INTRON A (interferon alfa-2b) is produced by recombinant DNA technology.

In the early 1980's advances in DNA technology made it possible to clone and express the gene for human interferon alfa-2b. The final product of this technology is highly pure and contains only a single interferon.

The composition of INTRON A is consistent from batch to batch and furthermore formation of neutralizing antibodies has not been reported during INTRON A therapy for Hairy Cell Leukaemia and treatment can thus maintain its effectiveness.*

**INTERFERON ALFA-2B INJECTION**

The technological advances which have made the manufacture of INTRON A possible on a large scale have also brought advantages to both patient and doctor.

In the management of Hairy Cell Leukaemia the dose of INTRON A is 2 million i.u./m² and in contrast to other interferons which are normally administered daily, INTRON A is injected only three times per week. Additionally the low dosage and small injection volume mean that INTRON A can be injected subcutaneously.

This subcutaneous route is recommended from the start of therapy and many patients can self-administer throughout their treatment.

**ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT**

granulocyte and platelet counts have been observed, especially at higher doses. The most common adverse effects are "flu-like" symptoms, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia and CSS effects which are generally dose related and reversible and can be ameliorated by dose adjustment. "Flu-like" symptoms can be alleviated by the use of paracetamol. Legal Category: POM. Basic NHS Cost of INTRON A: Vial containing: 3 million i.u. £29.71; 10 million i.u. £29.71; 30 million i.u. £171.30 Product Licence Numbers: 15/1998/64-67. Product Licence Holder: Kirby-Warrick Pharmaceuticals Limited, Wildenham, Saffron Walden, Essex.

**KIRBY-WARRICK**

TIP THE BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

PHARMORUBICIN
Abbreviated Prescribing Information Before prescribing Pharmorubicin please refer to the full data sheet. Presentation Vials of 10mg, 20mg and 50mg epirubicin HCl. Uses Antimitotic and cytotoxic. Neoplastic conditions including breast, ovarian, gastric and colorectal carcinomas, lymphomas, leukaemias and multiple myelomas. Dosage & Administration The reconstituted solution should only be given by the intravenous route. Single agent dose between 75-90mg/m² may be repeated every 21 days. When used in combination the dose should be reduced. A low weekly dosage, commonly 20mg, can be given for the treatment of poor risk patients. Contraindications and Warnings Pharmorubicin should not normally be given to patients with marked myelosuppression, cardiac impairment or previously treated with maximum doses of other anthracyclines. Haematological monitoring, ECG and liver function tests should be undertaken regularly. Cardiac toxicity may occur when the cumulative dose exceeds 700mg/m² and left ventricular failure may occur above 1000mg/m² or lower in patients who have received prior radiotherapy to the mediastinal area. CHF and/or cardiomyopathy may occur several weeks after discontinuation of treatment. Alopecia is common at the higher dose but usually reversible. Mucositis, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may occur. The risk of thrombophlebitis at the injection site may be minimised by following the recommended procedure for administration. Patients should be advised against conception and breast feeding. The drug has shown mutagenic and carcinogenic properties in animals. Overdose Treat by support and careful monitoring. Delayed cardiac failure can occur for up to 6 months after the event. Pharmacological Precautions Particular care (e.g. protective clothing, good technique) should be taken to protect personnel. Legal Category POM. Package Quantities and Basic Hospital Price 10mg £13.72, 20mg £27.44, 50mg £67.62. PIP433/0082. Further information and data sheets are available on request from: Farmitalia Carlo Erba Limited Italia House, 23 Grosvenor Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3AW.

Pharmorubicin®
epirubicin

Treating breast cancer patients with care
Aims and Scope

The British Journal of Cancer will accept papers which contain new information, constitute a distinct contribution to knowledge, and are relevant to the clinical, epidemiological, pathological or molecular aspects of oncology.

The Journal is published monthly on behalf of the Cancer Research Campaign by the Scientific and Medical Division, The Macmillan Press Ltd., Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS. Telephone: Basingstoke (0256) 29242.

Copyright © 1987 by Cancer Research Campaign. ISSN 0007-0920.

Manuscripts plus two copies and all editorial correspondence should be sent to the Editor: Dr Michael Moore, Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester M20 9BX, UK.

Annual subscription: UK £135; USA & Canada $275; Rest of World £185 (or equivalent in any other currency). Orders must be accompanied by remittance. Cheques should be made payable to Macmillan Journals and sent to: The Macmillan Press Ltd., PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA, UK. Where appropriate, subscribers may make payments into UK Post Office Giro Account No. 519 2455. Full details must accompany the payment. Second class postage permit USPS 689–430.

Postmaster please send address corrections to British Journal of Cancer c/o Expediters of the Printed Word, Ltd., 515 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022, USA.

Cover illustration. A schematic representation of the Bam H1 fragment encoding the human c-Ha-ras gene (centre). The positions of the exons (filled boxes) and polymorphic VTR region (open box) are shown with respect to various restriction enzyme sites (see article by Ceccherini-Nelli et al., this issue, p. 3).

Enquiries concerning advertising space or rates should be addressed to: Advertising Department, British Journal of Cancer, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS. Telephone: (0256) 29242. Fax: (0256) 479476

All rights of reproduction are reserved in respect of all papers, articles, illustrations, etc., published in this journal in all countries of the world.

Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use, or the internal or personal use of specific clients, is granted by The Macmillan Press Ltd for libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Centre (CCC) Transactional Reporting Service, provided that the base fee of $01.00 per copy, plus $0.10 per page is paid directly to CCC, 27 Congress St., Salem, MA 01970, USA. 0007-0920/87 $1.00 + $0.10

Publisher: Harry Holt
Production & Editorial Services Manager: Nigel McNeil-Smith
Circulation Services: A.L. Clark
Promotion Manager: Richard Gedye

Whilst every effort is made by the publishers and editorial board to see that no inaccurate or misleading data, opinion or statement appears in this journal, they wish to make it clear that the data and opinions appearing in the articles and advertisements herein are the responsibility of the contributor or advertiser concerned. Accordingly, the publishers and the editorial committee and their respective employees, officers and agents accept no liability whatsoever for the consequences of any such inaccurate or misleading data, opinion or statement. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that drug doses and other quantities are presented accurately, readers are advised that new methods and techniques involving drug usage, and described within this Journal, should only be followed in conjunction with the drug manufacturer’s own published literature.