

# CNS SPECTRUMS<sup>®</sup>

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NEUROPSYCHIATRIC MEDICINE



## **ORIGINAL RESEARCH**

### **Psychiatric Comorbidity in 36 Adults with Mitochondrial Cytopathies**

O. Fattal, J. Link, K. Quinn, B.H. Cohen, and K. Franco

### **An Open-Label Trial of Divalproex Extended-Release in the Treatment of Borderline Personality Disorder**

D. Simeon, B. Baker, W. Chaplin, A. Braun, and E. Hollander

## **REVIEW ARTICLES**

### **Problematic Internet Use: *Clinical Implications***

T. Liu and M.N. Potenza

### **Does Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder Belong Within the Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum?**

N.A. Fineberg, P. Sharma, T. Sivakumaran, B. Sahakian, and S. Chamberlain

## **CASE REPORT**

### **A Case of Resolution of an Acute Psychotic Episode After High Fever**

G. Sani, G. Manfredi, I. Pacchiarotti, S.S. Caltagirone, I. Mancinelli, A.E. Koukopoulos, C. Tatarelli, G.D. Kotzalidis, R. Tatarelli, and P. Girardi

## **TRENDS IN PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY**

### **Novel Therapeutics for Schizophrenia: Targeting Glycine Modulation of NMDA Glutamate Receptors**

S.M. Stahl

## **COMMUNIQUE**

### **Sertraline and Hyperpigmentation: A Case Report**

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## **Important Safety Information**

Vyvanse should not be taken by patients who have advanced arteriosclerosis; symptomatic cardiovascular disease; moderate to severe hypertension; hyperthyroidism; known hypersensitivity or idiosyncrasy to sympathomimetic amines; agitated states; glaucoma; a history of drug abuse; or during or within 14 days after treatment with monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs).

Sudden death has been reported in association with CNS stimulant treatment at usual doses in children and adolescents with structural cardiac abnormalities or other serious heart problems. Sudden deaths, stroke, and myocardial infarction have been reported in adults taking stimulant drugs at usual doses in ADHD. Physicians should take a careful patient history, including family history, and physical exam, to assess the presence of cardiac disease. Patients who report symptoms of cardiac disease such as exertional chest pain and unexplained syncope should be promptly evaluated. Use with caution in patients whose underlying medical condition might be affected by increases in blood pressure or heart rate.

New psychosis, mania, aggression, growth suppression, and visual disturbances have been associated with the use of stimulants. Use with caution in patients with a history of psychosis, seizures or EEG abnormalities, bipolar disorder, or depression. Growth monitoring is advised during prolonged treatment.

**Amphetamines have a high potential for abuse. Administration of amphetamines for prolonged periods of time may lead to drug dependence. Particular attention should be paid to the possibility of subjects obtaining amphetamines for non-therapeutic uses or distribution to others and the drugs should be prescribed or dispensed sparingly. Misuse of amphetamine may cause sudden death and serious cardiovascular adverse events.**

The most common adverse events reported in clinical studies of Vyvanse were loss of appetite, insomnia, abdominal pain, and irritability.

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The International Journal of Neuropsychiatric Medicine

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The Leading News Service from Primary Psychiatry® and Physician's Weekly®

**EDITOR'S LETTER****416 Brain and Body: Mitochondrial Disease, Fever, and Impulsivity**

*Eric Hollander, MD, the Mount Sinai School of Medicine*

**ORIGINAL RESEARCH****429 Psychiatric Comorbidity in 36 Adults with Mitochondrial Cytopathies**

*Omar Fattal, MD, MPH, Lutheran Hospital; Jessica Link, BS, Cleveland Clinic; Kathleen Quinn, MD, Cleveland Clinic; Bruce H. Cohen, MD, Cleveland Clinic; and Kathleen Franco, MD, MS, Cleveland Clinic Foundation*

**439 An Open-Label Trial of Divalproex Extended-Release in the Treatment of Borderline Personality Disorder**

*Daphne Simeon, MD, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine (MSSM); Bryann Baker, BA, MSSM; William Chaplin, PhD, St. John's University; Ashley Braun, BS, MSSM; and Eric Hollander, MD, MSSM*

**REVIEW ARTICLES****453 Problematic Internet Use: Clinical Implications**

*Timothy Liu, MBBS, Yale University School of Medicine; and Marc N. Potenza, MD, PhD, Yale University School of Medicine*

**469 Does Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder Belong Within the Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum?**

