

## DRUGDEX® Evaluations

### PALIPERIDONE

#### 0.0 Overview

- 1) Class
  - a) This drug is a member of the following class(es):
    - Antipsychotic
    - Benzisoxazole
- 2) Dosing Information
  - a) Adult
    - 1) Schizophrenia
      - a) extended-release tablets, initial 6 mg/day ORALLY; may increase by 3 mg/day increments at intervals of r maximum of 12 mg/day (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 3) Contraindications
  - a) hypersensitivity to paliperidone, risperidone, or to any product component (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release
- 4) Serious Adverse Effects
  - a) Death
  - b) Ischemia
  - c) Tachyarrhythmia
- 5) Clinical Applications
  - a) FDA Approved Indications
    - 1) Schizophrenia

#### 1.0 Dosing Information

Drug Properties

Storage and Stability

Adult Dosage

##### 1.1 Drug Properties

- A) Information on specific products and dosage forms can be obtained by referring to the Tradename List (Product In
- B) Synonyms
  - Paliperidone
- C) Physicochemical Properties
  - 1) Molecular Weight
    - a) 426.49 (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
  - 2) Solubility
    - a) Paliperidone is practically insoluble in water, 0.1N sodium hydroxide solution, and hexane; slightly soluble dimethylformamide; and sparingly soluble in 0.1N hydrochloric acid and methylene chloride (Prod Info INVEG release oral tablets, 2006).

##### 1.2 Storage and Stability

- A) Preparation
  - 1) Oral route
    - a) ADMINISTRATION
      - 1) Paliperidone may be taken without regard to meals (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tal
      - 2) Extended-release tablets must be swallowed whole with liquid, do not chew, divide, or crush (Prod Ini extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- B) Oral route
  - 1) Tablet, Extended Release
    - a) Store paliperidone extended-release tablets at 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit), with excursio 30 degrees Celsius (59 to 86 degrees Fahrenheit). Protect from moisture (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-r 2006).

##### 1.3 Adult Dosage

Normal Dosage

Dosage in Renal Failure

**1.3.1 Normal Dosage**

**1.3.1.A Oral route**

**1.3.1.A.1 Schizophrenia**

a) The recommended dose of extended-release oral tablets is 6 milligrams/day (mg/day) with increases intervals of at least 5 days, to a maximum of 12 mg/day. In some patients, a lower starting dose of 3 mg/ Day increases above 6 mg/day should only be made after clinical reassessment (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) oral tablets, 2006).

**1.3.2 Dosage in Renal Failure**

A) In mild renal impairment (creatinine clearance 50 to less than 80 milliliters/minute (mL/minute)), the maximum 6 mg once daily. In moderate to severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance 10 to less than 50 mL/minute), the recommended dose is 3 mg once daily (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

**2.0 Pharmacokinetics**

Drug Concentration Levels

ADME

**2.2 Drug Concentration Levels**

**A) Peak Concentration**

1) 8.85 ng/mL (single-dose, oral solution) (Vermeir et al, 2008)

a) The mean Cmax (standard deviation) was 8.85 ng/mL (+/- 1.31 ng/mL) after a single, 1-mg dose of paliperidone administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m(2) (range, 24 to 28 kg/m(2)). There was no difference in the Cmax between the 2 poor and 3 extensive metabolizers. Nor was there a difference in Cmax and the genotypic expression of UGT1A1 and UGT1A6 measured (Vermeir et al, 2008).

**B) Time to Peak Concentration**

1) 24 hours (extended-release tablets) (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

a) After a single dose of paliperidone, plasma concentration reaches its peak in approximately 24 hours (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

b) The median Tmax was 1.5 hr (range, 1 to 1.5 hr) after a single, 1-mg dose of paliperidone solution administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m(2) (range, 24 to 28 kg/m(2)) (Vermeir et al, 2008).

**C) Steady State**

1) 4 to 5 days (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

a) Paliperidone reaches steady-state concentration within 4 to 5 days after initiation of therapy. The steady-state plasma concentration for a 9-mg dose was 1.7 (range, 1.2 to 3.1) (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

**D) Area Under the Curve**

1) 187 ng x hr/mL (Vermeir et al, 2008)

a) The mean AUC (0 to infinity) was 187 ng x hr/mL (standard deviation of +/- 29.3 ng x hr/mL) after a single 1-mg dose of paliperidone solution administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m(2) (range, 24 to 28 kg/m(2)). There was no difference in the AUC (0 to infinity) between the 2 poor and 3 extensive CYP2D6 metabolizers. Nor was there a difference in AUC and the genotypic expression of UGT1A1 and UGT1A6 metabolizing enzymes (Vermeir et al, 2008).

b) The area under the curve concentration (AUC) of paliperidone was not reported in patients with normal renal function. The average AUC was increased among patients with renal impairment due to reduced clearance. Following a 9-mg dose of paliperidone extended-release, there was a 1.5-fold increase in drug exposure among patients with moderate renal impairment (CrCl 30 to less than 50 mL/min); a 2.6-fold increase among patients with moderate to severe renal impairment (CrCl 10 to less than 30 mL/min); and a 4.8-fold increase among those with severe renal impairment (CrCl 10 to less than 30 mL/min) (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

**2.3 ADME**

Absorption

Distribution

Metabolism

Excretion

Elimination Half-life

### 2.3.1 Absorption

#### A) Bioavailability

- 1) 28% (extended-release tablet) (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
  - a) The absolute oral bioavailability of paliperidone extended-release tablet is 28% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) oral tablets, 2006).

#### B) Effects of Food

- 1) Increase peak concentration (C<sub>max</sub>) by 60% and mean area under the curve (AUC) by 54% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
  - a) After administration of paliperidone extended-release 12 milligrams to healthy ambulatory individuals, calorie meal increased mean peak concentration (C<sub>max</sub>) and mean area under the curve concentration (AUC) by 60% and 54%, respectively, compared with administration under fasting states (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) oral tablets, 2006).

