THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY

APRIL 1999 VOL. 174

EDITORIALS

REVIEW ARTICLES

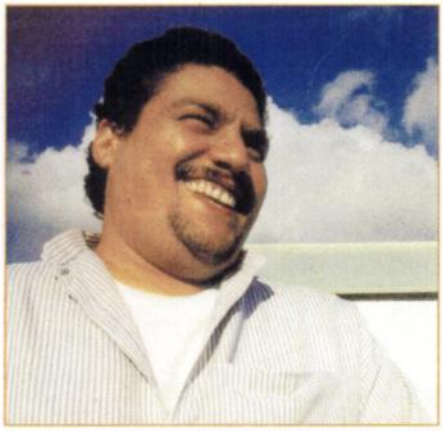
EURODEP STUDY

PAPERS

COLUMNS

PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS ISSN 0007-1250

Their doctor knew that their symptoms were similar



Symptoms: Low mood, suicidal thoughts
Diagnosis: **Depression**

Symptoms: Palpitations, intense anxiety
Diagnosis: **Panic disorder**

Symptoms: Sleep disturbance, hopelessness
Diagnosis: **Depression**

Depression and panic disorder are seen across all age groups in both sexes. From the doctor's viewpoint, overlapping symptoms can make them appear similar. For the patients, the same effective treatment can make a real difference to their quality of life.

Cipramil combines proven efficacy with an established safety and tolerability profile, which makes it a logical first choice for patients suffering from depression or panic disorder. For effective relief from depression and panic disorder, prescribe Cipramil - the most selective SSRI - and make a real difference to your patients.

Cipramil ▼
citalopram
make a difference in depression and panic disorder

They just know that Cipramil makes a real difference

Lundbeck

Abbreviated prescribing information. Presentation: 'Cipramil' tablets 10 mg: PL 0458/0057, each containing 10 mg of citalopram as the hydrobromide. 28 (OP) 10 mg tablets £10.09. 'Cipramil' tablets 20 mg: PL 0458/0058, each containing 20 mg of citalopram as the hydrobromide. 28 (OP) 20 mg tablets £16.79. 'Cipramil' tablets 40 mg: PL 0458/0059, each containing 40 mg of citalopram as the hydrobromide. 28 (OP) 40 mg tablets £28.38. **Indications:** Treatment of depressive illness in the initial phase and as maintenance against relapse/ recurrence. Treatment of panic disorder, with or without agoraphobia. **Dosage:** ***Treating depression: Adults:*** 20 mg a day. Depending upon individual patient response, this may be increased in 20 mg increments to a maximum of 60 mg. Tablets should not be chewed, and should be taken as a single oral daily dose, in the morning or evening without regard for food. Treatment for at least 6 months is usually necessary to provide adequate maintenance against the potential for relapse. ***Treating panic disorder:*** 10 mg daily for the first week, increasing to 20 mg daily. Depending upon individual patient response, dosage may be further increased to a maximum of 60 mg daily. Depending upon individual patient response, it may be necessary to continue treatment for several months. ***Elderly:*** 20 mg a day increasing to a maximum of 40 mg dependent upon individual patient response. ***Children:*** Not recommended. ***Reduced hepatic/renal function:*** Restrict dosage to lower end of range in hepatic impairment. Dosage adjustment not necessary in cases of mild/moderate renal impairment. No information available in severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <20ml/min). **Contra-indications:** Combined use of 5-HT agonists. Hypersensitivity to citalopram. ***Pregnancy and Lactation:*** Safety during human pregnancy and lactation has not been established. Use only if potential benefit outweighs possible risk. **Precautions:** Driving and operating machinery. History of mania. Caution in patients at risk of cardiac arrhythmias. Do not use with or within 14 days of MAO inhibitors: leave a seven day gap before starting MAO inhibitor treatment. Use a low starting dose for panic disorder, to reduce the likelihood of an initial anxiogenic effect (experienced by some patients) when starting pharmacotherapy. **Drug Interactions:** MAO inhibitors (see Precautions). Use lithium and tryptophan with caution. Routine monitoring of lithium levels need not be adjusted. **Adverse Events:** Most commonly nausea, sweating, tremor, somnolence and dry mouth. With citalopram, adverse effects are in general mild and transient. When they occur, they are most prominent during the first two weeks of treatment and usually attenuate as the depressive state improves. Withdrawal symptoms have been reported with SSRIs. Abrupt withdrawal of citalopram should be avoided. **Overdosage:** Symptoms have included somnolence, coma, sinus tachycardia, occasional nodal rhythm, episode of grand mal convulsion, nausea, vomiting, sweating and hyperventilation. No specific antidote. Treatment is symptomatic and supportive. Early gastric lavage suggested. **Legal Category:** POM 24 1.95. Further information available upon request. Product licence holder: Lundbeck Ltd., Sunningdale House, Caldecotte Lake Business Park, Caldecotte, Milton Keynes, MK7 8LF. 'Cipramil' is a Registered Trade Mark. © 1998 Lundbeck Ltd. Date of preparation: January 1999. 1298/CIP/501/056

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THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY

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Past Editors

Eliot Slater	1961–72	John L. Crammer	1978–83
Edward H. Hare	1973–77	Hugh L. Freeman	1984–93

Founded by J. C. Bucknill in 1853 as the *Asylum Journal* and known as the *Journal of Mental Science* from 1858 to 1963.

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An approved one day national conference

INNOVATIONS IN THE TREATMENT OF DEPRESSION

The University of Derby - 17th June 1999

4 CPD unit approval by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.
Conference recognised by The British Psychological Society as being suitable for post-qualification training for Chartered, Clinical and Counselling Psychologists.

PURPOSE

To bring together clinicians and researchers distinguished in their work in exploring new ways of conceptualising and treating depression within a biopsychological framework.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Integrating Biopsychological Approaches to Depression using Evolutionary Theory
Social behaviour, Depression and the SSRI's
Social Risk Factors in Depression
Depression in Psychosis
Depression and Perinatal Care

INVITED SPEAKERS

Professor Paul Gilbert, University of Derby

Professor Michael McGuire, University of Los Angeles
Dr. Terry Brugha, University of Leicester
Professor Max Birchwood, University of Birmingham

£75 + VAT per delegate. Lunch Provided

CONCESSIONS

10% discount if tickets bought by 15th May. 10% discount for bookings of 5 or more, subject to availability.