*Naomi A. Fineberg, MBBS, MA, MRCPsych, University of Hertfordshire; Punita Sharma, MBBS, Hertfordshire Partnership National Health Service (NHS) Trust; Thanusha Sivakumaran, BSc, Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust; Barbara Sahakian, PhD, Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust; and Sam Chamberlain, MA, University of Cambridge*

**CASE REPORT****447 A Case of Resolution of an Acute Psychotic Episode After High Fever**

*Gabriele Sani, MD, Sapienza University of Medical School; Giovanni Manfredi, MD, Sapienza University of Medical School; Isabella Pacchiarotti, MD, Sapienza University of Medical School; Saverio Simone Caltagirone, MD, Sapienza University of Medical School; Iginia Mancinelli, MD, Sapienza University of Medical School; Alexia E. Koukopoulos, MD, Sapienza University of Medical School; Caterina Tatarelli, MD, PhD, Sapienza University of Medical School; Giorgio D. Kotzalidis, MD, Sapienza University of Medical School; Roberto Tatarelli, MD, Sapienza University of Medical School; and Paolo Girardi, MD, Sapienza University of Medical School*

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# Still depressed?

- ✓ Anxiety, insomnia, low energy
- ✓ Currently on an SSRI\*
- ✓ Still suffering

It may be time to  
make a change

## Break *the* Cycle with EFFEXOR XR

\* Patients currently on an SSRI should be evaluated following an adequate trial.

### IMPORTANT TREATMENT CONSIDERATIONS

#### Suicidality in Children and Adolescents


Antidepressants increased the risk of suicidal thinking and behavior (suicidality) in short-term studies in children and adolescents with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) and other psychiatric disorders. Anyone considering the use of EFFEXOR XR or any other antidepressant in a child or adolescent must balance this risk with the clinical need. Patients who are started on therapy should be observed closely for clinical worsening, suicidality, or unusual changes in behavior. Families and caregivers should be advised of the need for close observation and communication with the prescriber. EFFEXOR XR is not approved for use in pediatric patients.

- EFFEXOR XR is contraindicated in patients taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs).
- Adult and pediatric patients taking antidepressants can experience worsening of their depression and/or the emergence of suicidality. Patients should be observed closely for clinical worsening and suicidality, especially at the beginning of drug therapy, or at the time of increases or decreases in dose. Anxiety, agitation, panic attacks, insomnia, irritability, hostility, aggressiveness, impulsivity, akathisia, hypomania, and mania have been reported and may represent precursors to emerging suicidality. Stopping or modifying therapy should be considered especially when symptoms are severe, abrupt in onset, or not part of presenting symptoms.

- The development of potentially life-threatening serotonin syndrome may occur when EFFEXOR XR is coadministered with other drugs that may affect the serotonergic neurotransmitter systems. Concomitant use of EFFEXOR XR with MAOIs is contraindicated. If concomitant use of EFFEXOR XR with an SSRI, SNRI, or a triptan is clinically warranted, careful observation of the patient is advised. Concomitant use of EFFEXOR XR with tryptophan supplements is not recommended.
- Treatment with venlafaxine is associated with sustained increases in blood pressure (BP) in some patients. Postmarketing cases of elevated BP requiring immediate treatment have been reported. Pre-existing hypertension should be controlled. Regular BP monitoring is recommended.
- Mydriasis has been reported in association with venlafaxine; therefore, patients with raised intraocular pressure or those at risk of acute narrow-angle glaucoma (angle-closure glaucoma) should be monitored.
- Abrupt discontinuation or dose reduction has been associated with discontinuation symptoms. Patients should be counseled on possible discontinuation symptoms and monitored while discontinuing the drug; the dose should be tapered gradually.

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Please see brief summary of Prescribing Information on adjacent pages.