### 2.3.2 Distribution

#### A) Distribution Sites

- 1) Protein Binding
  - a) 74% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
    - 1) The plasma protein binding of paliperidone is 74% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

#### B) Distribution Kinetics

- 1) Volume of Distribution
  - a) 487 L (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
    - 1) Paliperidone has a volume of distribution (V<sub>d</sub>) of 487 liters (L) (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

### 2.3.3 Metabolism

#### A) Metabolism Sites and Kinetics

- 1) Liver: limited (Vermeir et al, 2008; Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
  - a) While in vitro data indicated that paliperidone was metabolized by cytochrome P450 2D6 (CYP2D6) and CYP2D6 isozymes, these isozymes played a limited role in the overall elimination of paliperidone based on in vivo data. No significant difference was found between extensive and poor metabolizers of CYP2D6 substrates in the clearance or exposure of paliperidone (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
  - b) There were 4 primary metabolic pathways identified in vivo, each accounting for no more than 10% of the total metabolism: N-dealkylation, hydroxylation, dehydrogenation, and benzisoxazole scission (Vermeir et al, 2008).
  - c) Metabolism was limited after a single, 1-mg dose of paliperidone solution administered to healthy, caucasian volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). On average the 4 identified pathways accounted for approximately 3% to 5% of the dose. The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (range, 24 to 28 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) (Vermeir et al, 2008).

#### B) Metabolites

- 1) M1 (Vermeir et al, 2008)
  - a) The pathway for paliperidone to M1 formation was oxidative N-dealkylation, after a single, 1-mg dose of paliperidone solution administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (range, 24 to 28 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). A mean of 4.55% (standard deviation, +/-1.42%) of the dose was excreted in the urine as M1 metabolite (Vermeir et al, 2008).
- 2) M9 (Vermeir et al, 2008)
  - a) The pathway for paliperidone to M9 formation was monohydroxylation, after a single, 1-mg dose of paliperidone solution administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (range, 24 to 28 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). A mean of 3.75% (standard deviation, +/-1.42%) of the dose was excreted in the urine as M9 metabolite. The detection of M9 was in the urine of extensive metabolizers but not in the urine of poor metabolizers (Vermeir et al, 2008).
- 3) M10 (Vermeir et al, 2008)
  - a) The pathway for paliperidone to M10 formation was benzisoxazole scission and hydroxylation, after a single, 1-mg dose of paliperidone solution administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (range, 24 to 28 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). M10 was excreted in the feces (Vermeir et al, 2008).
- 4) M11 (Vermeir et al, 2008)
  - a) The pathway for paliperidone to M11 formation was benzisoxazole scission, after a single, 1-mg dose of paliperidone solution administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (range, 24 to 28 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). M11 was excreted in the feces (Vermeir et al, 2008).

solution administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (range, 24 to 28 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). M11 was excreted in the feces (Vermeir et al, 2008).

- 5) M12 (Vermeir et al, 2008)
- a) The pathways for paliperidone to M12 formation was alcohol dehydrogenation and also nonenzymatic. A 3-mg dose of paliperidone solution administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (range, 24 to 28 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). A mean of 2.7% (standard deviation, +/-1.66%) of the dose was excreted in the urine as M12 metabolite (Vermeir et al, 2008).
- 6) M16 (Vermeir et al, 2008)
- a) The pathway for paliperidone to M16 formation was glucuronidation, after a single, 1-mg dose of paliperidone solution administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (range, 24 to 28 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). A mean of 4.06% (standard deviation, +/-1.03%) of the dose was excreted in the urine as M16 metabolite (Vermeir et al, 2008).

### 2.3.4 Excretion

#### A) Kidney

##### 1) Renal Clearance (rate)

a) 53.1 +/- 9.47 mL/min (Vermeir et al, 2008)

1) The mean renal clearance was 53.1 +/- 9.47 mL/min after a single, 1-mg dose of paliperidone solution administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (range, 24 to 28 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). The mean clearances (standard deviation) were as follows: creatinine clearance, 113 +/- 10.3 mL/min, glomerular filtration rate, 25.9 +/- 2.36 mL/min; and active renal clearance, 27.1 +/- 3.1 mL/min (Vermeir et al, 2008).

##### 2) Renal Excretion (%)

a) 59% (range, 51% to 67%) unchanged (Vermeir et al, 2008; Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

1) One week following administration of a single oral dose of immediate-release radioactive-paliperidone in 5 healthy volunteers, 59% (range, 51% to 67%) of the dose was excreted into the urine unchanged (range, 26% to 41%) was recovered as metabolites, 6% to 12% of the dose was not recovered (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

2) The mean total dose excreted in the urine was 59.4% (standard deviation +/- 7.12%) after a single 1-mg dose of paliperidone solution administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). About half of the renal excretion occurred by active secretion. The M1 and M12 metabolites were detected in the urine. The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (range, 24 to 28 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) (Vermeir et al, 2008).

#### B) Feces

##### 1) Not detected (Vermeir et al, 2008)

a) No unchanged drug was recovered in the feces. Fecal excretion did not differ between patients with normal renal function and patients with renal impairment. The M10 and M11 metabolites were detected in the feces (Vermeir et al, 2008).

#### C) Total Body Clearance

##### 1) Not reported (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

a) Clearance of paliperidone was not reported in patients with normal renal function. However, total body clearance was reduced with decreasing estimated creatinine clearance (CrCl). Following administration of a 3-mg dose of paliperidone extended release, there was a 32% reduction in patients with mild renal impairment (CrCl 50 to less than 80 milliliters/minute (mL/min)); a 64% reduction in patients with moderate renal impairment (CrCl 30 to less than 50 mL/min); and a 71% reduction in patients with severe renal impairment (CrCl 10 to less than 30 mL/min) (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

b) The mean total plasma clearance was 91 +/- 15 mL/min after a single, 1-mg dose of paliperidone solution administered to healthy, caucasian, male volunteers in the fasted state, in an open-label pharmacokinetic study (n=5). The males were 40 to 63 years of age (mean, 51.2 years) and weighed 68.7 kg to 78.6 kg (mean, 73.38 kg) with a mean body mass index of 25.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (range, 24 to 28 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) (Vermeir et al, 2008).

