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On Drugs and Therapeutics

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IN BRIEF

Khedezla – A New Brand of Desvenlafaxine

The FDA has approved the marketing of another extended-release brand-name formulation of the serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI) desvenlafaxine (*Khedezla* – Par/Osmotica) for treatment of depression. It is the third extended-release formulation of desvenlafaxine to become available in the US. *Khedezla* was approved using a 505(b)(2) application, a new drug application (NDA) that relies upon the FDA's findings of safety and/or effectiveness for a previously approved drug.

Table 1. Desvenlafaxine Products

Drug	Usual Adult Dosage	Cost ¹
Desvenlafaxine succinate ² – <i>Pristiq</i> (Pfizer)	50 mg once/d	\$177.00
Desvenlafaxine base ² – (Ranbaxy/Alembic)	50 mg once/d	139.00
<i>Khedezla</i> (Par/Osmotica)		134.00

1. Approximate wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) for 30 days' treatment at the usual daily dosage. Source: AnalySource® Monthly (Selected from FDB Med-Knowledge™) December 5, 2013. Reprinted with permission by FDB, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2013. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy. Actual retail prices may be higher.
2. Extended- or delayed-release.

Khedezla does not appear to offer any advantage over the other extended-release formulations of desvenlafaxine. There is no evidence that any formulation of desvenlafaxine is more effective for treatment of depression than other SNRIs or any SSRI, which are available in less expensive generic formulations.¹

1. Drugs for psychiatric disorders. Treat Guidel Med Lett 2013; 11:53.

Coming Soon in *The Medical Letter*:

Omacetaxine Mepesuccinate (*Synribo*) for CML
Sofosbuvir (*Sovaldi*) for Chronic Hepatitis C
Tobramycin Inhalation Solution (*Bethkis*) for Cystic Fibrosis

Coming Soon in *Treatment Guidelines*:

Drugs for HIV Infection
Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation

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