recommended during treatment, particularly if long term. The safety of Effexor XR for pediatric patients has not been assessed for chronic treatment >6 months. In studies in patients aged 6-17, blood pressure and cholesterol increases considered to be clinically relevant were similar to that observed in adult patients. The precautions for adults apply to pediatric patients. **Geriatric Use**—No overall differences in effectiveness or safety were observed between geriatric and younger patients. Greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out. Hyponatremia and SIADH have been reported, usually in the elderly. **ADVERSE REACTIONS: Associated with Discontinuation of Treatment**—The most common events leading to discontinuation in MDD, GAD, SAD, and PD trials included nausea, anorexia, anxiety, impotence, dry mouth, dizziness, insomnia, somnolence, hypertension, diarrhea, paresthesia, tremor, abnormal (mostly blurred) vision, abnormal (mostly delayed) ejaculation, asthenia, vomiting, nervousness, headache, vasodilatation, thinking abnormal, decreased libido, and sweating. **Commonly Observed Adverse Events in Controlled Clinical Trials for MDD, GAD, SAD, and PD—Body as a Whole**: asthenia, headache, flu syndrome, accidental injury, abdominal pain. **Cardiovascular**: vasodilatation, hypertension, palpitation. **Digestive**: nausea, constipation, anorexia, vomiting, flatulence, diarrhea, eructation. **Metabolic/Nutritional**: weight loss. **Nervous System**: dizziness, somnolence, insomnia, dry mouth, nervousness, abnormal dreams, tremor, depression, hypertonia, paresthesia, libido decreased, agitation, anxiety, twitching. **Respiratory System**: pharyngitis, yawning, sinusitis. **Skin**: sweating. **Special Senses**: abnormal vision. **Urogenital System**: abnormal ejaculation, impotence, orgasmic dysfunction (including anorgasmia) in females. **Vital Sign Changes**: Effexor XR was associated with a mean increase in pulse rate of about 2 beats/min in depression and GAD trials and a mean increase in pulse rate of 4 beats/min in SAD trials. (See **WARNINGS—Sustained Hypertension**). **Laboratory Changes**: Clinically relevant increases in serum cholesterol were noted in Effexor XR clinical trials. Increases were duration dependent over the study period and tended to be greater with higher doses. **Other Events Observed During the Premarketing Evaluation of Effexor and Effexor XR—N=6,670**. "Frequent"=events occurring in at least 1/100 patients; "infrequent"=1/100 to 1/1000 patients; "rare"=fewer than 1/1000 patients. **Body as a whole** - Frequent: chest pain substernal, chills, fever, neck pain; infrequent: face edema, intentional injury, malaise, moniliasis, neck rigidity, pelvic pain, photosensitivity reaction, suicide attempt, withdrawal syndrome; Rare: appendicitis, bacteremia, carcinoma, cellulitis. **Cardiovascular system** - Frequent: migraine, postural hypotension, tachycardia; infrequent: angina pectoris, arrhythmia, extrasystoles, hypertension, peripheral vascular disorder (mainly cold feet and/or cold hands), syncope, thrombophlebitis; Rare: aortic aneurysm, arteritis, first-degree atrioventricular block, bigeminy, bundle branch block, capillary fragility, cerebral ischemia, coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, heart arrest, hematoma, cardiovascular disorder (mitral valve and circulatory disturbance), mucocutaneous hemorrhage, myocardial infarct, palp, sinus arrhythmia. **Digestive system** - Frequent: increased appetite; infrequent: bruxism, colitis, dysphagia, tongue edema, esophagitis, gastritis, gastroenteritis, gastrointestinal ulcer, gingivitis, glossitis, rectal hemorrhage, hemorrhoids, melena, oral moniliasis, stomatitis, mouth ulceration; Rare: abdominal distension, biliary pain, cheilitis, cholecystitis, cholelithiasis, esophageal spasms, duodenitis, hematemesis, gastroesophageal reflux disease, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, gum hemorrhage, hepatitis, ileitis, jaundice, intestinal obstruction, liver tenderness, parotitis, periodontitis, proctitis, rectal disorder, salivary gland enlargement, increased salivation, soft stools, tongue discoloration. **Endocrine system** - Rare: galactorrhoea, goiter, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, thyroid nodule, thyroiditis. **Hemic and lymphatic system** - Frequent: ecchymosis; infrequent: anemia, leukocytosis, leukopenia, lymphadenopathy, thrombocytopenia; Rare: basophilia, bleeding time increased, cyanosis, eosinophilia, lymphocytosis, multiple myeloma, purpura, thrombocytopenia. **Metabolic and nutritional** - Frequent: edema, weight gain; infrequent: alkaline phosphatase increased, dehydration, hypercholesterolemia, hyperglycemia, hyperlipidemia, hypoglycemia, hypokalemia, SGOT increased, SGPT increased, thirst; Rare: alcohol intolerance, bilirubinemia, BUN increased, creatinine increased, diabetes mellitus, glycosuria, gout, healing abnormal, hemochromatosis, hypercalcemia, hyperkalemia, hyperphosphatemia, hyperuricemia, hypocholesterolemia, hyponatremia, hypophosphatemia, hypoproteinemia, uremia. **Musculoskeletal system** - Frequent: arthralgia; infrequent: arthritis, arthrosis, bone spurs, bursitis, leg cramps, myasthenia, tenosynovitis; Rare: bone pain, pathological fracture, muscle cramp, muscle spasms, musculoskeletal stiffness, myopathy, osteoporosis, osteosclerosis, planter fasciitis, rheumatoid arthritis, tendon rupture. **Nervous system** - Frequent: amnesia, confusion, depersonalization, hypesthesia, thinking abnormal, trismus, vertigo; infrequent: akathisia, apathy, ataxia, circumoral paresthesia, CNS stimulation, emotional lability, euphoria, hallucinations, hostility, hyperesthesia, hyperkinesia, hypotonia, incoordination, manic reaction, myoclonus, neuralgia, neuropathy, psychosis, seizure, abnormal speech, stupor, suicidal ideation; Rare: abnormal/changed behavior, adjustment disorder, akinesia, alcohol abuse, aphasia, bradykinesia, buccoglossal syndrome, cerebrovascular accident, feeling drunk, loss of consciousness, delusions, dementia, dystonia, energy increased, facial paralysis, abnormal gait, Guillian-Barré syndrome, homicidal ideation, hyperchlorhydria, hypokinesia, hysteria, impulse control difficulties, libido increased, motion sickness, neuritis, nyctagmus, paranoid reaction, paresis, psychotic depression, reflexes decreased, reflexes increased, torticollis. **Respiratory system** - Frequent: cough increased, dyspnea; infrequent: asthma, chest congestion, epistaxis, hyperventilation, laryngismus, laryngitis, pneumonia, voice alteration; Rare: atelectasis, hemoptysis, hyperventilation, hypoxia, larynx edema, pleurisy, pulmonary embolus, sleep apnea. **Skin and appendages** - Frequent: pruritus; infrequent: acne, alopecia, contact dermatitis, dry skin, eczema, maculopapular rash, psoriasis, urticaria; Rare: brittle nails, erythema nodosum, exfoliative dermatitis, lichenoid dermatitis, hair discoloration, skin discoloration, furunculosis, hirsutism, leukoderma, millaria, petechial rash, pruritic rash, pustular rash, vesiculobullous rash, seborrhea, skin atrophy, skin hypertrophy, skin striae, sweating decreased. **Special senses** - Frequent: abnormality of accommodation, mydriasis, taste perversion; infrequent: conjunctivitis, diplopia, dry eyes, eye pain, hyperacusis, otitis media, parosmia, photophobia, taste loss, visual field defect; Rare: blepharitis, cataract, chromatopsia, conjunctival edema, corneal lesion, deafness, exophthalmos, eye hemorrhage, glaucoma, retinal hemorrhage, subconjunctival hemorrhage, keratitis, labyrinthitis, miosis, papilledema, decreased pupillary reflex, otitis externa, scleritis, uveitis. **Urogenital system** - Frequent: prostatic disorder (prostatitis, enlarged prostate, and prostate irritability), urination impaired; infrequent: albuminuria, amenorrhea, cystitis, dysuria, hematuria, kidney calculus, kidney pain, leukorrhea, menorrhagia, metrorrhagia, nocturia, breast pain, polyuria, pyuria, urinary incontinence, urinary retention, urinary urgency, vaginal hemorrhage, vaginitis; Rare: abortion, anuria, balanitis, bladder pain, breast discharge, breast engorgement, breast enlargement, endometriosis, female lactation, fibrocystic breast, calcium crystalluria, cervicitis, orchitis, ovarian cyst, prolonged erection, gynecomasia (male), hypomenorrhea, kidney function abnormal, mastitis, menopause, pyelonephritis, oliguria, salpingitis, urolithiasis, uterine hemorrhage, uterine spasm, vaginal dryness. **Postmarketing Reports**: agranulocytosis, anaphylaxis, aplastic anemia, catatonia, congenital anomalies, CPK increased, deep vein thrombophlebitis, delirium, EKG abnormalities such as QT prolongation; cardiac arrhythmias including atrial fibrillation, supraventricular tachycardia, ventricular extrasystoles, and rare reports of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia, including torsades de pointes; epidermal necrosis/Stevens-Johnson syndrome, erythema multiforme, extrapyramidal symptoms (including dyskinesia and tardive dyskinesia), angle-closure glaucoma, hemorrhage (including eye and gastrointestinal bleeding), hepatic events (including GGT elevation; abnormalities of unspecified liver function tests; liver damage, necrosis, or failure; and fatty liver), interstitial lung disease, involuntary movements, LDH increased, neuroleptic malignant syndrome-like events (including a case of a 10-year-old who may have been taking methamphetamine, was treated and recovered), neutropenia, night sweats, pancreatitis, pancytopenia, panic, prolactin increased, renal failure, rhabdomyolysis, serotonin syndrome, shock-like electrical sensations or tinnitus (in some cases, subsequent to the discontinuation of venlafaxine or tapering of dose), and SIADH (usually in the elderly). Elevated clozapine levels that were temporally associated with adverse events, including seizures, have been reported following the addition of venlafaxine. Increases in prothrombin time, partial thromboplastin time, or INR have been reported when venlafaxine was given to patients on warfarin therapy. **DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE**: Effexor XR is not a controlled substance. Evaluate patients carefully for history of drug abuse and observe such patients closely for signs of misuse or abuse. **OVERDOSAGE**: The most commonly reported events in overdose include tachycardia, changes in level of consciousness (ranging from somnolence to coma), mydriasis, seizures, and vomiting. Electrocardiogram changes (eg, prolongation of QT interval, bundle branch block, QRS prolongation), ventricular tachycardia, bradycardia, hypotension, rhabdomyolysis, vertigo, liver necrosis, serotonin syndrome, and death have been reported. Published retrospective studies report that venlafaxine overdose may be associated with an increased risk of fatal outcomes compared to that observed with SSRI antidepressant products, but lower than that for tricyclic antidepressants. Epidemiological studies have shown that venlafaxine-treated patients have a higher pre-existing burden of suicide risk factors than SSRI-treated patients. The extent to which the finding of an increased risk of fatal outcomes can be attributed to the toxicity of venlafaxine in overdose as opposed to some characteristic(s) of venlafaxine-treated patients is not clear. Treatment should consist of those general measures employed in the management of overdose with any antidepressant. Ensure an adequate airway, oxygenation and ventilation. Monitor cardiac rhythm and vital signs. General supportive and symptomatic measures are also recommended. Induction of emesis is not recommended. Gastric lavage with a large bore orogastric tube with appropriate airway protection, if needed, may be indicated if performed soon after ingestion or in symptomatic patients. Activated charcoal should be administered. Due to the large volume of distribution of this drug, forced diuresis, dialysis, hemoperfusion, and exchange transfusion are unlikely to be of benefit. No specific antidotes for venlafaxine are known. In managing overdose, consider the possibility of multiple drug involvement. Consider contacting a poison control center for additional information on the treatment of overdose. Telephone numbers for certified poison control centers are listed in the Physicians' Desk Reference® (PDR). **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**: Consult full prescribing information for dosing instructions. **Switching Patients to or From an MAOI**—At least 14 days should elapse between discontinuation of an MAOI and initiation of therapy with Effexor XR. At least 7 days should be allowed after stopping Effexor XR before starting an MAOI (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **WARNINGS**). This brief summary is based on Effexor XR Prescribing Information W1040C025, revised March 2007.

