System The side effects most frequently reported with phe-The side effects most trequently reported with phe-nothiazine compounds are extrapyramidal symptoms including pseudoparkinsonism, dystonia, dyskinesia, akathisia, oculogyric crises, opisithotonos, and hyper-reflexia. Muscle rigidity sometimes accompanied by hyperthermia has been reported following use of fluphenazine decancate. Most often these extrapyra-held enterprese coversible towney. fulprenazine decanoate. Most often inesé extrapyra-midal symptoms are reversible; however, they may be persistent (see below). The frequency of such reactions is related in part to chemical structure: one can expect a higher incidence with fluphenazine decanoate than with less potent piperazine derivatives or with straight-chain phenothiazines such as chlorpromazine. With any given phenothiazine derivative the incidence and esercit

pheriothiazinė sevich as chlorpromazine. With any given pheriothiazinė derivative, the incidence and severity of such reactions depend more on individual patient sensitivity than on other factors, but dosage level and patient age are also determinants. Extrapyramidal reactions may be alarming, and the patient should be forewarned and reassured. These reactions can usually be controlled by administration of antiparkinsonian drugs such as Benztropine Mesylate or Intravenous Caffeine and Sodium Benzoate Injection, and by subsequent reduction in dosage. Tartive Divekinesia

Tradive Discrete reduction in dosage. Tardive Dyskinesia See WARNINGS. The syndrome is characterized by involuntary choreoathetoid movements which variously involve the tongue, pace, mouth, lips, or jaw (e.g., protru-sion of the tongue, puffing of checks, puckering of the mouth, chewing movements), trunk and extremities. The severity of the syndrome and the degree of impairment produced vary widely. The syndrome may become clinically recognizable either during treatment, upon dosage reduction, or upon withdrawal of treatment. Early detection of tar-dive dyskinesia is important. To increase the likelihood of detecting the syndrome at the earliest possible time, the dosage of the neuroleptic drug should be reduced periodically (if clinically possible) and the patient observed for signs of the disorder. This maneuver is critical, since neuroleptic drugs may mask the signs of the syndrome. the syndrome.

# Other CNS Effects

CMBF CNS EIRECTS Occurrences of neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) have been reported in patients on neurolep-tic therapy (see WARNINGS, Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome); leukocytosis, elevated CPK, liver function abnormalities, and acute renal failure may also occur with NMS. Drowsingers geletters

Drowsiness or lethargy, if they occur, may necessitate a reduction in dosage; the induction of a catatonic-like state has been known to occur with dosages of fluphenazine far in excess of the recommended amounts. As with other phenothiazine compounds, reactivation or aggravation of psychotic processes may be approximated be encountered

Phenothiazine derivatives have been known to cause. in some patients, restlessness, excitement, or bizarre drea

Autonomic Nervous System Hypertension and fluctuations in blood pressure have be en reported with fluphenazine.

been reported with fluphenazine. Hypotension has rarely presented a problem with fluphenazine. However, patients with pheochromo-cytoma, cerebral, vascular or renal insufficiency, or a severe cardiac reserve deficiency such as mitral insuf-ficiency appear to be particularly prone to hypotensive reactions with phenothiazine compounds, and should therefore be observed closely when the drug is admin-istered. If severe hypotension should occur, supportive measures including the use of intravenous vasopressor drugs should be instituted immediately. Norepinephrine Bitartrate Injection is the most suitable drug for this drugs should be instituted immediately. Norepinephrine Bitartrate Injection is the most suitable drug for this purpose: **epinephrine should not be used** since phe-nothiazine derivatives have been found to reverse its action, resulting in a further lowering of blood pressure. Autonomic reactions including nausea and loss of appetite, salivation, polyuria, perspiration, dry mouth, headache, and constipation may occur. Autonomic effects can usually be controlled by reducing or tem-porarity discontinuing doesge

porarily discontinuing dosage. In some patients, phenothiazine derivatives have caused blurred vision, glaucoma, bladder paralysis, fecal impaction, paralytic ileus, tachycardia, or nasal congestion.

Metabolic and Endocrine Weight change, peripheral edema, abnormal lactation, gynecomastia, menstrual irregularities, false results on pregnancy tests, impotency in men and increased libido in women have all been known to occur in some patients on phenothiazine therapy.

### Alleraic Reactions

Allergic Reactions Skin disorders such as itching, erythema, urticaria, seborrhea, photosensitivity, eczema and even exfolia-tive dermatitis have been reported with phenothinazine derivatives. The possibility of anaphylactoid reactions occurring in some patients should be borne in mind.

Hematologic Routine blood counts are advisable during therapy since blood dyscrasias including leukopenia, agranulocytosis, thrombocytopenic or nonthrombocytopenic purpura, eosinophilia, and pancytopenia have been observed with phenothiazine derivatives. Furthermore, if any sore ness of the mouth, gums, or throat, or any symptoms of upper respiratory infection occur and confirmatory leukocyte count indicates cellular depression, therapy should be discontinued and other appropriate measures instituted immediately.

