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A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF XANTHENE AND THIOXANTHENE

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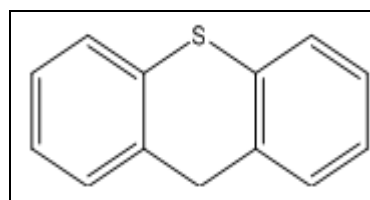
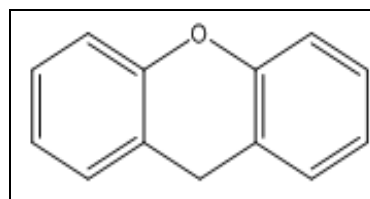
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ABSTRACT: Xanthene (or 9H-xanthene) is a parent active compound in which a pyran ring is combined with a benzene ring on both sides, whereas in thioxanthene, the oxygen of xanthene is replaced by a sulphur atom. Xanthene and thioxanthene are important classes of organic compounds which exhibit diverse pharmacological activities such as anti-spasmodic, anti-parkinsonian, anti-psychotic, anti-rhinitic, anti-inflammatory, anti-asthmatic, anti-ulcer, *etc.* This review covers various methods of synthesis of Xanthene and Thioxanthene. The pharmacoeconomic consideration of various marketed products of Xanthene and Thioxanthene are also discussed. It also covers the ongoing clinical trials of the upcoming Xanthene and Thioxanthene-based products and the newer indication of existing drugs. This review would be of immense use to researchers interested in Xanthene and Thioxanthene-based drugs. This review also helps the physician to preferably prescribe the cheaper brand for the patient's benefit with the help of pharmacoeconomic analysis discussed in the review.

INTRODUCTION: Xanthene (or 9H-xanthene) is a parent active compound in which a pyran ring is combined with a benzene ring on both sides. Substitution at position 9 strongly influences their physical, chemical, and biological properties¹. Xanthene has a wide range of pharmacological activities such as Antispasmodic², Anti-Parkinsonian³ and Anti-Psychotic³. They are also used in the treatment of ulcers⁴, rhinitis⁵, urinary incontinence⁶ and bronchitis⁷. Thioxanthene is a compound in which a thiazine ring is combined with two benzene rings.

Thioxanthene is a chemical compound in which the oxygen atom in xanthene is replaced with a sulphur atom. Thioxanthene-based derivatives are used as typical antipsychotics^{8,9} in treating schizophrenia and other psychoses³. It is also used as an antiparkinsonian, antispasmodic and antiemetic drug. They are used to treat bronchitis as well.



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Marketed Drugs of Xanthene and Thioxanthene: The xanthene based marketed drugs along with their category, uses, brand names, a manufacturing company, pack size and price are

covered in **Table 1**, while the thioxanthene based marketed drugs along with their categories, uses, brand names, a manufacturing company, pack size, and price are covered in **Table 2**.

TABLE 1: USES, BRAND NAME, MANUFACTURING COMPANY, PACK SIZE AND PRICE OF MARKETED DRUGS OF XANTHENE

Marketed Drug and Category	Uses	Brand Name	Company	Pack Size	Price
Propantheline (Marketed in India) (Muscarinic Antagonist ^{10,11} , Nicotinic Effects {At high doses})	Antispasmodic ² In Rhinitis ⁵ In Urinary Incontinence ^{6,12,13}	Pepler Tablet (Propantheline Bromide 2.5mg + Diazepam 15mg + Dihydroxy Aluminium Amino acetate 100mg) Pro Banthine Capsule/ Tablet 15mg Sere Banthine Tablet (Propantheline Bromide 0.2mg + Haloperidol 15mg)	Sun Pharma RPG Life Sciences Ltd. RPG Life Sciences Ltd.	10 10 10	Rs5.20 ¹⁷ Rs.15.14 ¹⁷ Rs22.89 ¹⁷
Phloxine B (Marketed in US) (Coloring Agent) Oftasceine/ Fluorexon (Marketed in US) (Fluorescent Dye or Luminescent Agent)	Colorant in Dental Disclosing Tablets ¹⁸ Used in ophthalmic solutions as a staining agent when fitting soft and hard lenses ¹⁹	Red-cote Dental Disclosing Tablets 1.5% w/w HiGlo STRIPS (0.5mg of fluorexon disodium salt)	Sunstar Americas Contacare Ophthalmic Private Limited	248/pk 100/pk	USD21.9 (Rs.1628.69) USD18.9 (Rs.1409.01)
Methantheline ²⁰ (Marketed in Germany) (Antispasmodic)	Peptic ulcer disease ²¹ Urinary problems ²² Irritable bowel syndrome ²³ Pancreatitis ²⁴ Gastritis ²⁵ Biliary dyskinesia ²⁶	VagantinRiemser 50 mg überzogene Tablet	RIEMSER Pharma GmbH	20	€5,00 (Rs.44,285)
Rose Bengal (Marketed in US) (Colouring agent, Diagnostic agent, Ophthalmological) Fluorescein ²⁸ (Marketed in India) (Diagnostic agent)	Diagnostic agent in suspected damage to conjunctival and corneal cells ²⁷ Dye used in angiography or angiography of the iris and retina ^{29,30}	Rose Bengal Glostrips™ 1.3mg Fluresin Inj. 10% Floure-stain strips (Std.) 4%	Amcon Laboratories Samarth PharmaPvt. Ltd. Bell PharmaPvt. Ltd.	100 1 100	USD21.9 (Rs.1628.69) Rs.200 Rs 255.96