Contact: Miss Raj Sahota, Southern Derbyshire Chamber, St Helen's Court, St Helen's Street, Derby. DE1 3GY
Tel: 01332 290550 Fax: 01332 292188 E-mail: raj@sdccte.com

THE TAVISTOCK CLINIC - ADULT DEPARTMENT

Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Later Life

(Ref. PC9). October 1999 - July 2000

Aims:

- To provide a forum in which individual, group or organisational work in the area of later life can be thought about from a psychoanalytic point of view.
- The focus will be primarily on the presentation of clinical material, but will also include some theoretical seminars.

Time:

10 monthly or 20 fortnightly 2 Hour seminars.
In Spring 2000 there will be a 1½ day conference which all members are expected to attend.

Membership:

Senior clinicians working with patients, staff and managers in the NHS, Social Services and Voluntary Sector. This includes clinical psychologists, old age psychiatrists, social workers, psychotherapists, nurses and occupational therapists. Applications from black and minority ethnic clinicians are particularly welcomed.

Fee:

- £250 - 10 seminars (£350 including conference)
- £400 - 20 seminars (£500 including conference)

Recognition:

British Psychological Society - C.P.D. Recommended Course
Royal College of Psychiatrists - Validated Course

Applications: Ross Dalziel, Academic Services, Tavistock Centre, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA. Tel: 0171 447 3718.
Fax: 0171 447 3837. email: academic@tavi-port.org

Informal Enquiries:

Rachael Davenhill, Organising Tutor. Tel: 0171 435 7111

We are striving towards Equal Opportunities and operate a No-Smoking Policy.

PSYCHIATRIST

SASKATCHEWAN – CANADA

The Moose Jaw–Thunder Creek Health District with a population of 45,000 residents, and a further catchment area of 12,000 residents, requires a fourth psychiatrist with an interest in child/youth, certified or eligible for certification with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and eligible for licensure with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan.

In addition to 20 psychiatry beds at the Moose Jaw Union Hospital, there is an ambulatory day program operated by the Health District. The psychiatrists provide a consultation service when patients are referred by family physicians, as well as providing primary psychiatric care for patients who access the service.

We offer: One in four call; Relocation expenses.

The friendly community of Moose Jaw offers many cultural, entertainment and recreational activities, as well as excellent educational facilities.

Visit our website: www.mjhealth.org or further information on the City of Moose Jaw moosejaw_net.

Reply in confidence to: Mr Dan Florizone, Chief Executive Officer, Moose Jaw–Thunder Creek Health District, 455 Fairford Street East, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada S6H 1H3. Tel.: (306) 694-0295; Fax: (306) 694-0282.

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University of Durham

PRIORITY HEALTHCARE
WEARSIDE

INTERPERSONAL PSYCHOTHERAPY COURSE

28th and 29th June 1999

Venue: Collingwood College, South Road, University of Durham

J C Markowitz MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
Cornell University
New York

Fee: £250.00 excluding VAT
Accommodation available

Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT) is a simplistic yet efficacious short-term intervention, originally developed for depression but with a rapidly expanding field of application within psychiatry.

Appropriately applied, IPT is seen to be as effective as pharmacotherapy in reducing depressive symptomatology with an additional impact on interpersonal functioning.

In addition to its simplicity, IPT is pragmatic and efficient with efficacy in some cases to surpass Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, yet requiring minimal training and with potential to be applied by psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, counsellors and any health professionals with a well established therapeutic technique.

Enquiries to Elizabeth Martin, Research Unit, Cherry Knowle Hospital, Ryhope, Sunderland SR2 oNB. Tel: 0191 565 6256 ext. 44208 or Fax: 0191 569 9496.

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Spot the Edronax difference.

Highly selective noradrenaline re-uptake inhibitor (NARI)[1]

Edronax® reboxetine tablets

Helps restore energy and motivation in tired depressed patients[2,3]

EDRONAX ® ABBREVIATED PRESCRIBING INFORMATION
Presentation: Tablets containing 4mg reboxetine. **Indications:** Use in the acute treatment of depressive illness, and maintenance of clinical benefit in patients responsive to treatment. **Posology and method of administration:** ***Adults*** 4 mg b.i.d. (8 mg/day) administered orally. After 3-4 weeks, can increase to 10 mg/day. ***Elderly and children*** Elderly patients have been studied in comparative clinical trials at doses of 2 mg b.i.d., although not in placebo controlled conditions. There is no experience in children and therefore reboxetine cannot be recommended in either of these groups. ***Renal/Hepatic Insufficiency*** 2 mg b.i.d. **precautions for use:** Close supervision is required for subjects with a history of convulsive disorders and must be discontinued if the patient develops seizures. Avoid concomitant use with MAO-inhibitors. Close supervision of bipolar patients is recommended. Close supervision should be applied in patients with current evidence of urinary retention, glaucoma, prostatic hypertrophy and cardiac disease. At doses higher than the maximum recommended, orthostatic hypotension has been observed with greater frequency. Particular attention should be paid when administering reboxetine with other drugs known to lower blood pressure. **Interactions with other medicaments and other forms of** that have a narrow therapeutic margin and are metabolised by CYP3A4 or CYP2D6 e.g. anti-arrhythmics (flecainide), anti-psychotic drugs and tricyclic anti-depressants. No pharmacokinetic interaction with lorazepam. Reboxetine does not appear to potentiate the effect of alcohol. **Pregnancy and lactation:** Reboxetine is contraindicated in pregnancy and lactation. **Effects on ability to drive and use machines:** Reboxetine is not sedative per se. However, as with all psychoactive drugs, caution patients about operating machinery and driving. **Undesirable effects:** Adverse events occurring more frequently than placebo are: dry mouth, constipation, insomnia, paraesthesia, increased sweating, tachycardia, vertigo, urinary hesitancy **NHS Price:** Pack of 60 tablets in blisters £19.80. **Legal Category:** POM **Marketing Authorisation Holder:** Pharmacia & Upjohn Limited, Davy Avenue, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PH, UK. **Marketing Authorisation Number:** PL 0032/0216 **References: 1.** Brunello N et al. *Human Psychopharmacology* 1998;**13**:S13-S19. **2.** Dubini A et al. *J Psychopharmacol* 1997; 11(4):S17-S23. **3.** Montgomery SA. *Prescriber* April 1998; 116-119. Further information is available from the Marketing Authorisation Holder: Pharmacia & Upjohn Limited, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PH, UK. Telephone: 01908 661101. ® Edronax is a registered trademark. Code No.P4008/12/98.
Date of preparation:

Campral EC acamprosate

Presentation: Off-white round enteric-coated tablets, containing 333mg acamprosate calcium. Printed on one side with 333. **Properties:** Acamprosate may act by stimulating GABAergic inhibitory neurotransmission and antagonising excitatory amino acids, particularly glutamic acid. **Indication:** Maintenance of abstinence in alcohol dependent patients. It should be combined with counselling. **Dosage and Administration:** *Adults ≥ 60kg:* 6 tablets per day (2 tablets taken three times daily with meals) *Adults < 60kg:* 4 tablets per day (2 tablets in the morning, 1 at noon and 1 at night with meals). Recommended treatment period one year, starting as soon as possible after the withdrawal period. Treatment should be maintained if the patient relapses. *Elderly:* Not recommended. *Children:* Not recommended. **Contraindications:** Known hypersensitivity to the drug, renal insufficiency (serum creatinine > 120 micromol/L), severe hepatic failure (Childs-Pugh classification C), pregnancy, lactation. **Precautions and Warnings:** Campral EC does not constitute treatment during the withdrawal period. **Interactions:** None observed in studies with diazepam, disulfiram or imipramine. The concomitant intake of alcohol and acamprosate does not affect the pharmacokinetics of either alcohol or acamprosate. **Side Effects:** Diarrhoea, and less frequently nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain; pruritus. These are usually mild and transient. An occasional maculopapular rash and rare cases of bullous skin reactions have been reported. Fluctuations in libido have been reported. Campral EC should not impair the patient's ability to drive or operate machinery. **Overdose:** Gastric lavage; should hypercalcaemia occur, treat patient for acute hypercalcaemia. **Legal Category:** POM. **Pharmaceutical Precautions:** None. **Package Quantities and Basic NHS Price:** 84 blister packed tablets £24.95. **Marketing Authorisation Number/Holder:** 13466/0001, Lipha SA, Lyon, France. **Date of Preparation:** August 1997. Further information is available on request from Merck Pharmaceuticals, Harrier House, High Street, West Drayton, Middlesex, UB7 7QG.