Hepatic Liver damage as manifested by cholestatic jaundice may be encountered, particularly during the first months of therapy; treatment should be discontinued if this occurs. An increase in cephalin flocculation, sometimes accom-panied by alterations in other liver function tests, has been reported in patients receiving the enanthate ester of fluphenazine (a closely related compound) who have had no clinical evidence of liver damage.

# Others

Others Sudden, unexpected and unexplained deaths have been reported in hospitalized psychotic patients receiv-ing phenothiazines. Previous brain damage or seizures may be predisposing factors; high doses should be avoided in known seizure patients. Several patients have shortw before death. Autopsy findings have usually revealed acute fulminating pneumonia or pneumonitis, aspiration of gastric contents, or intramyocardial lesions. Although this is not a general feature of fluphenazine, potentiation of CNS depressants (opiates, analgesics, antihistamines, barbiturates, alcohol) may occur.

potentiation of CNS depressants (opiates, analgesics, antihistamines, barbiturates, alcohol) may occur. The following adverse reactions have also occurred with phenothiazine derivatives: Systemic lupus erythematosus-like syndrome, hypotension severe enough to cause fatal cardiac arrest, altered electro-cardiographic and electroencephalographic tracings, altered cerebrospinal fluid proteins, cerebral edema, asthma, laryngeal edema, and angioneurotic edema; with long-term use, skin pigmentation, and lenticular and corneal opacities. Injections of fluphenazine decanoate are extremely well tolerated, local tissue reactions occurring only rarely.

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### DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:

rarely. **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:** Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection may be given IM or SC. A dry syringe and needle of at least 21 gauge should be used. Use of a wet needle or syringe may cause the solution to become cloudy. To begin therapy with Fluphenazine Decanoate Injec-tion, the following regimens are suggested: *For most patients*, a dose of 12.5 to 25 mg (0.5 to 1 mL) may be given to initiate therapy. The onset of action generally appears between 24 and 72 hours after injection and the effects of the drug on psychotic subsequent injections and the dosage interval are deter-mined in accordance with the patient's response. When administered as maintenance therapy, a single injection may be effective in controlling schizophrenic symptoms up to four weeks or longer. The response to a single dose has been found to last as long as six weeks in a two patients on maintenance therapy. It may be advisable that patients who have no history istering the decanoate to determine the patient's response to fluphenazine and to estabilish appropri-ate dosage. For psychotic patients who have before stabilized on a fixed daily dosage of Fluphenazine Hydrochloride Tablets, USP or Fluphenazine Hydro-chloride Eliwir, USP conversion of therapy from these short-acting oral forms to the long-acting Fluphenazine becanoate lnjection may be indicated.

Appropriate dosage of Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection should be individualized for each patient and responses carefully monitored. No precise formula can be given to convert to use of Fluphenazine Decano-ate Injection; however, a controlled multicentered study,\* in patients receiving oral doses from 5 to 60 mg fluphenazine hydrochloride daily, showed that 20 mg fluphenazine hydrochloride daily was equivalent to 25 mg (1 mL) of Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection every three weeks. This represents an approximate con-version ratio of 12.5 mg (0.5 mL) of decanoate every three weeks for every 10 mg of fluphenazine hydro-chloride daily.

Chorde daily. Once conversion to Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection is made, careful clinical monitoring of the patient and appropriate dosage adjustment should be made at the time of each injection. Severely agitated patients may be treated initially with Severely agitated patients may be treated initially with

a rapid-acting phenothiazine compound such as Fluphenazine Hydrochloride Injection—see Package Inset accompanying that product for complete infor-mation. When acute symptoms have subsided, 25 mg (1 mL) of Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection may be administered; subsequent dosage is adjusted as nercessan;

(1 mL) of Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection may be administered; subsequent dosage is adjusted as necessary. "Poor risk" patients (those with known hypersensitivity to phenothiazines, or with disorders that predispose to undue reactions): Therapy may be initiated cautiously with oral or parenteral fluphenazine hydrochloride (see Package Inserts accompanying these products for complete information). When the pharmacologic effects and an appropriate dosage are apparent, an equivalent dose of fluphenazine decanoate may be administered. Subsequent dosage are apparent, an equivalent dose of fluphenazine decanoate may be administered. Subsequent dosage are of the patient. The optimal amount of the drug and the frequency of administration must be determined for each patient, since dosage requirements have been found to vary with clinical circumstances as well as with individual response to the drug. Dosage should not exceed 100 mg. If doses greater than 50 mg are deemed necessary, the next dose and succeeding doses should be increased cautiously in increments of 12.5 mg. Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration, whenever solution and container permit. HOW SUPPLIED:

# HOW SUPPLIED: NDC No. 63323-272-05

Product No. 27205

Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection, USP 25 mg/mL, 5 mL multiple dose, flip-top vials individually packaged.

 $_{\mu a \nu n dycu.}$  Store at 20° to 25°C (68° to 77°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature].

# PROTECT FROM LIGHT.

Retain vial in carton until ready for use.

Vial stoppers do not contain natural rubber latex.

\*Schooler, N.R.: The Initiation of Long-Term Pharma-cotherapy in Schizophrenia: Dosage and Side Effect Comparisons between Oral and Depot Fluphenazine Pharmakopsych. 9:159-169, 1976.



45849F Revised: September 2010