Price of Propantheline: Available from: <http://www.medlineindia.com>. Price of Phloxine B: Available from: Scottsdental.com. Price of Oftasceine/ Fluorexon: Available from: <https://worldsportsvision.com/product/higlo-strips/>. Price of Methantheline: Available from: <https://www.docmorris.de/vagantin-riemser-50-mgueberzogenetablet/10985801?sc=GKV#warenkorb>. Price of Rose Bengal: Available from: www.amconlabs.com/product/1257/101/Rose-Bengal-Glostrips-by-Amcon/. Price of Fluorescein: Available from: <https://www.medicineindia.org/brands-forgeneric/1822/fluorescein-sodium;> <https://www.1mg.com/drugs/floure-stain-strip-269741>.

TABLE 2: USES, BRAND NAME, MANUFACTURING COMPANY, PACK SIZE AND PRICE OF MARKETED DRUGS OF THIOXANTHENE

Marketed Drug and Category	Uses	Brand Name	Company	Pack Size	Price
Pimethixene (Marketed in US)	Treatment of Bronchitis ⁹	Muricalm Pimetixeno Oral Solution 1mg/ml	Novartis pharmaceuticals corp	1	USD9,48 (Rs.70341.6)
(Anticholinergic) Metixene (Marketed in Switzerland)	Antiparkinsonian Agent ^{3,31} Antispasmodic ³²	SpasmoCanulase Tablet (Methixene hydrochloride 1mg + Dimethylpolysiloxane 40mg + Cellulase 300u + pepsin ph. H. V 100mg + Glutamic acid hydrochloride 50mg + Pancreatinph.H.V. 100mg + Sodium dehydrocholate 10mg)	Novartis pharmaceuticals corp	100	CHF 39.80 (Rs.3,221.58)
(Anticholinergic) Thiothixene (Marketed in US)	Management of Schizophrenia ³³	Thiothixenecapsule 5mg	Mylan Inc.	30	USD29 (Rs.2158.40)
(Antipsychotic Agent)		Thiothixenecapsule 2mg	CVS Pharmacy	18	USD11.33 (Rs.840.686)
		Thiothixenecapsule 2mg	Kroger	18	USD21.92 (Rs.1626.464)
		Thiothixenecapsule 2mg	Harris Teeter	18	USD21.92 (Rs.1626.464)
		Thiothixenecapsule 2mg	Costco Pharmacy	18	USD26.96 (Rs.2000.432)
Zuclopenthixol (Marketed in India)	Management of Schizophrenia ³⁴	Clopixol Tablet 25mg	Lundbeck India Pvt. Ltd.	10	Rs.150
(Antipsychotic Agent)		Clopixol (200mg) Inj (200mg/1ml)		1	Rs.160
		ClopixolAcuphase Inj. (50mg/1ml)		1	Rs.81.75
		ClopixolAcuphase (2ml) Inj. (50mg/1ml)		1	Rs.110
		Clopixol Depot Inj. (200mg/1ml)		1	Rs.272
Flupentixol ^{35, 36} (Marketed in India)	Schizophrenia ^{38, 39}	Anxiset Tablet (0.5mg)	Obsurge Biotech Ltd.	10	Rs.34
(Neuroleptic Agent) ³⁷	Depression ⁴⁰	Anxiset Tablet (1mg)	East West Pharma	10	Rs.48
		Flupen Tablet (0.5mg)		10	Rs.20.25
		Flupen Tablet (1mg)		10	Rs.39.60
		Flupen Tablet (3mg)		10	Rs.76.50
	Bipolar disorder ⁴¹	Xolybex Tablet (0.5mg)	Vidakem Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd.	10	Rs.40
		Xolybex Tablet (1mg)		10	Rs.55
		Fluwic-ES Tablet (0.5mg/10mg) (Flupentixol 0.5mg + Escitalopram 10mg)	Jaiwik Biotech	10	Rs.85
Chlorprothixene (Marketed in US)	Acute mania ⁴³	Taractan Tablet 100mg	Roche	50	USD50 (Rs.3710)
(Antipsychotic Agent) ⁴²	Psychotic disorders ⁴⁴	Chlorprothixen Pills 50mg	Zentiva KS	50	USD24.85 (Rs.1843.87)
	Anti-emetic ⁴⁵ Herpes zoster neuralgia ⁴⁶	Truxal Tablet 50mg	Lundbeck AS	50	USD26.15 (Rs.1940.33)

