

Neuro-Oncology Fellowship

A one year clinical fellowship is available for neurologists or neurosurgeons. The program offers comprehensive training in the diagnosis and management of primary brain tumor, neurological complications of cancer, and pain due to cancer. A second research year will be encouraged.

Please submit curriculum vitae and three references to:

J. Gregory Cairncross, M.D.
The London Regional Cancer Centre
391 South Street
London, Ontario, Canada
N6A 4G5

Chief of Clinical Neurological Sciences

Victoria Hospital Corporation
London, Ontario

This 843-bed university affiliated active treatment teaching and research hospital requires a Chief of Clinical Neurological Sciences to direct a department in the existing and developing new hospital complex. The successful candidate will assume administrative duties and coordinate undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. He/She must be licensed in the Province of Ontario and hold a Certificate of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. A teaching appointment at The University of Western Ontario, at an appropriate academic rank, usually accompanies this position.

Applications with a curriculum vitae and the names of three references should be sent to:

The Chairman
Joint Selection Committee for
Chief of Clinical Neurological Sciences
c/o Executive Offices
Victorial Hospital Corporation
375 South Street
London, Ontario
N6A 4G5

Fellowship Behavioral Neurology

Available: July 1, 1986

One year comprehensive clinical training program in Behavioral Neurology on 20 bed Neurobehavioral Unit at Baycrest Centre For Geriatric Care. Research opportunities available.

Reply with CV to:

Dr. Morris Freedman
Mount Sinai Hospital
Suite 433
600 University Avenue
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SYMMETREL® (Amantadine HCl) Antiparkinsonian Agent

INDICATIONS: The treatment of Parkinson's syndrome and in the short-term management of drug-induced extrapyramidal symptoms.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Patients with known hypersensitivity to the drug.

WARNINGS: Patients with a history of epilepsy or other "seizures" should be observed closely for possible untoward central nervous system effects. Patients with a history of congestive heart failure or peripheral edema should be followed closely as there are patients who developed congestive heart failure while receiving SYMMETREL®. Safety of use in pregnancy has not been established. SYMMETREL® should not be used in women of childbearing potential, unless the expected benefit to the patient outweighs the possible risk to the fetus.

SYMMETREL® is secreted in the milk and should not be administered to nursing mothers.

PRECAUTIONS: The dose may need careful adjustment in patients with renal impairment, congestive heart failure, peripheral edema or orthostatic hypotension. Since SYMMETREL® is not metabolized and is mainly excreted in the urine, it may accumulate when renal function is inadequate.

Care should be exercised when administering to patients with liver disease, a history of recurrent eczematoid rash, psychosis, or severe psychoneurosis not controlled by chemotherapeutic agents. Careful observation is required when administered concurrently with central nervous system stimulants.

Patients with Parkinson's syndrome improving on SYMMETREL® should resume normal activities gradually and cautiously, consistent with other medical considerations, such as the presence of osteoporosis or phlebotrombosis. Patients receiving SYMMETREL® who note central nervous system effects or blurring of vision should be cautioned against driving or working in situations where alertness is important. SYMMETREL® should not be discontinued abruptly since a few patients with Parkinson's syndrome experienced a parkinsonian crisis, i.e., sudden marked clinical deterioration, when this medication was suddenly stopped.

The dose of anticholinergic drugs or of SYMMETREL® should be reduced if atropine-like effects appear when these drugs are used concurrently.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: Adverse reactions have occurred in patients while receiving SYMMETREL® alone or in combination with anticholinergic antiparkinson drugs and/or levodopa.

Important adverse reactions are orthostatic hypotensive episodes, congestive heart failure, depression, psychosis and urinary retention; and rarely convulsions, reversible leukopenia and neutropenia, and abnormal liver function test results.

Adverse reactions of less importance are: anorexia, anxiety, ataxia, confusion, hallucinations, constipation, dizziness (light-headedness), dry mouth, headache, insomnia, livedo reticularis, nausea, peripheral edema, drowsiness, dyspnea, fatigue, hyperkinesia, irritability, nightmares, rash, slurred speech, visual disturbance, vomiting and weakness; and very rarely eczematoid dermatitis and oculogyric episodes. Some side effects were transient and disappeared even with continued administration of the drug.

SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT OF OVERDOSAGE: Limited data are available concerning clinical effects and management of SYMMETREL® overdosage. An elderly patient with Parkinson's syndrome who took an overdose of 2.8 g of SYMMETREL® in a suicidal attempt, developed acute toxic psychosis, urinary retention, and a mixed acid-base disturbance. The toxic psychosis was manifested by disorientation, confusion, visual hallucinations and aggressive behaviour. Convulsions did not occur, possibly because the patient had been receiving phenytoin prior to the acute ingestion of SYMMETREL®.

There is no specific antidote. For acute overdosing, general supportive measures should be employed, along with immediate gastric lavage or induction of emesis. Fluids should be forced, and if necessary, given I.V. The pH of the urine has been reported to influence the excretion rate of SYMMETREL®. Since the excretion rate of SYMMETREL® increases rapidly when the urine is acidic, the administration of urine acidifying fluids may increase the elimination of the drug from the body. Blood pressure, pulse, respiration and temperature should be monitored. The patient should be observed for possible development of arrhythmias, hypotension, hyperactivity, and convulsions; if required, appropriate therapy should be administered. Blood electrolytes, urine pH and urinary output should be monitored. If there is no record of recent voiding, catheterization should be done. The possibility of multiple drug ingestion by the patient should be considered.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: Parkinson's Syndrome: Initial dose is 100 mg daily for patients with serious associated medical illnesses or who are receiving high doses of other antiparkinson drugs. After one to several weeks at 100 mg once daily, the dose may be increased to 100 mg twice daily. When SYMMETREL® and levodopa are initiated concurrently, SYMMETREL® should be held constant at 100 mg daily or twice daily while the daily dose of levodopa is gradually increased to optimal dose. When used alone, the usual dose of SYMMETREL® is 100 mg twice a day.

Patients whose responses are not optimal with SYMMETREL® at 200 mg daily may benefit from an increase to 300 mg daily in divided doses. Patients who experience a fall-off of effectiveness may regain benefit by increasing the dose to 300 mg daily; such patients should be supervised closely by their physicians.

DOSAGE FORMS: Capsules: (bottles of 100) - each red, soft gelatin capsule contains 100 mg of amantadine HCl. Syrup: (500 mL) - each 5 mL (1 teaspoonful) of clear colorless syrup contains 50 mg of amantadine HCl.

References:

1. Schwab RS, Poskanzer DC, England AC Jr., Young RR: Amantadine in Parkinson's disease. JAMA 1972;227:7.

Product monograph available on request.

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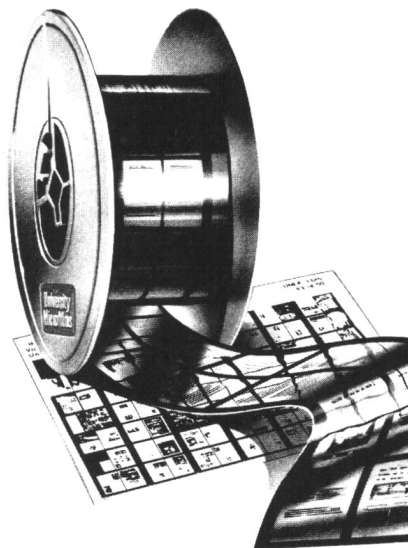
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References: 1. CDTI 2. Goodman and Gilman, Sixth Edition.

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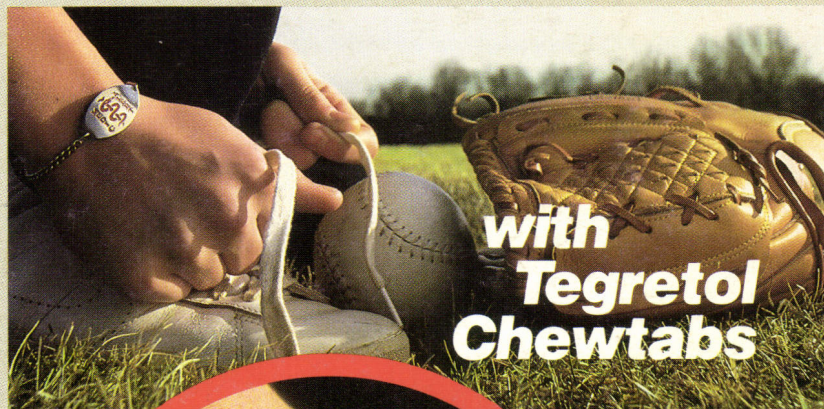


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For brief prescribing information see page ix

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