# Take a closer look at Dialogues Time to Talk™

## Dialogues

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## Dialogues

offers patients access to a call center to speak with a health care provider for patient support and education to reinforce your efforts

## Dialogues

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- The most common adverse events reported in EFFEXOR XR short-term placebo-controlled depression, generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), social anxiety disorder (SAD), and/or panic disorder (PD) trials (incidence  $\geq 10\%$  and  $\geq 2\times$  that of placebo) were anorexia, asthenia, constipation, dizziness, dry mouth, ejaculation problems, impotence, insomnia, nausea, nervousness, somnolence, and sweating.

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**COMMUNIQUE****418 Sertraline and  
Hyperpigmentation:  
A Case Report****CLINICAL UPDATES IN  
NEUROPSYCHIATRY****420 News From the Field of  
Neuroscience**

- *Study Suggests Fibromyalgia May Not Result From Depression*
- *Tourette Syndrome with Comorbidities Found to Impair Psychosocial Health*
- *Children with Epilepsy and Potential Drug Interactions From Concomitant Medications*
- *FDA Approves Rotigotine Transdermal System for the Treatment of Parkinson's Disease*

**TRENDS IN  
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY****423 Novel Therapeutics for  
Schizophrenia: Targeting  
Glycine Modulation of NMDA  
Glutamate Receptors**

*Stephen M. Stahl, MD, PhD, University of California, San Diego*

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SUPPLEMENT****The Brain as a Substrate for  
Psychotropic Therapeutics**