### 2.3.5 Elimination Half-life

#### A) Parent Compound

##### 1) approximately 23 hours (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

a) The terminal elimination half-life of paliperidone is approximately 23 hours (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

##### 2) renal impairment, 24 hours to 51 hours

a) The mean terminal elimination half-lives of paliperidone following administration of a 3-milligram dose of paliperidone extended-release were increased to 24 hours, 40 hours, and 51 hours among individuals with mild (creatinine clearance 50 to less than 80 milliliters/minute (mL/min)), moderate renal impairment (CrCl 30 to less than 50 mL/min), and severe renal impairment (CrCl 10 to less than 30 mL/min), respectively. The elimination half-life was 23 hours among individuals with normal renal function (CrCl at or above 80 mL/min) (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.0 Cautions

Contraindications

Precautions

Adverse Reactions

Teratogenicity/Effects in Pregnancy/Breastfeeding

Drug Interactions

**3.0.A Black Box WARNING**

**1) Oral (Tablet, Extended Release)**

**a)** Increased Mortality in Elderly Patients with Dementia-Related Psychosis: Elderly patients with dementia-related with antipsychotic drugs are at an increased risk of death. Analyses of 17 placebo-controlled trials (modal duration in patients taking atypical antipsychotic drugs, revealed a risk of death in drug-treated patients of between 1.6 to 1 death in placebo-treated patients. Over the course of a typical 10-week controlled trial, the rate of death in drug-treated patients about 4.5%, compared to a rate of about 2.6% in the placebo group. Although the causes of death were varied, most appeared to be either cardiovascular (eg, heart failure, sudden death) or infectious (eg, pneumonia) in nature. Observations suggest that, similar to atypical antipsychotic drugs, treatment with conventional antipsychotic drugs may increase to which the findings of increased mortality in observational studies may be attributed to the antipsychotic drug as characteristic(s) of the patients is not clear. Paliperidone is not approved for the treatment of patients with dementia (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008).

**3.1 Contraindications**

**A)** hypersensitivity to paliperidone, risperidone, or to any product component (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release

**3.2 Precautions**

**A)** elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis (unapproved use); increased risk of death; most deaths were attributed to cardiovascular events (eg, heart failure or sudden death) or infections (eg, pneumonia) (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**B)** bradycardia; increased risk of torsade de pointes and/or sudden death (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral

**C)** cardiac arrhythmias; use should be avoided due to risk of prolonged QT interval (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**D)** cardiovascular or cerebrovascular disease or conditions that predispose patients to hypotension (eg, dehydration, antihypertensive medications); increased risk of orthostatic hypotension and syncope (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**E)** concomitant use of other drugs known to prolong the QTc interval, such as Class IA (eg, quinidine, procainamide) or Class III (eg, amiodarone, sotalol) antiarrhythmics, antibiotics (eg, gatifloxacin, moxifloxacin), and antipsychotics (eg, chlorpromazine) should be avoided (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**F)** conditions that may contribute to elevated body temperature (eg, strenuous exercise, extreme heat exposure, dehydrating conditions, anticholinergic use); may disrupt body temperature regulation (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**G)** congenital long QT syndrome; increased risk of torsade de pointes and/or sudden death (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**H)** diabetes mellitus or risk factors for diabetes mellitus; increased risk of severe hyperglycemia; monitor blood glucose (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**I)** elderly patients, especially elderly women are at increased risk of tardive dyskinesia (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**J)** esophageal dysmotility and aspiration may occur; use cautiously in patients at risk for aspiration pneumonia (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**K)** gastrointestinal narrowing, severe (eg, esophageal motility disorders, small bowel inflammatory disease, short gut syndrome, adhesions or decreased transit time, peritonitis, cystic fibrosis, chronic intestinal pseudoobstruction, or Meckel's diverticulum) may cause obstructive symptoms (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**L)** hyperglycemia (some cases extreme and associated with ketoacidosis, hyperosmolar coma, or death) is a risk (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**M)** hypokalemia or hypomagnesemia; increased risk of torsade de pointes and/or sudden death (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**N)** increased duration of therapy and/or higher cumulative doses; increased risk of tardive dyskinesia (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**O)** neuroleptic malignant syndrome, potentially fatal, has been reported in association with antipsychotic drugs; immediate discontinuation of the drug (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**P)** Parkinson's disease or dementia with Lewy bodies; increased sensitivity to antipsychotic medications (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**Q)** seizure disorder, history, or conditions that lower the seizure threshold (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**R)** suicide risk (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

**S)** tardive dyskinesia, potentially irreversible, may occur (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008)

### 3.3 Adverse Reactions

Cardiovascular Effects

Endocrine/Metabolic Effects

Gastrointestinal Effects

Hematologic Effects

Immunologic Effects

Neurologic Effects

Other

#### 3.3.1 Cardiovascular Effects

Bradyarrhythmia

Hypotension

Ischemia

Orthostatic hypotension

Prolonged QT interval

Tachyarrhythmia

Tachycardia

##### 3.3.1.A Bradyarrhythmia

1) During the pre-marketing phase, bradycardia was reported infrequently (1 in 100 to 1 in 1000) in patients receiving paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=2,720); however, causal relationship to paliperidone has not been determined (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

##### 3.3.1.B Hypotension

1) Incidence: 5% geriatric (Tzimos et al, 2008)

2) Geriatric

a) During the double-blind phase of a safety trial in 114 geriatric patients, the incidence of hypotension was 0% (0/38) in patients receiving paliperidone extended-release (ER), compared with 0% (0/38) in patients receiving placebo. In a prospective, 6-week, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, optional 24-week open-label extension study, during the open-label phase, the incidence of hypotension was 0% (0/30) of patients switched to paliperidone ER and 2% (1/58) in patients continuing with paliperidone ER treatment from the double-blind phase. In general, hypotension was well tolerated in the geriatric population compared with placebo. The study included 114 patients (mean age 77 years, with 99% having moderate to severe schizophrenia, receiving either placebo or median mean dose of 7.4 mg or 8.5 mg per milligram/day (mg/day) during the double-blind phase and median mean doses of 7.4 mg and 8.5 mg in the placebo/paliperidone ER and paliperidone ER/paliperidone ER groups, respectively, during the open-label phase (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2008).