Price of Pimethixene: Available from: <https://consultaremedios.com.br/muricalm/1mg-ml-caixa-com-1-frasco-gotejador-com-10ml-de-solucao-de-uso-oral/p>. Price of Metixene: Available from: <https://en.adlershop.ch/p/6739/spasmo-canulase-100-tabletten>; <https://www.meduweb.com/spasmo-canulase-tablets/>. Price of Thiothixene Manufactured by Mylan Inc.: Available from: <https://www.empr.com/drug/thiothixene/>. Price of Thiothixene manufactured by CVS Pharmacy, Kroger, Harris Teeter, Costco Pharmacy: Available from: <https://www.singlecare.com/prescription/thiothixene>. Price of Zuclopenthixol: Available from: <https://www.medindia.net/drug-price/zuclopenthixol.htm>. Price of Flupentixol: Available from: <https://www.medindia.net/drug-price/flupentixol.htm>. Price of Chlorprothixene Manufactured by Roche: Available from: <https://www.ebay.com/itm/124784662630>. Price of Chlorprothixene Manufactured by Zentiva KS and Lundbeck AS: Available from: https://pillbuys.com/shop/truxal-chlorprothixen-#/6051-brandmanufacturer-truxal_lundbeck_as_denmark/2-dosage_form-pills/1604-package_size-50_mg_50_pcs

Pharmacoeconomic Analysis: Pharmacoeconomic considerations of different marketed preparations are described in **Table 1** and **Table 2**.

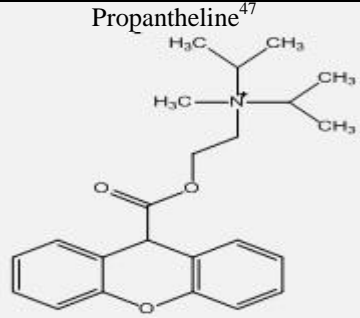
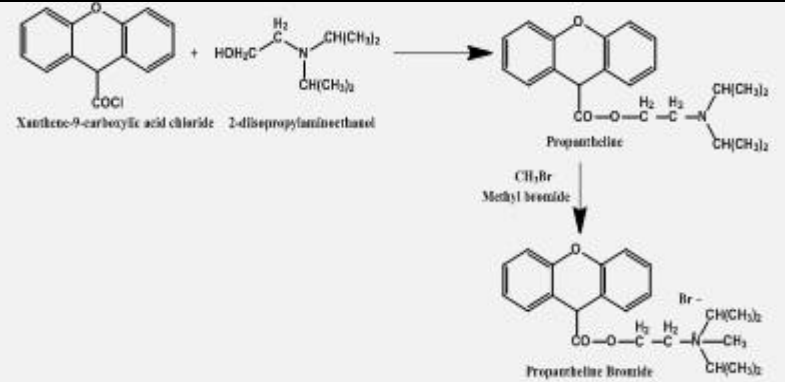
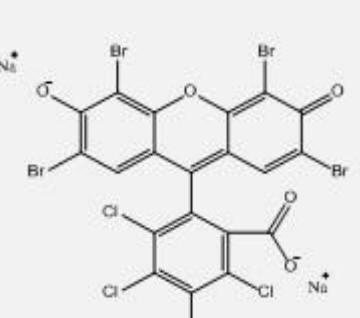
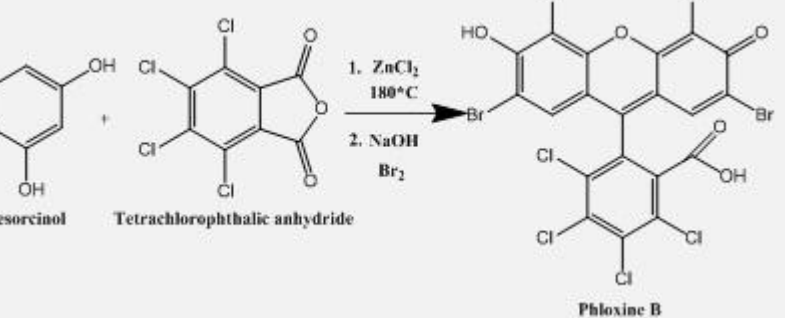
Our observations indicated that some marketed drugs are manufactured by only one pharmaceutical company while many pharmaceutical companies manufacture some other drugs. We infer that:

1. Propantheline is marketed in India. It is manufactured by Sun Pharma and RPG Life Sciences Ltd.. The marketed preparation of Propantheline, which comes under the brand name of Spastheline Tablet 15mg manufactured by Sun Pharma, is cheaper compared to that of other Pro-Banthine Tablet 15mg manufactured by RPG Life Sciences Ltd.
2. Thiothixene is marketed in the US and not in India.
3. Generic marketed preparations of Thiothixene are manufactured by CVS Pharmacy, Kroger, Harris Teeter, Mylan Inc., and Costco Pharmacy, respectively. Thiothixene 2mg manufactured by CVS Pharmacy is cheaper among all, while the one manufactured by Costco Pharmacy is the costliest.

4. Flupentixol is marketed in India. It is manufactured by East West Pharma, Obsurge Biotech Ltd., Vidakem Life Sciences Ltd. and Jaiwik Biotech respectively. Flupen 0.5mg manufactured by East West Pharma is cheaper than Anxiset 0.5mg and Xolybex 0.5mg manufactured by Obsurge Biotech Ltd. and Vidakem Life Sciences Ltd.. Similarly, Flupen 1mg manufactured by East West Pharma is cheaper than Anxiset 1mg and Xolybex 1mg manufactured by Obsurge Biotech Ltd. and Vidakem Life Sciences Ltd., respectively.
5. Chlorprothixene is marketed in the US and not in India. Roche manufactures it, Zentiva KS and Lundbeck AS. Chlorprothixen 50mg manufactured by Zentiva KS is cheaper than Truxal 50mg manufactured by Lundbeck AS. The physician should preferably prescribe the cheaper brand for the patient's benefit.

Synthetic Pathways: Several marketed preparations of xanthene and thioxanthene derivatives are available. The synthesis of various marketed xanthene-based drugs is elaborated in **Table 3**, while **Table 4** elaborates on the synthesis of various marketed thioxanthene-based drugs.

TABLE 3: SYNTHESIS OF MARKETED DRUGS OF XANTHENE

Marketed Drug	Synthesis
<p>Propantheline⁴⁷</p> 	 <p>Xanthene-9-carboxylic acid chloride + 2-diisopropylaminoethanol → Propantheline</p> <p>Propantheline + CH₃Br (Methyl bromide) → Propantheline Bromide</p>
<p>Phloxine B⁴⁸</p> 	 <p>Resorcinol + Tetrachlorophthalic anhydride</p> <p>1. ZnCl₂, 180°C 2. NaOH, Br₂</p> <p>→ Phloxine B</p>