SPECIAL COMMENDATION AWARDED 1998 PRIX GALIEN AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

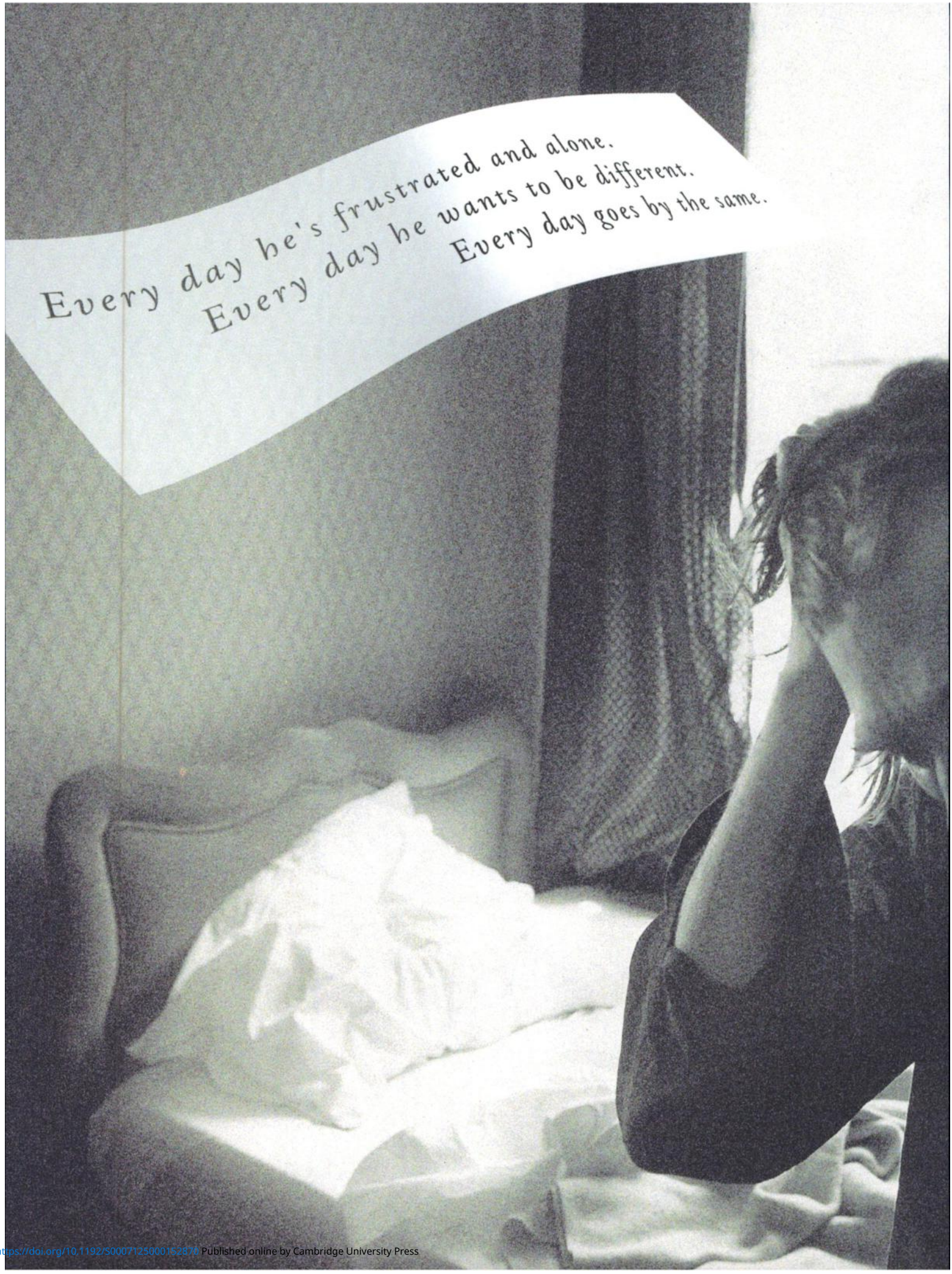
BRAIN BIOCHEMISTRY ADAPTS TO
LIFE WITH ALCOHOL

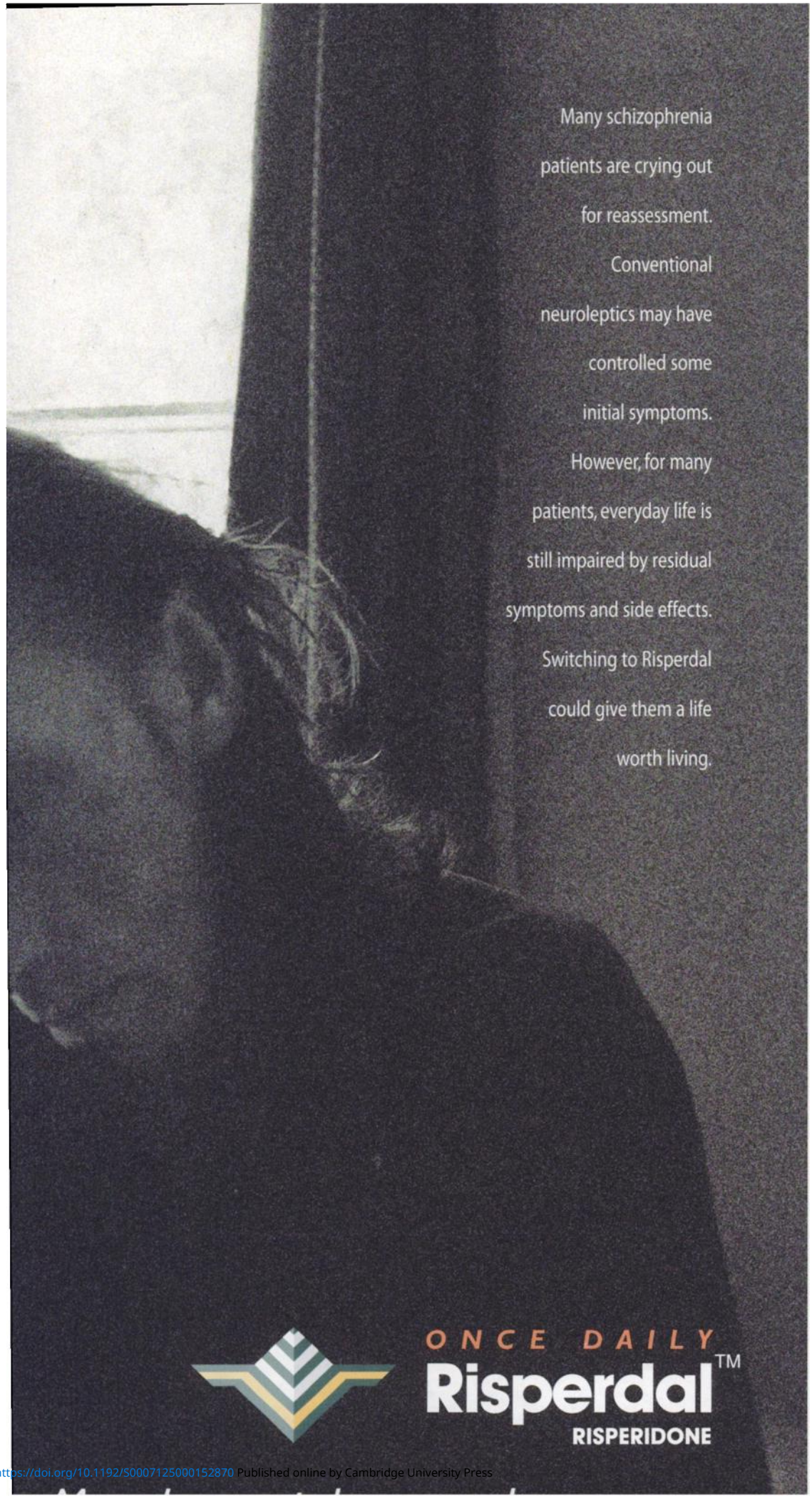
CAMPRAL EC HELPS PATIENTS ADAPT TO
LIFE WITHOUT ALCOHOL

Non-aversive **Campral EC** can help reduce the craving in patients who are adapting to a life without alcohol.

