

Bupivacaine Injection: Check Your Supplies

Three reports from anesthesiologists alerted ISMP Canada about Polyamp ampoules of bupivacaine for injection that were labelled with the brand name, Sensorcaine, but not the product's generic name (see Figure 1). ISMP Canada relayed concerns about the lack of the generic drug name (bupivacaine) on the

label, as well as the potential for confusion and error, to the manufacturer, AstraZeneca, and to Health Canada for action. AstraZeneca responded that they have been working on this issue and advised ISMP Canada that the company has new stock available with the generic drug name included on the Polyamp label.

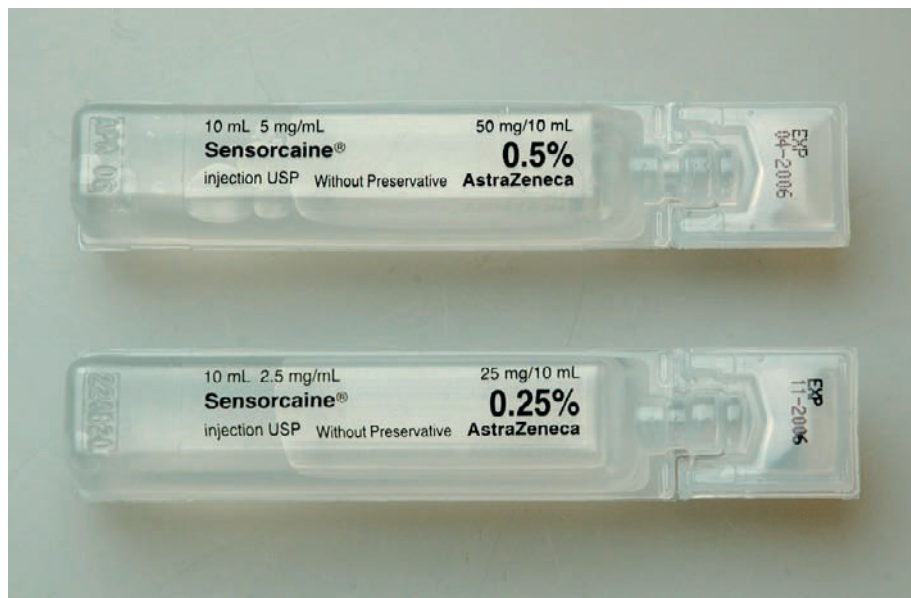


Figure 1. Polyamp ampoules containing bupivacaine but labelled with only the drug's brand name, Sensorcaine.

Healthcare facilities are urged to contact AstraZeneca, at 1-800-668-6000, to request replacement of existing stock with the new supplies, labelled with all critical information, including the generic drug name.

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ISMP Canada is a national voluntary medication incident and 'near miss' reporting program founded for the purpose of sharing the learning experiences from medication errors. Implementation of preventative strategies and system safeguards to decrease the risk for error-induced injury and thereby promote medication safety in healthcare is our collaborative goal.

To report a medication error to ISMP Canada: (i) visit our website www.ismp-canada.org, or (ii) e-mail us at info@ismp-canada.org, or (iii) phone us at 416-480-4099. ISMP Canada guarantees confidentiality and security of information received. ISMP Canada respects the wishes of the reporter as to the level of detail to be included in our publications.

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