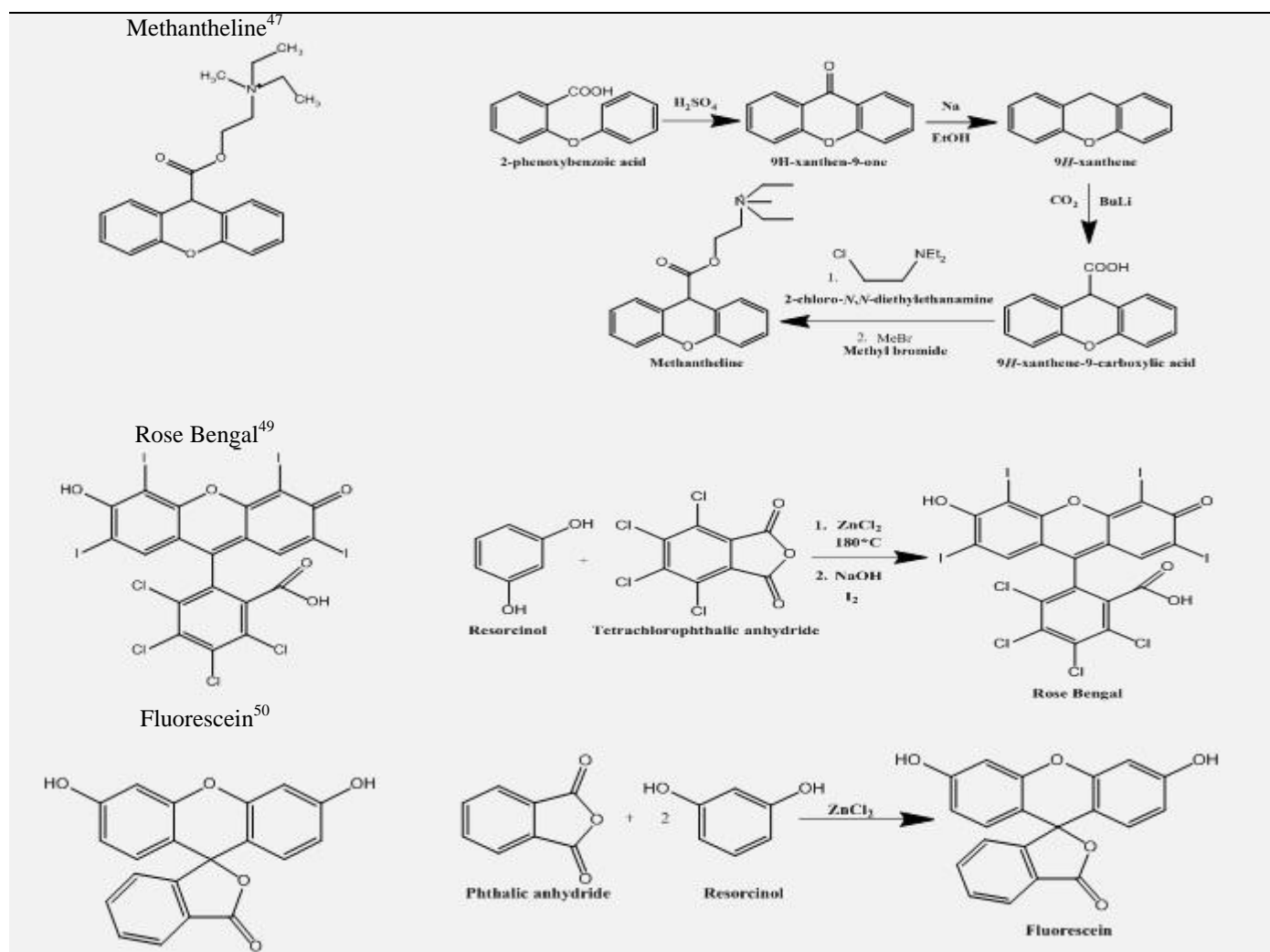
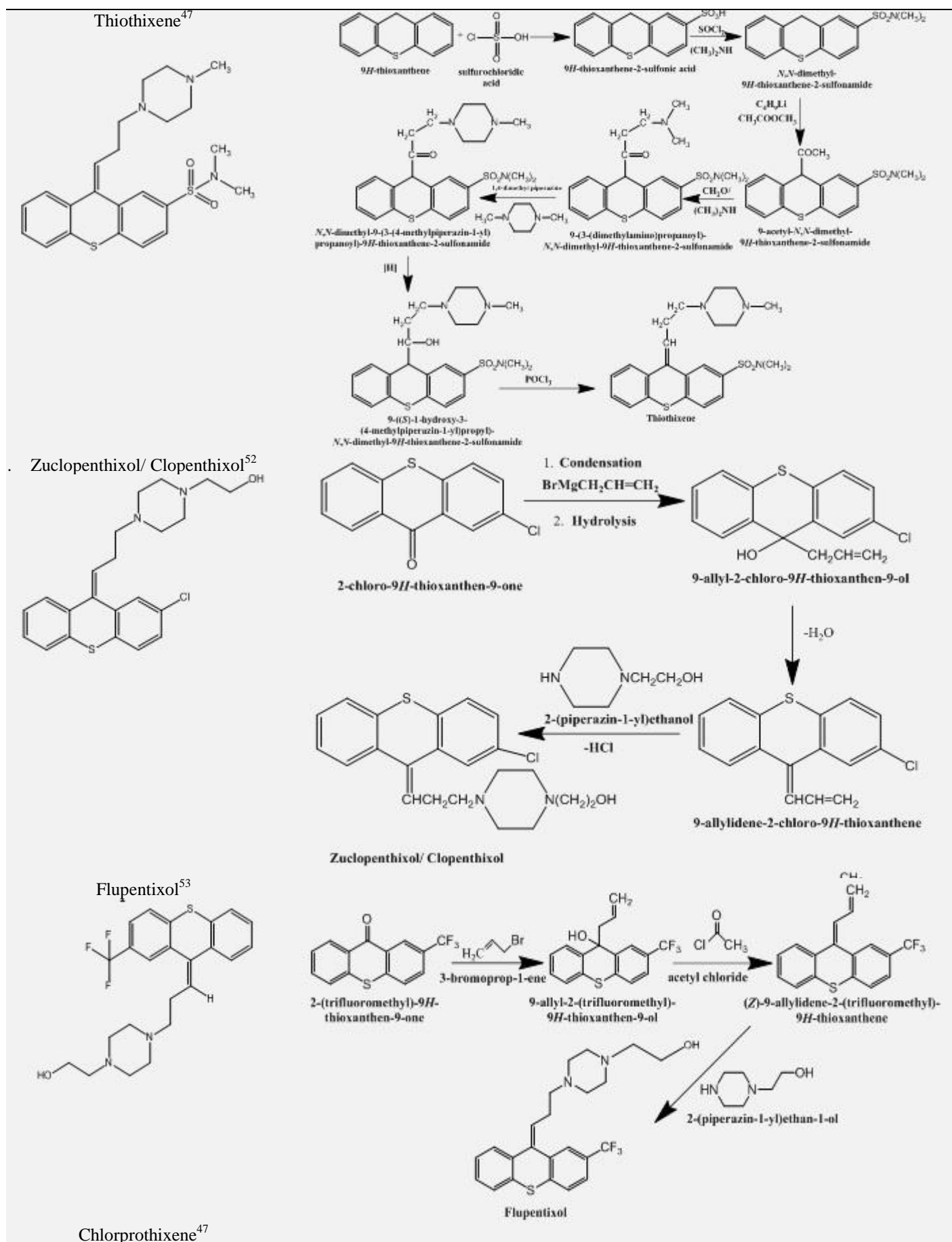