##### 3.3.1.C Ischemia

1) Incidence: rare (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

2) During the pre-marketing phase, ischemia was reported rarely (less than 1 in 1000) in patients treated with paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=2,720); however, causal relationship to paliperidone has not been determined (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

**3.3.1.D Orthostatic hypotension**

- 1) Incidence: 1% to 4% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In 3 short-term (6-week), fixed-dose, placebo-controlled trials, orthostatic hypotension occurred in 1% to 4% with paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=850) compared to 1% in placebo-treated patients. The incidence of orthostatic hypotension increased with the dose, occurring particularly at the 9-mg and 12-mg doses (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Geriatric
  - a) During the double-blind phase of a safety trial in 114 geriatric patients, the incidence of orthostatic hypotension was 3% (3/76) in patients receiving paliperidone extended-release (ER), compared with 0% (0/38) in patients receiving placebo according to a prospective, 6-week, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, optional 24-week open-label extension safety trial. In general, paliperidone ER was well tolerated in the geriatric population compared with placebo. The study included 114 patients (mean age of 70 years), with 99% having moderate to severe schizophrenia, receiving either placebo or median mean dose of paliperidone ER 8.4 milligrams/day (mg/day) during the double-blind phase and median mean doses of 7.4 mg and 8.5 mg in the placebo/paliperidone ER and paliperidone ER/paliperidone ER groups, respectively, during the open-label phase (Tzimos et al, 2008).

**3.3.1.E Prolonged QT interval**

- 1) Incidence: 3% to 7% (Tzimos et al, 2008; Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In 3 short-term (6-week), fixed-dose, placebo-controlled trials, prolongation of QTc interval occurred in 3% to 7% treated with paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=850) compared to 3% in placebo-treated patients (n=355). Among ECG measurements taken during these trials, a change in QTc interval exceeding 60 milliseconds occurred only in 1 subject in the 12-mg group. Overall, none of the subjects had a QTc interval exceeding 500 milliseconds (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Geriatric
  - a) During the double-blind phase of a safety trial in 114 geriatric patients, the incidence of electrocardiogram (ECG) prolongation was 7% (5/76) in patients receiving paliperidone extended-release (ER), compared with 3% in patients receiving placebo according to a prospective, 6-week, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, optional 24-week open-label extension safety trial. During the open-label phase, the incidence of QTc interval prolongation was 3% (2/58) in patients continuing with paliperidone ER treatment from the double-blind phase. Prolonged QTcB prolongation of 500 milliseconds or greater led to discontinuation of treatment in 2 patients assigned to paliperidone ER. In general, paliperidone ER was well tolerated in the geriatric population compared with placebo. The study included 114 patients (mean age of 70 years), with 99% having moderate to severe schizophrenia, receiving either placebo or median mean dose of paliperidone ER 8.4 milligrams/day (mg/day) during the double-blind phase and median mean doses of 7.4 mg and 8.5 mg in the placebo/paliperidone ER and paliperidone ER/paliperidone ER groups, respectively, during the open-label phase (Tzimos et al, 2008).

**3.3.1.F Tachyarrhythmia**

- 1) Incidence: 12% to 14% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In 3 short-term (6-week), fixed-dose, placebo-controlled trials, tachyarrhythmia occurred in 12% to 14% of patients receiving paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=850) compared to 7% in placebo-treated patients. Additional cardiac disorders occurring at a higher incidence than placebo included first-degree atrioventricular block, and sinus arrhythmia (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

**3.3.1.G Tachycardia**

- 1) Incidence: 16% geriatric (Tzimos et al, 2008)
- 2) Geriatric
  - a) During the double-blind phase of a safety trial in 114 geriatric patients, the incidence of tachycardia was 16% (18/114) in patients receiving paliperidone extended-release (ER), compared with 0% (0/38) in patients receiving placebo according to a prospective, 6-week, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, optional 24-week open-label extension safety trial. During the open-label phase, the incidence of tachycardia was 13% (4/30) of patients switched to paliperidone ER treatment from the double-blind phase. Heart rates of 100 beats/minute or greater occurred in 25% in the paliperidone ER group compared with 5% in placebo-treated patients during the double-blind phase. During the open-label phase, the incidence of heart rates of 100 beats/minute or greater was 20% in patients continuing with paliperidone ER treatment from the double-blind phase. Pulse rate increases were more prominent in patients aged 70 to 75 years compared with age 64 to 69 years. In general, paliperidone ER was well tolerated in the geriatric population compared with placebo. The study included 114 patients (mean age of 70 years), with 99% having moderate to severe schizophrenia, receiving either placebo or median mean dose of paliperidone ER 8.4 milligrams/day (mg/day) during the double-blind phase and median mean doses of 7.4 mg and 8.5 mg in the placebo/paliperidone ER and paliperidone ER/paliperidone ER groups, respectively, during the open-label phase (Tzimos et al, 2008).

