

NEWS FRONT

Liquid nutrition

Abbott Laboratories (NZ) has released Ensure, a new formulation liquid nutritional product for complete or supplemental feeding.

Ensure is said to flow down the finest nasogastric tubes without clogging, and be extremely palatable. It contains no lactose, is low in residue and has a low osmolality and renal solute load.

Ensure is in powder form and available in 400 g cans. ■

Abbott Laboratories (NZ) Ltd., P.O. Box 40640, Upper Hutt, NZ.

New From Ethnor

Recent releases by Ethnor for the inhibition of premature labour or the relief of acute fetal distress from extreme uterine contraction during labour, are Yutopar (ritodrine HCl) 10mg/ml injection, administered by intravenous infusion, and Yutopar 10mg tablets, given on cessation of uterine contractions after parenteral administration of Yutopar injection. NSS.

For the treatment of vulvovaginal candidiasis Ethnor has released Gyno Dak-tarin 7 ovules (miconazole nitrate 2% soft pessaries). Packaging is 7 x 100mg ovules with plastic washable applicator. SS. Ethnor P/L., P.O. Box 9222, Auckland 1, NZ.

New drug in U.S. for pheochromocytoma

In the U.S. metyrosine (Demser), a new drug for the treatment of patients with pheochromocytoma, has received FDA approval.

Designed to control the elevated blood pressure that is the most common feature of the disease, it is not recommended for the treatment of essential hypertension. Surgery of the usually benign adrenal gland tumour which causes pheochromocytoma is the treatment of choice for up to 90% of patients. Metyrosine is indicated for the pre-operative preparation of such patients for surgery, management of patients when surgery is contraindicated, and chronic treatment of patients with malignant pheochromocytoma.

Some of the side effects of the drug include moderate to severe sedation (in almost all patients); extrapyramidal signs such as drooling, speech difficulty, and tremor (in 10% of patients); anxiety and

psychic disturbances, which appear to be dose-dependent, and diarrhoea.

In response to requests from medical specialists, metyrosine has been made available by Merck Sharp and Dohme as a public service product at a price lower than the costs of manufacturing and distribution. ■

Image analysis and heart disease

A set of computer programs which enables cine-angiograms (X-ray pictures of the beating heart, recorded on standard 35-mm cine film) to be analysed automatically to show up abnormal features signifying various kinds of malfunction, has been developed by the Wolfson Image Analysis Unit at Manchester University Medical School, England.



The programs can also compute automatically all common functional indices of the heart (whether healthy or diseased), including ventricular volume, filling rate, ejection rate, ejection fraction, stroke volume and cardiac output. The first hospital installation of the system will be at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, in London.

Cine-angiograms have normally been interpreted qualitatively by examining the successive frames of the film; a labour-intensive procedure. The potential value of detailed numerical information has been shown, but the cost of extracting such information manually is usually prohibitive.

The programs are applied to the Magiscan image-analysis system (photo) made by Joyce-Loebl of Gateshead, England, a division of Vickers Ltd.

The standard package analyses contrast angiograms of the left ventricle but can be adapted to other imaging techniques or other cardiac chambers. ■

Joyce-Loebl, Marquisway, Team Valley, Gateshead NE11 0QW, England.

International anaesthetic congress

An International Congress of practising anaesthetists from throughout Greater Asia and Australasia will be held in New Zealand in 1982.

The 6th Asian Australasian Congress of Anaesthesiologists will be held at Auckland University, January 18th-23rd, 1982. ■

Gastric ulceration therapy

De-Nol chewing tablets have been released by Pharmaco (NZ) Ltd. for duodenal and gastric ulceration therapy.

De-Nol tablets contain colloidal bismuth subcitrate, and treatment must continue for four weeks though symptoms should disappear after three to four days. ■ Pharmaco (NZ) Ltd. in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

Winner going to WONCA

Dr. D. C. Chatterton of Palmerston North was the winner in a draw taken from participants in a recent IMS survey on medical communications.

Dr. Chatterton's prize was an airline ticket to his choice of medical conference: He has selected the October 1980 meeting in New Orleans of the World Organisation of National Colleges and Academies of General Practice (WONCA). ■

Clean air consultants

A chart illustrating the sizes of various airborne contaminants is available on request from Email as a guide to solving filtration problems. Once you know the size of the particles that have to be removed Email will advise on a suitable filter.

Email filters range from low cost, panel type filters to high efficiency electrostatic and absolute types. On-site testing of filter installations, clean rooms and clean benches is also available. An additional service is a computerised cost analysis to evaluate the most suitable and economical filters required. ■

Email Industries Ltd., P.O. Box 12648, Penrose, Auckland, NZ.