

# Olanzapine dominates price rises in May


Average UK price rises of up to 15 times were seen for olanzapine in May, pushing five presentations of the antipsychotic into the top six 'biggest risers' for the month as their averages shot up. This was despite relatively minor shifts in their lowest available price to independent UK pharmacists (see Figure 2).

While a price concession was granted by the Department of Health (DoH) for the other item that appears alongside olanzapine in the 'biggest risers' table – packs of six sumatriptan 50mg tablets, which received a concession price of £28.65 (US\$36.55), more than matching the average price that shot up by 1,123% to £14.68 – no concessions were granted in May for olanzapine.

Meanwhile, among the 'biggest fallers' venlafaxine XL extended-release capsules in 75mg and 150mg strengths both saw average price drops of 68% to £2.03 and £3.45 respectively for 28-capsule packs, despite their lowest offers remaining unchanged (see Figure 3).

Of our basket of recent launches, rizatriptan 10mg tablets experienced the steepest average price rise, with an increase of 25% to £1.44 (see Figure 1). This was linked to Numark introducing the product to their 'Numerics Teva' list – as part of a partnership with the Israeli firm announced in late May – at over £2.00 per pack.

Numark boasted that the partnership would give customers "access to extremely competitive pricing and pack consistency, combined with an enhanced and simplified discount structure based on spend and payable monthly via a rebate". Over 700 of the 1,600 Numerics portfolio would come from Teva, Numark indicated.

Atorvastatin 20mg tablets generated the most interest in terms of offers during May, with 28-count packs leading our 'fast movers' with 177 price offers to independent UK pharmacists recorded by the end of the month (see Figure 4). Omeprazole and hydrocortisone were close behind, followed by sertraline and lansoprazole. 

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.64	+2	£1.07	+6
Benzylamine 0.15% 300ml	£4.87	±0	£5.65	±0
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£42.50	-3	£53.37	±0
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.89	+5	£1.37	+4
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£2.09	-30	£3.69	-3
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£5.19	±0	£7.07	+10
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.15	+1	£1.84	+17
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£0.89	±0	£1.51	-1
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£3.19	-3	£4.36	+1
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£2.99	+3	£3.80	+3
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.34	±0	£0.73	+3
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£7.50	-4	£9.96	+1
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.57	+8	£0.98	-3
Mometasone furoate 0.1% 30g	£1.15	±0	£1.68	-7
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.38	-52	£1.19	±0
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£19.43	-7	£33.92	-7
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£14.50	-12	£22.97	-6
Oxcarbazepine tabs 300mg 50	£4.79	+1	£5.89	+1
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.60	±0	£0.96	+3
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.20	±0	£3.15	±0
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£0.83	+5	£1.78	+1
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£0.76	+3	£1.44	+25
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£25.00	±0	£37.49	-2
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.23	+5	£0.46	+2
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.99	-1	£1.45	-8

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Olanzapine tabs 20mg 28	£1.12	±0	£22.67	+1508
Olanzapine tabs 15mg 28	£0.99	+13	£18.16	+1426
Olanzapine tabs 10mg 28	£0.89	+9	£15.09	+1337
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.85	±0	£14.68	+1123
Olanzapine tabs 7.5mg 56	£0.99	+1	£11.33	+681
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.65	+10	£6.41	+682

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Venlafaxine XL caps 150mg 28	£1.65	±0	£3.45	-68
Venlafaxine XL caps 75mg 28	£0.85	±0	£2.03	-68
Galantamine solution 4mg/ml 100ml	£85.50	+8	£118.70	-45
Ramipril tabs 5mg 28	£0.34	+6	£0.87	-24
Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.10	-9	£0.28	-20
Paracetamol soluble tabs 500mg 100	£3.95	-7	£6.63	-20

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 31 May 2017		
	March	April	May
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	150	139	177
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	181	151	167
Hydrocortisone tabs 10mg 30	146	140	165
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	140	120	142
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	152	119	140
Chloramphenicol eye ointment 1% 4g	83	104	139
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	151	120	139
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	143	102	136
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	142	93	134
Phenytoin tabs 100mg 28	94	103	131

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-30 April 2017 and 1-31 May 2017 of UK trade prices of the most recently-launched generics listed in category M of the Drug Tariff of pharmacy-reimbursement prices. Averages calculated from at least 47 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-30 April 2017 and 1-31 May 2017. Averages calculated from at least 24 data points. Figure 4 (bottom right): Ranking of fastest-moving products subject to the most price offers made to independent UK pharmacists (one strength per ingredient; offers recorded by 31 May). Data for Figures 2, 3 and 4 from a basket of about 750 commonly-dispensed generics. Recently-launched products in Figure 1 excluded from Figures 2 and 3 (Source – WaveData).

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