**3.3.3 Endocrine/Metabolic Effects**

Hyperprolactinemia

Metabolic syndrome

Weight gain

### 3.3.3.A Hyperprolactinemia

- 1) Incidence: geriatric, 45% to 49% (Tzimos et al, 2008)
- 2) Antipsychotic-induced hyperprolactinemia was reported in 65.6%, 45.1%, and 42.4% of women of childbearing potential, postmenopausal women, and men, respectively, in an open-label, clinical trial of patients treated with first-generation antipsychotics (ie, chlorpromazine, droperidol, flupenthixol, fluphenazine, paliperidone, perazine, perphenazine, pimozide, trifluoperazine, and zuclopenthixol) or risperidone in several patients with schizophrenia. Younger patients and women of childbearing potential have a greater risk for hyperprolactinemia following treatment with higher doses of these antipsychotics. Hyperprolactinemia may potentially result in menstrual irregularities, sexual dysfunction, bone mineral density (ie, osteopenia and osteoporosis), and breast and pituitary tumors (Tzimos et al, 2008).
- 3) Geriatric
  - a) During the double-blind phase of a safety trial in 114 geriatric patients, the incidence of increased prolactin levels was 45% in male patients and 49% in female patients receiving paliperidone extended-release (ER), according to a parallel double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, optional 24-week open-label extension safety trial. The mean prolactin level was 75.3 +/- 10.8 nanograms/mL in females and 27.2 +/- 8.7 nanograms/mL in males. During the open-label phase, prolactin levels increased in patients switched to paliperidone ER from placebo, and was stable for patients continuing ER treatment from the double-blind phase. In general, paliperidone ER was well tolerated in the geriatric population with placebo. The study included 114 patients (mean age of 70 years), with 99% having moderate to severe hyperprolactinemia receiving either placebo or median mean dose of paliperidone ER 8.4 mg/day during the double-blind phase and 7.4 mg and 8.5 mg in the placebo/paliperidone ER and paliperidone ER/paliperidone ER group, respectively, during the open-label phase (Tzimos et al, 2008).
- 4) Management
  - a) Appropriate drug selection, monitoring and management are all important when prescribing antipsychotics. Consider the potential for inducing hyperprolactinemia. Prior to treatment with an antipsychotic, question patients regarding symptoms of galactorrhea. Female patients should be assessed for menstrual abnormalities and male patients, for sexual dysfunction. In the event that any of these symptoms are present, consider obtaining baseline prolactin level measurement. In the event that any of these symptoms are present, consider obtaining baseline prolactin level measurement. In cases where the patient experiences troublesome adverse effects from hyperprolactinemia and discontinuing the antipsychotic is not an option, treatment with a dopamine agonist (ie, cabergoline) should be considered (Bostwick et al, 2009).

### 3.3.3.B Metabolic syndrome

See Drug Consult reference: ANTIPSYCHOTIC AGENTS - METABOLIC SYNDROME

### 3.3.3.C Weight gain

- 1) Incidence: 6% to 9% (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008a)
- 2) In 3 short-term (6-week), fixed-dose, placebo-controlled trials, weight gain of at least 7% of body weight was observed in 9% of patients treated with paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=850) compared to 1% in placebo-treated patients (n=355). The incidence of weight gain increased with the dose, particularly at the 9-mg and 12-mg doses (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008a).

## 3.3.4 Gastrointestinal Effects

Abdominal pain

Xerostomia

### 3.3.4.A Abdominal pain

- 1) Incidence: 1% to 3% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In 3 short-term (6-week), fixed-dose, placebo-controlled trials, upper abdominal pain occurred in 1% to 3% of patients treated with paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=850) compared to 1% in placebo-treated patients (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.3.4.B Xerostomia

- 1) Incidence: 1% to 3% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In 3 short-term (6-week), fixed-dose, placebo-controlled trials, dry mouth occurred in 1% to 3% of patients treated with paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=850) compared to 1% in placebo-treated patients (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

## 3.3.5 Hematologic Effects

### 3.3.5.A Thrombocytopenia



- 1) Incidence: rare (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) During the pre-marketing phase, thrombocytopenia was reported rarely (less than 1 in 1000) in patients treated with paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=2,720); however, causal relationship to paliperidone has not been determined (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.3.7 Immunologic Effects

#### 3.3.7.A Anaphylaxis

- 1) Incidence: rare (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) During the pre-marketing phase, anaphylactic shock occurred rarely (less than 1 in 1000) in patients treated with doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=2,720); however, causal relationship to paliperidone has not been determined (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.3.9 Neurologic Effects

Akathisia

Dizziness

Dystonia

Extrapyramidal disease

Headache

Somnolence

Tremor

#### 3.3.9.A Akathisia

- 1) Incidence: 3% to 10% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In 3 short-term (6-week), fixed-dose, placebo-controlled trials, akathisia occurred in 3% to 10% of patients treated with paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=850) compared to 4% in placebo-treated patients. The incidence of akathisia increased with the dose, occurring particularly at the 9-mg and 12-mg doses (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

#### 3.3.9.B Dizziness

- 1) Incidence: 7% geriatric (Tzimos et al, 2008)
- 2) Geriatric
  - a) During the double-blind phase of a safety trial in 114 geriatric patients, the incidence of dizziness was 10% (11/114) in patients receiving paliperidone extended-release (ER), compared with 0% (0/38) in patients receiving placebo. In the open-label phase, the incidence of dizziness was 3% (1/30) of patients switched to paliperidone ER. In general, patients were well tolerated in the geriatric population compared with placebo. The study included 114 patients (mean age 77 years, 99% having moderate to severe schizophrenia, receiving either placebo or median mean dose of paliperidone 7.4 mg/day during the double-blind phase and median mean doses of 7.4 mg and 8.5 mg in placebo/paliperidone ER and paliperidone ER/paliperidone ER groups, respectively, during the open-label phase (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008b).

#### 3.3.9.C Dystonia

- 1) Incidence: 1% to 5% (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008b)
- 2) In 3 short-term (6-week), fixed-dose, placebo-controlled trials, dystonia occurred in 1% to 5% of patients treated with paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=850) compared with 1% in placebo-treated patients. Dystonic reactions included muscle spasms, oculogyration, and trismus. The incidence of dystonia increased with the dose, occurring particularly at the 9-mg and 12-mg doses (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008b)
- 3) During the first few days after initiating treatment with an antipsychotic medication, symptoms of dystonia are more common in younger age groups appear to be at greater risk for developing acute dystonia (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008b).