*Paul E. Keck, Jr, MD, Stephen M. Strakowski, MD, and Perry F. Renshaw, MD, PhD*

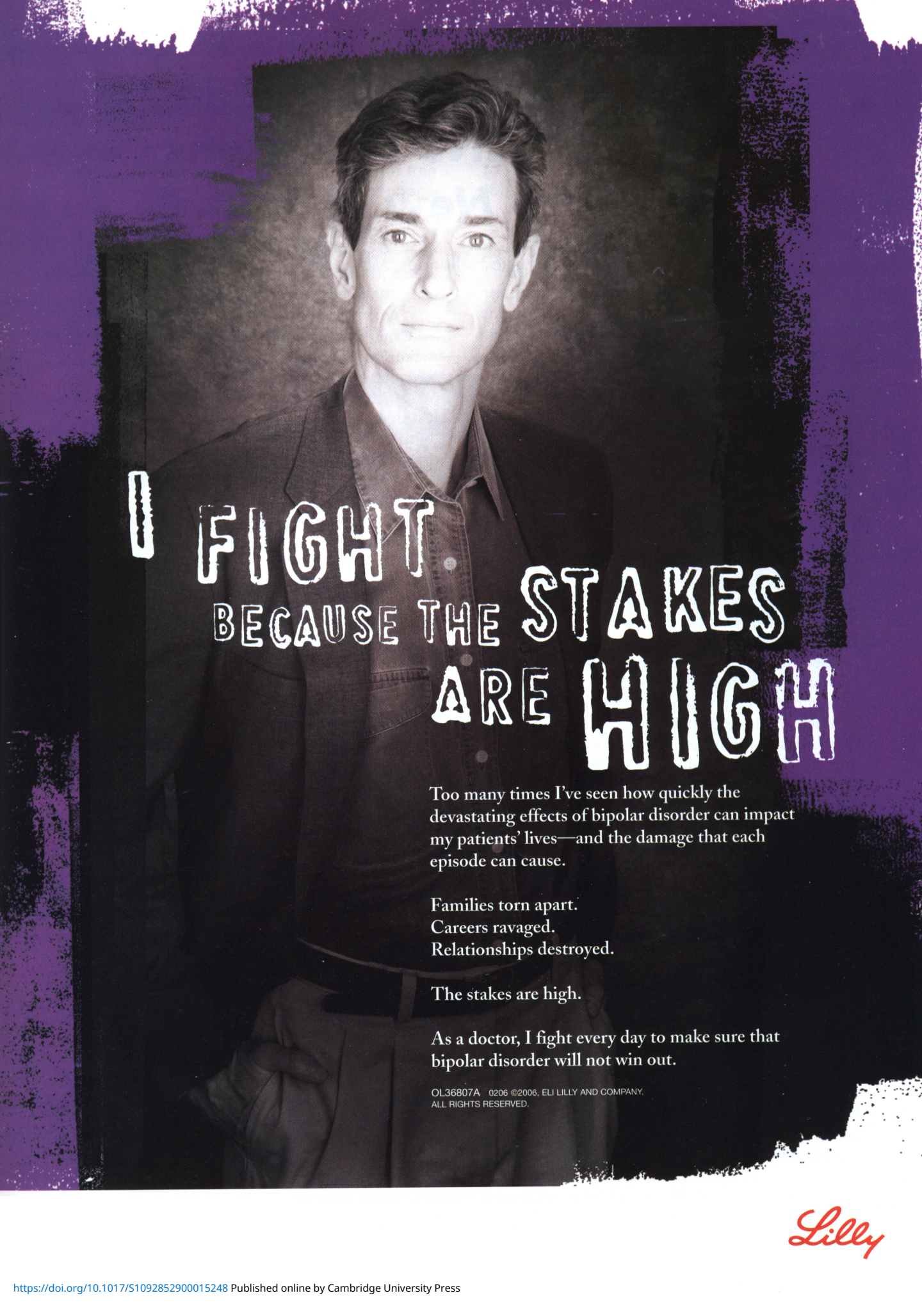
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**I FIGHT  
BECAUSE THE STAKES  
ARE HIGH**

Too many times I've seen how quickly the devastating effects of bipolar disorder can impact my patients' lives—and the damage that each episode can cause.

Families torn apart.  
Careers ravaged.  
Relationships destroyed.

The stakes are high.

As a doctor, I fight every day to make sure that bipolar disorder will not win out.

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