EFFECTIVE IN MAINTAINING ABSTINENCE

Campral EC





Please refer to Summary of Product Characteristics before prescribing Risperdal (risperidone). USES The treatment of acute and chronic schizophrenia, and other psychotic conditions, in which positive and/or negative symptoms are prominent. Risperdal also alleviates affective symptoms associated with schizophrenia. DOSAGE Where medically appropriate, gradual discontinuation of previous antipsychotic treatment while Risperdal therapy is initiated is recommended. Where medically appropriate, when switching patients from depot antipsychotics, consider initiating Risperdal therapy in place of the next scheduled injection. The need for continuing existing antiparkinson medication should be re-evaluated periodically. Adults: Risperdal may be given once or twice daily. All patients, whether acute or chronic, should start with 2 mg/day. This should be increased to 4 mg/day on the second day and 6 mg/day on the third day. However, some patients such as first-episode psychotic patients may benefit from a slower rate of titration. From then on the dosage can be maintained unchanged, or further individualised if needed. The usual effective dosage is 4 to 8 mg/day although in some patients an optimal response may be obtained at lower doses. Doses above 10 mg/day may increase the risk of extrapyramidal symptoms and should only be used if the benefit is considered to outweigh the risk. Doses above 16 mg/day should not be used. Elderly, renal and liver disease: A starting dose of 0.5 mg bd is recommended. This can be individually adjusted with 0.5 mg bd increments to 1 to 2 mg bd. Risperdal is well tolerated by the elderly. Use with caution in patients with renal and liver disease. Not recommended in children aged less than 15 years. CONTRA-INDICATIONS, WARNINGS, ETC. Contra-indications: Known hypersensitivity to Risperdal. Precautions: Orthostatic hypotension can occur (alpha-blocking effect). Use with caution in patients with known cardiovascular disease. Consider dose reduction if hypotension occurs. For further sedation, give an additional drug (such as a benzodiazepine) rather than increasing the dose of Risperdal. Drugs with dopamine antagonistic properties have been associated with tardive dyskinesia. If signs and symptoms of tardive dyskinesia appear, the discontinuation of all antipsychotic drugs should be considered. Caution should be exercised when treating patients with Parkinson's disease or epilepsy. Patients should be advised of the potential for weight gain. Risperdal may interfere with activities requiring mental alertness. Patients should be advised not to drive or operate machinery until their individual susceptibility is known. Pregnancy and lactation: Use during pregnancy only if the benefits outweigh the risks. Women receiving Risperdal should not breast feed. Interactions: Use with caution in combination with other centrally acting drugs. Risperdal may antagonise the effect of levodopa and other dopamine agonists. On initiation of carbamazepine or other hepatic enzyme-inducing drugs, the dosage of Risperdal should be re-evaluated and increased if necessary. On discontinuation of such drugs, the dosage of Risperdal should be re-evaluated and decreased if necessary. Side effects: Risperdal is generally well tolerated and in many instances it has been difficult to differentiate adverse events from symptoms of the underlying disease. Common adverse events include: insomnia, agitation, anxiety, headache. Less common adverse events include: somnolence, fatigue, dizziness, impaired concentration, constipation, dyspepsia, nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain, blurred vision, priapism, erectile dysfunction, ejaculatory dysfunction, orgasmic dysfunction, urinary incontinence, rhinitis, rash and other allergic reactions. The incidence and severity of extrapyramidal symptoms are significantly less than with haloperidol. However, the following may occur: tremor, rigidity, hypersalivation, bradykinesia, akathisia, acute dystonia. If acute, these symptoms are usually mild and reversible upon dose reduction and/or administration of antiparkinson medication. Rare cases of Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome have been reported. In such an event, all antipsychotic drugs should be discontinued. Occasionally, orthostatic dizziness, hypotension (including orthostatic), tachycardia (including reflex) and hypertension have been observed. An increase in plasma prolactin concentration can occur which may be associated with galactorrhoea, gynaecomastia and disturbances of the menstrual cycle. Oedema and increased hepatic enzyme levels have been observed. A mild fall in neutrophil and/or thrombocyte count has been reported. Rare cases of water intoxication with hyponatraemia, tardive dyskinesia, body temperature dysregulation and seizures have been reported. Overdosage: Reported signs and symptoms include drowsiness and sedation, tachycardia and hypotension, and extrapyramidal symptoms. A prolonged QT interval was reported in a patient with concomitant hypokalaemia who had ingested 360mg. Establish and maintain a clear airway, and ensure adequate oxygenation and ventilation. Gastric lavage and activated charcoal plus a laxative should be considered. Commence cardiovascular monitoring immediately, including continuous electrocardiographic monitoring to detect possible arrhythmias. There is no specific antidote, so institute appropriate supportive measures. Treat hypotension and circulatory collapse with appropriate measures. In case of severe extrapyramidal symptoms, give anti-cholinergic medication. Continue close medical supervision and monitoring until the patient recovers. PHARMACEUTICAL PRECAUTIONS Tablets: Store below 30°C. Liquid: Store below 30°C, protect from freezing. LEGAL CATEGORY POM. PRESENTATIONS, PACK SIZES, PRODUCT LICENCE NUMBERS & BASIC NHS COSTS White oblong tablets containing 1 mg risperidone in packs of 20. PL 0242/0186 £13.45. Pale orange, oblong tablets containing 2 mg risperidone in packs of 60. PL 0242/0187 £79.56. Yellow, oblong tablets containing 3 mg risperidone in packs of 60. PL 0242/0188 £117.00. Green, oblong tablets containing 4 mg risperidone in packs of 60. PL 0242/0189 £154.44. Yellow, circular tablets containing 6 mg risperidone in packs of 28. PL 0242/0317 £109.20. Starter packs containing 6 Risperdal 1 mg tablets are also available £4.15. Clear, colourless solution containing 1 mg risperidone per ml in bottles containing 100 ml. PL 0242/0199 £65.00. FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE PRODUCT LICENCE HOLDER. Janssen-Cilag Ltd, Saunderton, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP14 4HJ. APIVER140797

JANSSEN-CILAG Ltd

Date of preparation: August 1998

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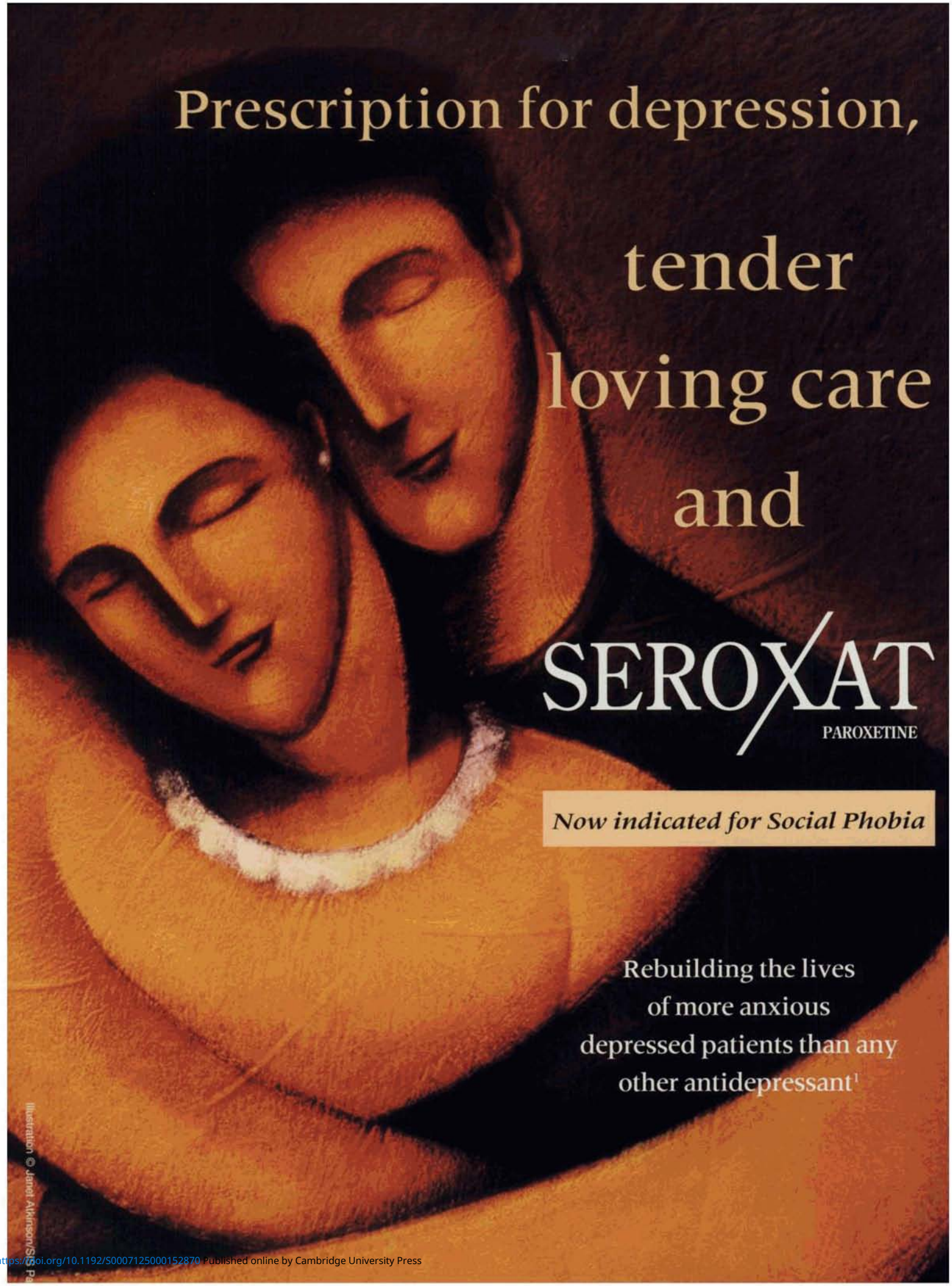


PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Prescribing information

Presentation: 'Seroxat' Tablets, PL 10592/0001-2, each containing either 20 or 30 mg paroxetine as the hydrochloride. 30 (OP) 20 mg tablets, £20.77; 30 (OP) 30 mg tablets, £31.16.

'Seroxat' Liquid, PL 10592/0092, containing 20 mg paroxetine as the hydrochloride per 10 ml. 150 ml (OP), £20.77.

Indications: Treatment of symptoms of depressive illness of all types including depression accompanied by anxiety. Following satisfactory response, continuation is effective in preventing relapse. Treatment of symptoms and prevention of relapse of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). Treatment of symptoms and prevention of relapse of panic disorder with or without agoraphobia. Treatment of symptoms of social anxiety disorder/social phobia.

Dosage: Adults: Depression: 20 mg a day. Review response within two to three weeks and if necessary increase dose in 10 mg increments to a maximum of 50 mg according to response.

Obsessive compulsive disorder: 40 mg a day. Patients should be given 20 mg a day initially and the dose increased weekly in 10 mg increments. Some patients may benefit from a maximum dose of 60 mg a day.

Panic disorder: 40 mg a day. Patients should be given 10 mg a day initially and the dose increased weekly in 10 mg increments. Some patients may benefit from a maximum dose of 50 mg a day.

Social anxiety disorder/social phobia: 20 mg a day. Patients should start on 20 mg and if no improvement after at least two weeks they may benefit from weekly 10 mg dose increases up to a maximum of 50 mg/day according to response. 'Seroxat' has been shown to be effective in 12 week placebo-controlled trials. There is only limited evidence of efficacy after 12 weeks' treatment.

Give orally once a day in the morning with food. The tablets should not be chewed. Continue treatment for a sufficient period, which should be at least four to six months after recovery for depression and may be longer for OCD and panic disorder. As with many psychoactive medications abrupt discontinuation should be avoided – see **Adverse reactions.**

Elderly: Dosing should commence at the adult starting dose and may be increased in weekly 10 mg increments up to a maximum of 40 mg a day according to response.

Children: Not recommended.

Severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <30 ml/min) or severe hepatic impairment: 20 mg a day. Restrict incremental dosage if required to lower end of range.

Contra-indication: Hypersensitivity to paroxetine.

Precautions: History of mania. Cardiac conditions: caution. Caution in patients with epilepsy; stop treatment if seizures develop. Driving and operating machinery.

Drug interactions: Do not use with or within two weeks after MAO inhibitors; leave a two-week gap before starting MAO inhibitor treatment. Possibility of interaction with tryptophan. Great caution with warfarin and other oral anticoagulants. Use lower doses if given with drug metabolising enzyme inhibitors; adjust dosage if necessary with drug metabolising enzyme inducers. Alcohol is not advised. Use lithium with caution and monitor lithium levels. Increased adverse effects with phenytoin; similar possibility with other anticonvulsants.

Pregnancy and lactation: Use only if potential benefit outweighs possible risk.

Adverse reactions: In controlled trials most commonly nausea, somnolence, sweating, tremor, asthenia, dry mouth, insomnia, sexual dysfunction (including impotence and ejaculation disorders), dizziness, constipation and decreased appetite.

Also spontaneous reports of dizziness, vomiting, diarrhoea, restlessness, hallucinations, hypomania, rash including urticaria with pruritus or angioedema, and symptoms suggestive of postural hypotension. Extrapyramidal reactions reported infrequently; usually reversible abnormalities of liver function tests and hyponatraemia described rarely. Symptoms including dizziness, sensory disturbance, anxiety, sleep disturbances, agitation, tremor, nausea, sweating and confusion have been reported following abrupt discontinuation of 'Seroxat'. It is recommended that when antidepressant treatment is no longer required, gradual discontinuation by dose-tapering or alternate day dosing be considered.

Overdosage: Margin of safety from available data is wide. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, tremor, dilated pupils, dry mouth, irritability, sweating and somnolence. No specific antidote. General treatment as for overdosage with any antidepressant. Early use of activated charcoal suggested.

Legal category: POM. 10.9.98

SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals

PARTNERS IN PSYCHIATRIC CARE

Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1EY.

'Seroxat' is a trade mark.