**3.3.9.D Extrapyramidal disease**

- 1) Incidence: 2% to 7% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In 3 short-term (6-week), fixed-dose, placebo-controlled trials, extrapyramidal disorders occurred in 2% to 12% with paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=850) compared to 2% in placebo-treated patients. Extrapyramidal symptoms (EPS) included akathisia, dyskinesia, dystonia, hyperkinesia, and tremor, and Parkinsonism included bradykinesia, cogwheel rigidity, drooling, hypertonia, hypokinesia, muscle rigidity, and musculoskeletal incidence of EPS increased with the dose, occurring particularly at the 9-mg and 12-mg doses (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).  
See Drug Consult reference: NEUROLEPTIC-INDUCED EXTRAPYRAMIDAL REACTIONS

**3.3.9.E Headache**

- 1) Incidence: 11% to 14% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In 3 short-term (6-week), fixed-dose, placebo-controlled trials, headache occurred in 11% to 14% of patients receiving paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=850) compared to 12% in placebo-treated patients (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

**3.3.9.F Somnolence**

- 1) Incidence: 6% to 11% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In 3 short-term (6-week), fixed-dose, placebo-controlled trials, somnolence occurred in 6% to 11% of patients receiving paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=850) compared to 7% in placebo-treated patients. Incidence of somnolence increased with the dose, particularly at the 9-mg and 12-mg doses (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

**3) Geriatric**

- a) During the double-blind phase of a safety trial in 114 geriatric patients, the incidence of somnolence was 11% in patients receiving paliperidone extended-release (ER), compared with 5% (2/38) in patients receiving placebo. In a prospective, 6-week, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, optional 24-week open-label extension study, the incidence of somnolence was 7% (2/30) of patients switched to paliperidone ER in the open-label phase, the incidence of somnolence was 0% (0/58) in patients continuing with paliperidone ER treatment from the double-blind phase. During the open-label phase, an age-related increase in the incidence of somnolence was seen in patients receiving paliperidone ER. The incidence of somnolence was 6% in patients aged 60 to 69 years, 11% in age 70 to 75 years, and 14% in age greater than 75 years. In general, paliperidone ER was associated with a higher incidence of somnolence in the geriatric population compared with placebo. The study included 114 patients (mean age of 70 years) with moderate to severe schizophrenia, receiving either placebo or median mean dose of paliperidone ER 8.4 mg/day during the double-blind phase and median mean doses of 7.4 mg and 8.5 mg in the placebo/paliperidone ER/paliperidone ER groups, respectively, during the open-label phase (Tzimos et al, 2008).

**3.3.9.G Tremor**

- 1) Incidence: 3% to 4% (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In 3 short-term (6-week), fixed-dose, placebo-controlled trials, tremor occurred in 3% to 4% of patients receiving paliperidone doses ranging from 3 mg to 12 mg orally once daily (n=850) compared to 3% in placebo-treated patients (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

**3.3.16 Other**

Death

Extrapyramidal disease

**3.3.16.A Death**

- 1) Results of a population-based, retrospective cohort study demonstrated that the use of conventional antipsychotics was associated with an even greater risk for death than atypical antipsychotics when administered to elderly patients (and older) with dementia. Atypical versus no antipsychotic use and conventional versus atypical antipsychotic comparisons were made. A total of 27,259 matched pairs were identified and the dementia cohort was stratified by residence (community versus long-term care facilities). In order to adjust for difference in baseline health status, propensity score matching was used. The primary outcome of the study was all-cause mortality. The risk for death was evaluated 180 days after the antipsychotic medications were initially dispensed. There was a statistically significant increase in death at 30 days associated with new use of atypical antipsychotic medications compared with nonuse in both the community-dwelling cohort (adjusted hazard ratio (HR), 1.31 (95% confidence interval (CI), 1.02 to 1.70); absolute risk difference 1.1 percentage points) and long-term care cohort (adjusted HR, 1.55 (95% CI, 1.15 to 2.07); absolute risk difference 1.6 percentage points). For both cohorts, the risk associated with atypical antipsychotics appeared to persist to 180 days. The risk associated with conventional antipsychotics was even greater than the risk identified with atypical antipsychotics. The adjusted HR for the community-dwelling cohort was 1.55 (95% CI, 1.19 to 2.02) and 1.26 (95% CI, 1.04 to 1.54) for the long-term care cohort (adjusted risk difference for both was 1.1 percentage points). The risk appeared to persist to 180 days. Some important limitations to the study include unknown or unmeasured confounders may influence the results. The risk could not be examined (Gill et al, 2007).
- 2) Results of a population-based, retrospective cohort study demonstrated comparable to possibly greater risk for death associated with the use of atypical antipsychotics compared with conventional antipsychotics when administered to elderly patients (and older) with dementia.

with the use of conventional antipsychotic medications in the elderly (aged 65 years and older) compared with antipsychotic medications. The analysis excluded patients with cancer and included only new users of antipsychotic medications. The primary study outcome was 180-day all-cause mortality. A set of potential confounders was measured by utilization data within 6 months before the initiation of antipsychotic medications. Of the 37,241 elderly patients and 24,359 received conventional and atypical antipsychotic medications, respectively. The risk of death in the group within the first 180 days was 14.1% compared with 9.6% in the atypical drug group (unadjusted mortality confidence interval (CI), 1.39 to 1.56). In the multi-variable analysis which controlled for potential confounders, mortality ratio for the risk of death within 180 days for conventional versus atypical drug therapy was 1.32 (95% CI, 1.19 to 1.40). When the most frequently prescribed conventional antipsychotic drugs were compared with risperidone, the risk associated with haloperidol was 2.14 (95% CI, 1.86 to 2.45) and loxapine was 1.29 (95% CI, 1.19 to 1.40), with no difference associated with olanzapine. The increased mortality risk for conventional versus atypical drug therapy when doses higher (above median) doses were used (mortality ratio 1.67; 95% CI, 1.5 to 1.86) and also during therapy (mortality ratio 1.6; 95% CI, 1.42 to 1.8). Confirmatory analyses consisting of multi-variable Cox regression score, and instrumental variable estimation confirmed the results of the study (Schneeweiss et al, 2007).

