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IN BRIEF

***Auvi-Q* – A New Epinephrine Auto-Injector**

A new epinephrine auto-injector is available in the US (*Auvi-Q* – Sanofi; *Allerject* in Canada) for emergency treatment of anaphylaxis. The new device is about the length and width of a credit card and as thick as a smartphone. It has a retractable needle system and a red safety guard located at the same end as the needle. Activation of the device by removing the outer case initiates an audio voice recording that provides step-by-step instructions and a 5-second countdown during the injection. The shelf-life of the epinephrine in the auto-injector is 18 months; the shelf-life of the battery is longer.

Auvi-Q's needle length, gauge and injection force are similar to those of *EpiPen*. A randomized, crossover, bioavailability study found that injection of epinephrine 0.3 mg from *Auvi-Q* and *EpiPen* resulted in similar peak epinephrine levels and total epinephrine exposure.¹ Like *EpiPen*, *Auvi-Q* is available in 2 doses: 0.15 mg (for children weighing 15-30 kg) and 0.3 mg. The cost for 2 *Auvi-Q*s containing either 0.15 mg or 0.3 mg is \$241, compared to \$240.66 for an *EpiPen Jr* or *EpiPen 2-Pak*.²

CONCLUSION — *Auvi-Q* is a new, smaller epinephrine auto-injector that provides audio instructions as it is being used. It appears to be more convenient to carry and easier to use than *EpiPen*.

1. ES Edwards et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2012;129:AB179, abstract 678.
2. Wholesale acquisition cost (WAC). Source: \$source® Monthly (Selected from FDB MedKnowledge™) February 5, 2013. Reprinted with permission by FDB, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2013. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy. Actual retail prices may vary.

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