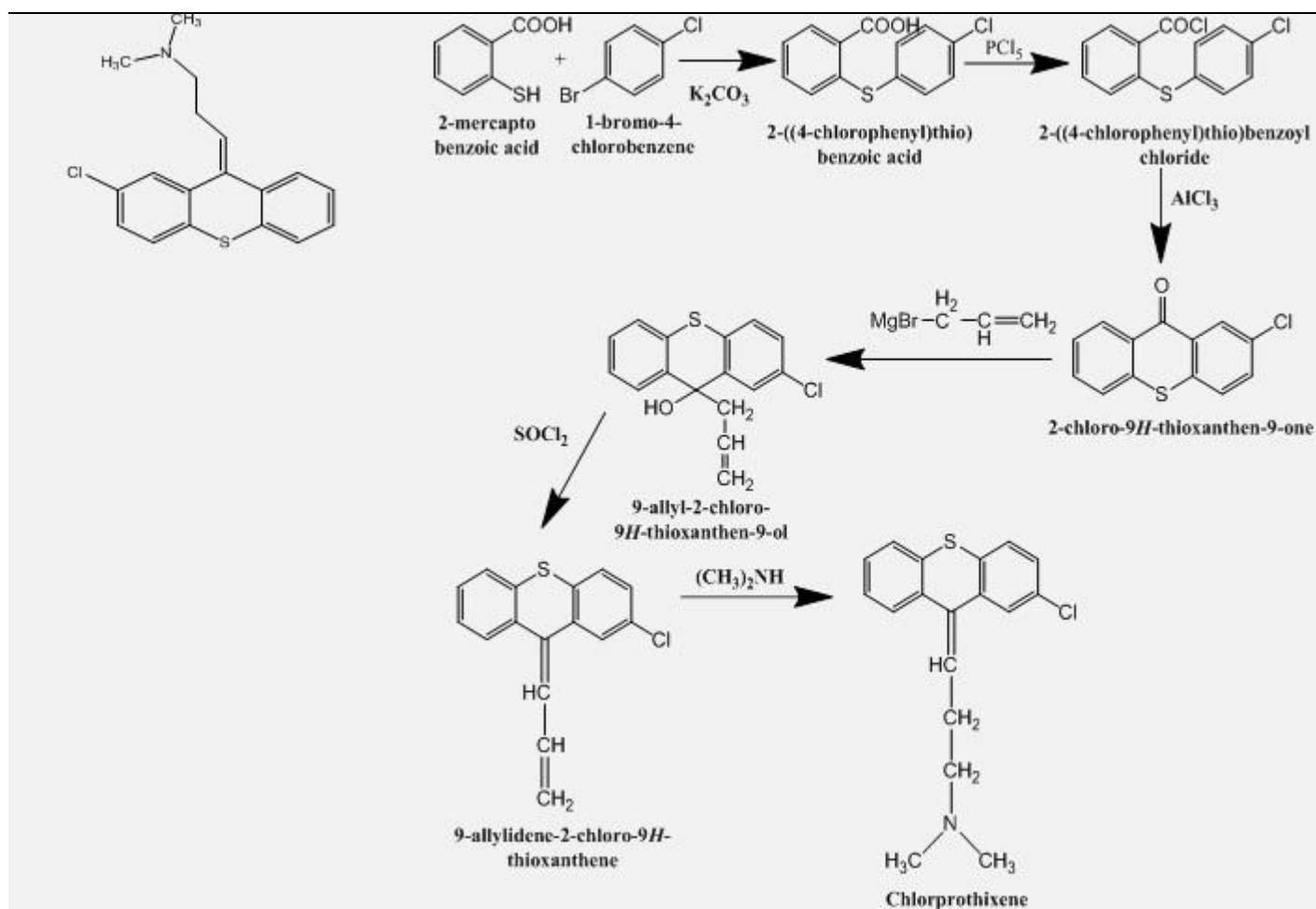