**3.3.16.B Extrapyramidal disease**

See Drug Consult reference: NEUROLEPTIC-INDUCED EXTRAPYRAMIDAL REACTIONS

**3.4 Teratogenicity/Effects in Pregnancy/Breastfeeding**

**A) Teratogenicity/Effects in Pregnancy**

**1) U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Pregnancy Category: Category C (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)**

**a) Either studies in animals have revealed adverse effects on the fetus (teratogenic or embryocidal or other) and/or controlled studies in women or studies in women and animals are not available. Drugs should be given only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.**

See Drug Consult reference: PREGNANCY RISK CATEGORIES

**2) Crosses Placenta: Unknown**

**3) Clinical Management**

**a) Adequate and well controlled studies with paliperidone have not been conducted in pregnant women. While the use of second-generation antipsychotic drugs during the last trimester of pregnancy has been linked to extrapyramidal symptoms, it is unknown whether paliperidone could lead to similar neonatal effects. Until further data are available, it is recommended that paliperidone be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit to the mother justifies the potential risk to the fetus (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).**

**4) Literature Reports**

**a) No human studies of pregnancy outcomes after exposure to paliperidone have been published, and there are no data on outcomes after inadvertent exposure during pregnancy. In studies in rats and rabbits, no increases in fetal mortality were noted at the highest oral paliperidone dose, which was approximately 8 times the maximum recommended human dose. Paliperidone is the major active metabolite of risperidone. In rat reproduction studies with risperidone, increases in fetal mortality were noted at oral doses that were less than the MRHD of risperidone. Use of first-generation antipsychotic drugs during the last trimester of pregnancy has been linked to extrapyramidal symptoms in neonates. However, it is unknown whether exposure to similar neonatal effects (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).**

**B) Breastfeeding**

**1) Thomson Lactation Rating: Infant risk cannot be ruled out.**

**a) Available evidence and/or expert consensus is inconclusive or is inadequate for determining infant risk when breastfeeding. Weigh the potential benefits of drug treatment against potential risks before prescribing this drug to a nursing woman.**

**2) Literature Reports**

**a) Lactation studies with paliperidone have not been conducted in humans. In animal studies, paliperidone was excreted into milk. Paliperidone is the major active metabolite of risperidone, which is excreted into human milk. Therefore, it is recommended that women receiving paliperidone should not breast-feed infants (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).**

**3.5 Drug Interactions**

**3.5.1 Drug-Drug Combinations**

Acecinainide

Ajmaline

Amiodarone

Arsenic Trioxide

Azimilide

Bretylum  
Carbamazepine  
Chlorpromazine  
Disopyramide  
Dofetilide  
Gatifloxacin  
Hydroquinidine  
Ibutilide  
Iloperidone  
Lapatinib  
Levodopa  
Mesoridazine  
Methadone  
Moxifloxacin  
Nilotinib  
Paroxetine  
Pirmenol  
Prajmaline  
Procainamide  
Prochlorperazine  
Ranolazine  
Sematilide  
Sotalol  
Tedisamil  
Tetrabenazine  
Thioridazine  
Trifluoperazine

**3.5.1.A Acecainide**

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Class III antiarrhythmics have been shown to prolong the QT interval, which may result in ventricular fibrillation, and torsades de pointes (Prod Info CORDARONE(R) oral tablets, 2006; Prod Info sotalol 2005). Modest increases in the QTc interval have been noted with paliperidone use (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) oral tablets, 2006). Due to the risk of additive QTc prolongation, the concurrent administration of paliperidone and antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of paliperidone and class III antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided; this may result in additive QTc interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

### 3.5.1.B Ajmaline

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Several antipsychotic agents have demonstrated QT prolongation including amisulpride, haloperidol, paliperidone, quetiapine, risperidone, sertindole, sultopride, ziprasidone, and zotepine (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) oral tablets, 2009; Prod Info Solian(R), 1999b; O'Brien et al, 1999b; Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006; Duenas-Laita et al, 1999b; Agelink et al, 2001b; Lande et al, 1992b; Prod Info GEODON(R) intramuscular injection, 2005; Sweetman, 2003). Because Class IA antiarrhythmic agents may also prolong the QT interval and increase arrhythmias, the concurrent administration of antipsychotics with a drug from this class is not recommended (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2009; Prod Info Quinaglute(R), 1999).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of a Class IA antiarrhythmic and an antipsychotic is not recommended.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive cardiac effects
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) In an open-label QTc study of patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder (n=160), iloperidol was associated with QTc prolongation of 9 msec (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) oral tablets, 2009).
  - b) QRS widening, QTc interval prolongation, and torsades de pointes may occur with disopyramide therapy (Norpace(R), 1997).
  - c) The effects of combined therapy with quinidine (Class IA antiarrhythmic agent) and haloperidol (antipsychotic) were studied by giving 12 healthy volunteers haloperidol 5 mg alone and with 250 mg of quinidine bisulfate. There were significant increases in the plasma concentrations of haloperidol when given concurrently with quinidine treatment alone. The mean area under the concentration curve (AUC) was increased from 54.3 ng/h/mL to 103.2 ng/h/mL on combined therapy. The peak concentration (Cmax) also showed an increase from 1 ng/mL to 3.8 ng/mL on combined therapy. Half-life (T1/2) and time to peak concentration (Tmax) were also changed, thereby suggesting to the authors that a tissue binding mechanism is more likely responsible for the changes than an elimination alteration (Young et al, 1993).

### 3.5.1.C Amiodarone

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Class III antiarrhythmics have been shown to prolong the QT interval, which may result in ventricular fibrillation, and torsades de pointes (Prod Info CORDARONE(R) oral tablets, 2006; Prod Info sotalol 2005). Modest increases in the QTc interval have been noted with paliperidone use (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) oral tablets, 2006). Due to the risk of additive QTc prolongation, the concurrent administration of paliperidone and antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of paliperidone and class III antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided; this may result in additive QTc interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

### 3.5.1.D Arsenic Trioxide

- 1) Interaction Effect: prolongation of the QTc interval and/or torsades de pointes
- 2) Summary: Arsenic trioxide can prolong the QT interval in some patients, which may result in ventricular fibrillation, and torsades de pointes and should not be administered with other drugs that may prolong the QT interval (Prod Info Trisenox(R), 2001a). Several antipsychotic agents have demonstrated QT prolongation including amisulpride (Prod Info Solian(R), 1999b), haloperidol (O'Brien et al, 1999), paliperidone (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006), quetiapine (Owens, 2001), sultopride (Lande et al, 1992b), sertindole (Agelink et al, 2001), ziprasidone (Lande et al, 1992b), and zotepine (Sweetman, 2003).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of arsenic trioxide and antipsychotics is not recommended.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive effects on QTc prolongation