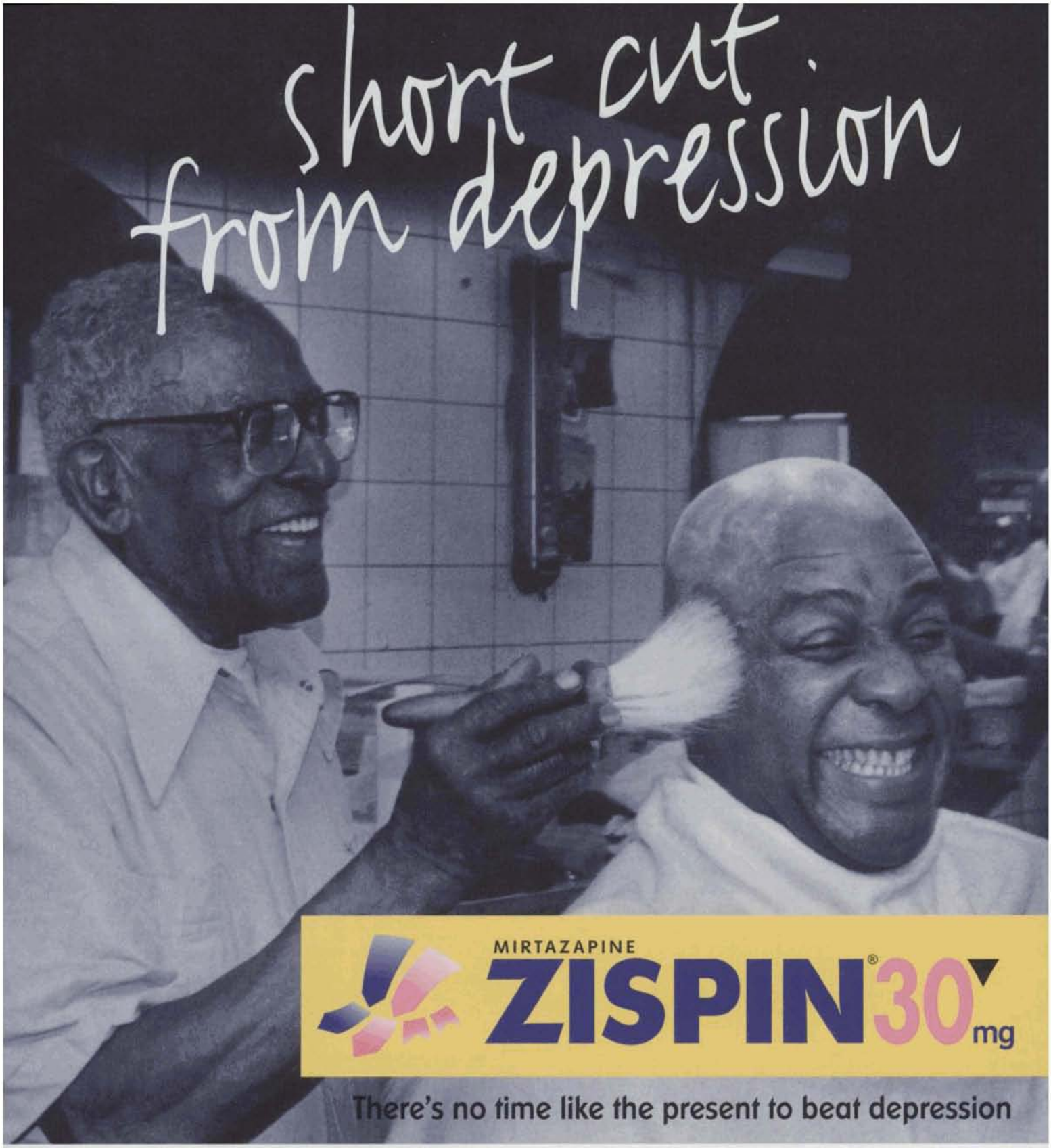
Reference: 1. Data on file.

0998/ST:AD/8/0398J

SEROXAT

Rebuilding the lives of anxious depressed patients

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125000152870 Published online by Cambridge University Press



Prescribing Information

Presentation: Blister strips of 28 tablets each containing 30 mg of mirtazapine. **Uses:** Treatment of depressive illness. **Dosage and administration:** The tablets should be taken orally, if necessary with fluid, and swallowed without chewing. **Adults and elderly:** The effective daily dose is usually between 15 and 45 mg. **Children:** Not recommended. The clearance of mirtazapine may be decreased in patients with renal or hepatic insufficiency. Zispin is suitable for once-a-day administration, preferably as a single night-time dose. Treatment should be continued until the patient has been completely symptom-free for 4-6 months. **Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity to mirtazapine or any ingredients of Zispin. **Precautions and warnings:** Reversible white blood cell disorders including agranulocytosis, leukopenia and granulocytopenia have been reported with Zispin. The physician should be alert to symptoms such as fever, sore throat, stomatitis or other signs of infection; if these occur, treatment should be stopped and blood counts taken. Patients should also be advised of the importance of these symptoms. Careful dosing as well as regular and close syndrome; hepatic or renal insufficiency; cardiac diseases; low blood mellitus. Treatment should be discontinued if jaundice occurs. Moreover, as with other antidepressants, the following should be taken into account: worsening of psychotic symptoms can occur when antidepressants are administered to patients with schizophrenia or other psychotic disturbances; when the depressive phase of manic-depressive psychosis is being treated, it can transform into the manic phase. Zispin has sedative properties and may impair concentration and alertness. **Interactions:** Mirtazapine may potentiate the central nervous dampening action of alcohol; patients should therefore be advised to avoid alcohol during treatment with Zispin; Zispin should not be administered concomitantly with MAO inhibitors or within two weeks of cessation of therapy with these agents; Mirtazapine may potentiate the sedative effects of benzodiazepines; In vitro data suggest that clinically significant interactions are unlikely with mirtazapine. **Pregnancy and lactation:** The safety of Zispin in human pregnancy has not been established. Use during pregnancy is not recommended. Women of child bearing potential should employ an adequate method of contraception. Use in nursing mothers is not recommended. **Adverse** adverse effects have been reported: **Common (>1/100):** Increase in appetite and weight gain. Drowsiness/sedation, levels. **Rare (<1/1000):** Oedema and accompanying weight gain. Reversible agranulocytosis has been reported as a rare occurrence. (Orthostatic) hypotension. Exanthema. Mania, convulsions, tremor, myoclonus. **Overdosage:** Toxicity studies in animals suggest that clinically relevant cardiotoxic effects will not occur after overdosing with Zispin. Experience in clinical trials and from the market has shown that no serious adverse effects have been associated with Zispin in overdose. Symptoms of acute overdosage are confined to prolonged sedation. Cases of overdose should be treated by gastric lavage with appropriate symptomatic and supportive therapy for vital functions. **Marketing authorization number:** PL 0065/0145 **Legal category:** POM **Basic NHS cost:** £24 for 28 tablets of 30 mg.