TABLE 4: SYNTHESIS OF MARKETED DRUGS OF THIOXANTHENE

Marketed Drug	Synthesis
<p>Pimethixene⁵¹</p>	<p>9H-thioxanthen-9-one $\xrightarrow[\text{HCl/CH}_3\text{COOH}]{\text{ClMg-(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl) magnesium chloride}}$ Pimethixene</p>
<p>Metixene⁵¹</p>	<p>9H-thioxanthene + 3-(chloromethyl)-1-methylpiperidine $\xrightarrow{\text{NaNH}_2}$ Metixene</p>

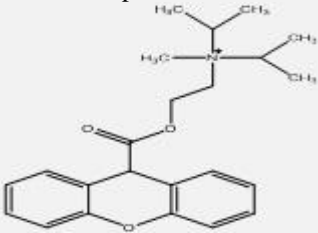
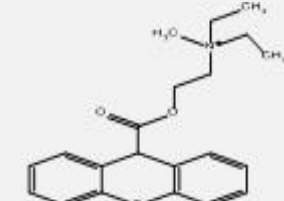




Ongoing Clinical Trials: Xanthen and thioxanthen derivatives are still being explored for various new indications. Propantheline, Methantheline, Rose Bengal, and Fluorescein are the existing marketed drugs, but they are explored for newer indications, whereas newer drugs such as Fluorescein lisicol and EC-17 are explored for

various diseases. Xanthen-based drugs and their ongoing clinical trials are mentioned in **Table 5**, while thioxanthen-based drugs and their ongoing clinical trials are mentioned in **Table 6**. Zuclopenthixol and Flupentixol are the existing thioxanthen-based marketed drugs, but they are explored for newer indications.

TABLE 5: XANTHENE IN CLINICAL TRIALS

Drug	Newer Indication	Phase
 <p>Propantheline</p>	Urinary tract lithiasis (excl renal) ⁵⁴	4
 <p>Methantheline</p>	Overactive Bladder Associated with HTLV-1 ⁵⁵	1
	Neurogenic Bladder Dysfunction ⁵⁶	1

