

July 2011

## **Revonto® Saves Lives in Armenia**

**US WorldMeds**

Revonto® (dantrolene sodium for injection) – see page 2 for Important Safety Information



*Operating room at Yerevan State Medical University Hospital*

Earlier in 2011, AmeriCares long-abiding partner in Armenia, the United Armenia Fund, reported an urgent need for dantrolene sodium for injection. This medication offers the only known treatment for *malignant hyperthermia (MH)*, a rare but potentially fatal reaction to succinylcholine and certain inhaled gas anesthetics. A recent case of malignant hyperthermia had taken the life of a patient in the capital city of Yerevan, an unfortunate event which prompted AmeriCares and the United Armenia Fund to reach out to US WorldMeds for critical assistance.

The generous donation of Revonto by US WorldMeds is enabling healthcare institutions within the AmeriCares-UAF healthcare network to offer lifesaving treatment to MH susceptible patients. Revonto is being used in public hospitals preoperatively to prevent risks among patients judged to be susceptible to MH, and postoperatively to attenuate and treat MH as soon as a crisis is suspected.

UAF's lead aid coordinator, Nouritza Abujamra, recently conveyed UAF's appreciation:

*The United Armenia Fund is deeply grateful to US WorldMeds and AmeriCares for their medical humanitarian support. The 2011 donation of Revonto for prevention and treatment of malignant hypothermia will help save numerous lives in the operating rooms of Armenian hospitals.*

Since 1996, AmeriCares has delivered aid to Armenia in close collaboration with the United Armenia Fund (UAF), a US-based international NGO. The UAF aggregates resources from the worldwide Armenian diaspora and coordinates activities among its 19 affiliates around the globe, in order to support Armenian infrastructure development and bring large-scale humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in Armenia. AmeriCares provides roughly 70 percent of UAF's in-kind donations. To date, the AmeriCares-UAF partnership has delivered more than \$100 million of aid to Armenia.

In Yerevan, UAF staff work closely with the Ministry of Health to safely and effectively import and distribute AmeriCares humanitarian assistance to health care and social service institutions across Armenia. On behalf of the patients of Armenia, as well as the leadership and staff of UAF and AmeriCares, we would like to thank US WorldMeds for their humanitarian donation of Revonto.

#### **About AmeriCares**

AmeriCares is a nonprofit global health and disaster relief organization which delivers medications, medical supplies and humanitarian aid to people in need around the world and across the United States. Since its founding in 1982, AmeriCares has distributed more than \$10 billion in humanitarian aid to 147 countries. For more information, please visit [www.AmeriCares.org](http://www.AmeriCares.org).

#### **About US WorldMeds**

US WorldMeds is a specialty pharmaceutical company that develops, licenses and commercializes unique medical therapies that address unmet patient needs. US WorldMeds' products include treatments for malignant hyperthermia and cervical dystonia in adults. An additional product, Lofexidine, is well under clinical development for relief of opiate detoxification withdrawal symptoms. To learn more about US WorldMeds, please visit [www.usworldmeds.com](http://www.usworldmeds.com).

#### **Important Safety Information for Revonto**

Revonto is indicated, along with appropriate supportive measures, for the management of fulminant hypermetabolism of skeletal muscle characteristic of malignant hyperthermia crises in patients of all ages. It is also indicated preoperatively and sometimes postoperatively, to prevent or attenuate the development of clinical and laboratory signs of malignant hyperthermia in individuals judged to be malignant hyperthermia susceptible. Malignant hyperthermia is life threatening and requires immediate medical attention and treatment. Fatal and non-fatal liver disorders of an idiosyncratic or hypersensitivity type may occur with dantrolene sodium therapy. There have been reports of thrombophlebitis following administration of intravenous dantrolene. There have been rare reports of urticaria and erythema possibly associated with the administration of i.v. dantrolene sodium.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: None

To learn more about Revonto and to see the full prescribing information please visit [http://revonto.com/prescribing\\_info.pdf](http://revonto.com/prescribing_info.pdf).