For further information, please contact:

Organon Nourypharma

Organon Laboratories Limited, Cambridge Science Park,

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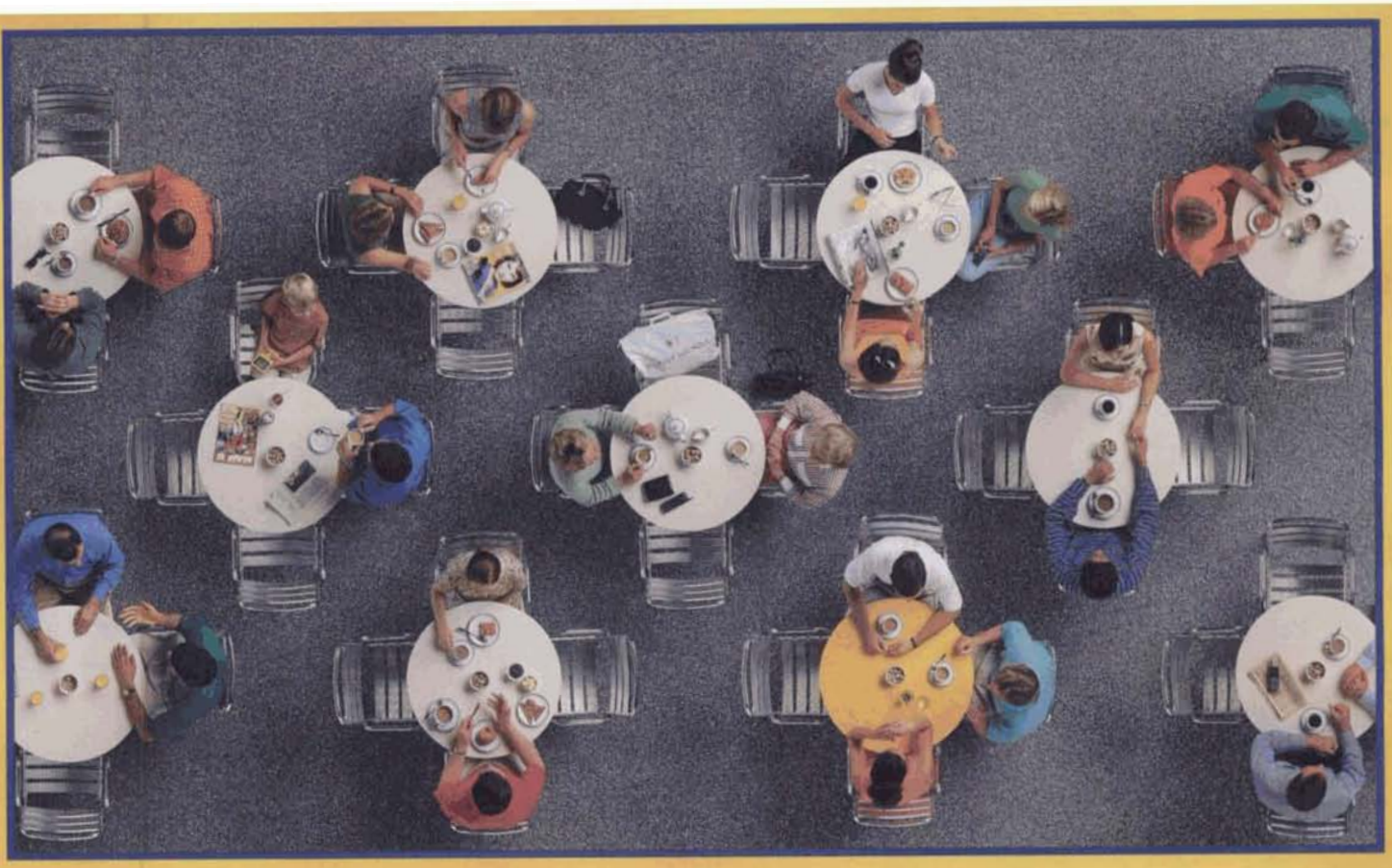

Add life to living with schizophrenia

Solian is a new benzamide antipsychotic, with the ability to treat both the positive[1] and negative[2] symptoms of schizophrenia.

Solian offers a lower incidence of EPS than standard neuroleptics such as haloperidol,[3] as well as avoiding some of the drawbacks of certain atypicals: it does not require routine cardiovascular[4,5] or haematological[4,6] monitoring and patients gain significantly less weight than those treated with risperidone.[2]

So when patients need the ability to cope with their condition, Solian has the power to treat their positive[1] *and* their negative[2] symptoms whilst still allowing them to do the everyday things that the rest of us take for granted.

Solian®
AMISULPRIDE

Efficacy that patients can live with

Prescribing Information - Solian 200 and Solian 50 ▼ Presentation: Solian 200mg tablets contain 200mg amisulpride and Solian 50mg tablets contain 50mg amisulpride. **Indication:** Acute and chronic schizophrenia in which positive and/or negative symptoms are prominent. **Dosage:** Acute psychotic episodes: 400-800mg/day, increasing up to 1200mg/day according to individual response (dose titration not required), in divided doses. Predominantly negative symptoms: 50-300mg once daily adjusted according to individual response. Elderly: administer with caution due to the risk of hypotension or sedation. Renal insufficiency: reduce dose and consider intermittent therapy. Hepatic insufficiency: no dosage adjustment necessary. Children: contraindicated in children under 15 years (safety not established). **Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity; concomitant prolactin-dependent tumours e.g. pituitary gland prolactinaemias and breast cancer; phaeochromocytoma; children under 15 years; pregnancy; lactation; women of child-bearing potential unless using adequate contraception. **Warning and Precautions:** As with all neuroleptics, neuroleptic malignant syndrome may occur (discontinue Solian). Caution in patients with a history of epilepsy and Parkinson's disease. **Interactions:** Caution in hypotensive medications, and dopamine agonists. **Side Effects:** Insomnia, anxiety, agitation. Less commonly somnolence and GI disorders. In common with other neuroleptics: Solian causes a reversible increase in plasma prolactin levels; Solian may also cause weight gain, acute dystonia, extrapyramidal symptoms, tardive dyskinesia, hypotension and bradycardia; rarely, allergic reactions, seizures and neuroleptic malignant syndrome have been reported. **Basic NHS Cost:** Blister packs of: 200mg x 60 tablets - £60.00; 200mg x 90 tablets - £90.00; 50mg x 60 tablets - £16.45; 50mg x 90 tablets - £24.69. **Legal Category:** POM. **Product Licence Numbers:** Solian 200 - PL 15819/0002, Solian 50 - PL 15819/0001. **Product Licence Holder:** Lorex Synthélabo UK and Ireland Ltd, Foundation Park, Roxborough Way, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 3UD. **References:** 1. Freeman HL. Int Clin Psychopharmacol 1997;12(Suppl 2):S11-S17. 2. Möller HJ. 6th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry, Nice, France, June 22-27 1997. 3. Coukell AJ, Spencer CM, Benfield P. CNS Drugs (Adis) 1996 Sep 6 (3):237-256. 4. Solian SPC. Lorex Synthélabo. 5. Sertindole SPC. Lundbeck Ltd. 6. Clozapine SPC.

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