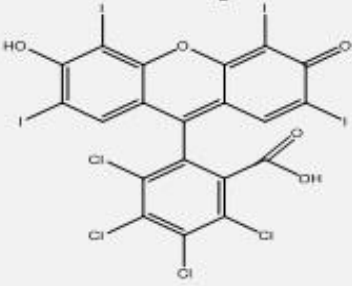
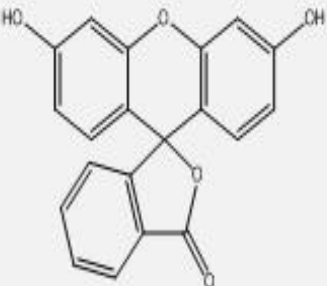
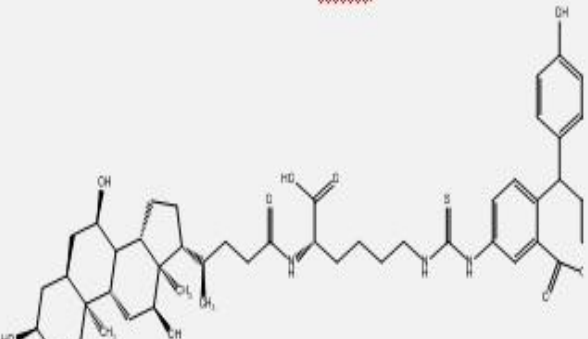
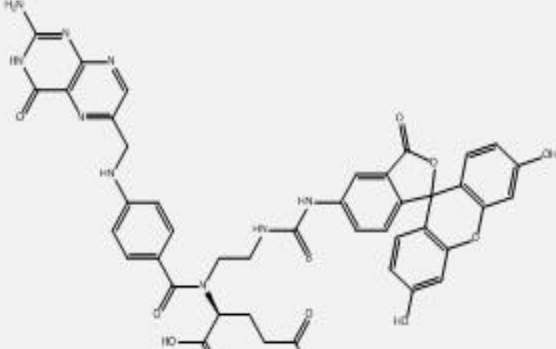
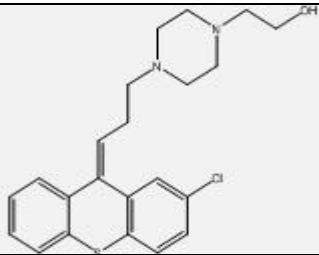
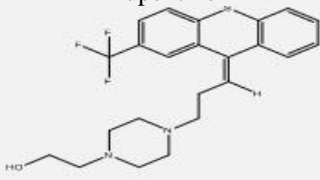
<p style="text-align: center;">Rose Bengal</p> 	<p>Candida albicans infection / Smoking, Cigarette⁵⁷ 3</p> <p>Neuroendocrine Tumors Metastatic to the Liver⁵⁸ 1</p> <p>Cancer Metastatic to the Liver / Hepatocellular Carcinoma / Metastatic Breast Cancer / Metastatic Colon Cancer / Metastatic Colorectal Cancer (MCRC) / Metastatic Lung Cancer / Metastatic Melanoma / Metastatic Ocular Melanoma / Metastatic Uveal Melanoma / Pancreatic Cancer Metastatic⁵⁹ 1</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fluorescein</p> 	<p>Retinopathy/ Retinal Vein Occlusion/ Diabetic Retinopathy/ Macular Degeneration⁶⁰ 1 (Early)</p> <p>Cerebrovascular Diseases / Neoplasms, Intracranial⁶¹ 4</p> <p>Hyperemia^{62, 63} 3</p> <p>Glioblastoma, Adult⁶⁴ 3</p> <p>Brain Cancer⁶⁵ 2</p> <p>Pancreatic Acinar Cell Carcinoma /Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma / Recurrent Pancreatic Carcinoma / Stage IV Pancreatic Cancer 2</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fluorescein liscicol</p> 	<p>Cirrhosis of Liver⁶⁶ 3</p> <p>Hepatitis, Viral, Human⁶⁷ 2</p> <p>Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD)/Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis⁶⁸ 2</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">EC-17⁶⁹</p> 	<p>Resectable Breast Cancer⁷⁰ 1</p> <p>Malignancies⁷¹ 1</p>

TABLE 6: THIOXANTHENE IN CLINICAL TRIALS

Drug	Newer Indication	Phase
Zuclopenthixol	Schizoaffective Disorders / Schizophrenia / Schizophrenia and Disorders with Psychotic Features ⁷²	4
	Bipolar Disorder (BD) ⁷³	4
	Anxiety Disorders / Dementia /	3
	Depression / Psychosomatic Disorders /	

	Schizophrenia ⁷⁴	3
	Psychosis Nos/Other ⁷⁵	
	Emotional Disorder/ Neurologic Disorder ⁷⁶	4
	Schizophrenia/ Psychosis/ Metabolic Syndrome/ Antipsychotic Agents/ Central Nervous System Diseases ⁷⁷	4
	Tinnitus	4
	Globus ⁷⁸	3
	Anxiety Disorders / Dementia / Depression / Psychosomatic Disorders / Schizophrenia ⁷⁹	3
	Psychosis Nos/Other ⁸⁰	3
	Cocaine-Related Disorders ⁸¹	2
	Substance-Related Disorders ⁸²	2
	Bioequivalence Study in Healthy Subjects ⁸³	1

CONCLUSION: Xanthene and Thioxanthene are versatile but complicated structural moieties from which many drugs are synthesized. These drugs treat spasms, Parkinson's disease, psychosis, rhinitis, urinary incontinence, emesis, ulcer, and bronchitis. Even today, the interest in the xanthene and thioxanthene-based drugs is alive, which can be understood from the ongoing clinical trial for newer indications of existing drugs and newer drugs. This review would be of immense use to the researchers interested in xanthene and thioxanthene-based drugs as it covers not only marketed preparations of xanthene and thioxanthene but also the Pharmacoeconomic analysis synthesis as well as ongoing clinical trials.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Declared none

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