**8) Literature Reports**

**a)** QT/QTc prolongation should be expected during treatment with arsenic trioxide and torsades de pointe heart block has been reported. Over 460 ECG tracings from 40 patients with refractory or relapsed APL treated with arsenic trioxide were evaluated for QTc prolongation. Sixteen of 40 patients (40%) had at least one ECG tracing greater than 500 msec. Prolongation of the QTc was observed between 1 and 5 weeks after arsenic trioxide infusion and returned towards baseline by the end of 8 weeks after arsenic trioxide infusion. In these ECG evaluations, women experience more pronounced QT prolongation than men, and there was no correlation with age (Prod Info

**3.5.1.E Azimilide**

- 1)** Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2)** Summary: Class III antiarrhythmics have been shown to prolong the QT interval, which may result in ventricular fibrillation, and torsades de pointes (Prod Info CORDARONE(R) oral tablets, 2006; Prod Info sotalolol (SOTOL) tablets, 2005). Modest increases in the QTc interval have been noted with paliperidone use (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006). Due to the risk of additive QTc prolongation, the concurrent administration of paliperidone and antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 3)** Severity: major
- 4)** Onset: unspecified
- 5)** Substantiation: theoretical
- 6)** Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of paliperidone and class III antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided; this may result in additive QTc interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 7)** Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

**3.5.1.F Bretylium**

- 1)** Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2)** Summary: Class III antiarrhythmics have been shown to prolong the QT interval, which may result in ventricular fibrillation, and torsades de pointes (Prod Info CORDARONE(R) oral tablets, 2006; Prod Info sotalolol (SOTOL) tablets, 2005). Modest increases in the QTc interval have been noted with paliperidone use (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006). Due to the risk of additive QTc prolongation, the concurrent administration of paliperidone and antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 3)** Severity: major
- 4)** Onset: unspecified
- 5)** Substantiation: theoretical
- 6)** Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of paliperidone and class III antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided; this may result in additive QTc interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 7)** Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

**3.5.1.G Carbamazepine**

- 1)** Interaction Effect: decreased paliperidone concentration
- 2)** Summary: Concomitant use of paliperidone and carbamazepine decreased the maximum concentration (C<sub>max</sub>) and area under the concentration-time curve (AUC) values of paliperidone by 37%. Coadministration with carbamazepine inducer, could increase paliperidone renal clearance by 35%. The dose of paliperidone should be evaluated when used concurrently with carbamazepine. If therapy with carbamazepine is discontinued, the dose of paliperidone should be increased if necessary (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2007).
- 3)** Severity: moderate
- 4)** Onset: unspecified
- 5)** Substantiation: theoretical
- 6)** Clinical Management: Coadministration of paliperidone and carbamazepine resulted in decreased paliperidone concentrations. Dosing of paliperidone should be evaluated when it is administered concurrently with carbamazepine. If therapy with carbamazepine is discontinued, the dose of paliperidone should be increased if necessary (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2007).
- 7)** Probable Mechanism: induction of paliperidone metabolism

**8) Literature Reports**

**a)** Coadministration of paliperidone 6 mg daily and carbamazepine 200 mg twice daily decreased the paliperidone steady-state maximum concentration (C<sub>max</sub>) and area under the concentration-time curve (AUC) by approximately 37%. This decrease is caused by a 35% increase in renal clearance of paliperidone. There is little effect on the metabolic bioavailability of paliperidone when coadministered with carbamazepine. Carefully evaluate paliperidone concentrations when carbamazepine is discontinued (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2007).

**3.5.1.H Chlorpromazine**

- 1)** Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2)** Summary: Concomitant use of phenothiazines and antipsychotic agents may cause additive effects on the QT interval. Q and T wave distortions have been observed in patients taking phenothiazines (Prod Info Chlorpromazine (CLOPRIM) tablets, 2002; Prod Info Thorazine(R) tablets, 2002). Other phenothiazines may have similar effects, if available. Several antipsychotic agents have demonstrated QT prolongation including amisulpride (Prod Info Solispride (SOLISPRIDE) tablets, 2001a), paliperidone (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006), risperidone (Duenas-Laita et al, 1999a), sertindole (Agelink et al, 2001a), sultopride (Lande et al, 1999a) (Prod Info GEODON(R) intramuscular injection, oral capsule, 2005), and zotepine (Sweetman, 2003).
- 3)** Severity: major

- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of agents that prolong the QT interval, such as phen antipsychotics, is not recommended.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

#### 3.5.1.I Disopyramide

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Several antipsychotic agents have demonstrated QT prolongation including amisulpride, haloperidone, paliperidone, quetiapine, risperidone, sertindole, sultopride, ziprasidone, and zotepine (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) Prod Info Solian(R), 1999b; O'Brien et al, 1999b; Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006 Duenas-Laita et al, 1999b; Agelink et al, 2001b; Lande et al, 1992b; Prod Info GEODON(R) intramuscular inj 2005; Sweetman, 2003). Because Class IA antiarrhythmic agents may also prolong the QT interval and increase arrhythmias, the concurrent administration of antipsychotics with a drug from this class is not recommended (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2009; Prod Info Quinaglute(R), 1999).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of a Class IA antiarrhythmic and an antipsychotic is not recommended.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive cardiac effects
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) In an open-label QTc study of patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder (n=160), iloperidol was associated with QTc prolongation of 9 msec (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) oral tablets, 2009).
  - b) QRS widening, QTc interval prolongation, and torsades de pointes may occur with disopyramide therapy (Prod Info Norpace(R), 1997).
  - c) The effects of combined therapy with quinidine (Class IA antiarrhythmic agent) and haloperidol (antipsychotic) were studied by giving 12 healthy volunteers haloperidol 5 mg alone and with 250 mg of quinidine bisulfate. There were significant increases in the plasma concentrations of haloperidol when given concurrently with quinidine treatment alone. The mean area under the concentration curve (AUC) was increased from 54.3 ng/h/mL to 103.2 ng/h/mL on combined therapy. The peak concentration (Cmax) also showed an increase from 1 ng/mL to 3.8 ng/mL on combined therapy. Half-life (T1/2) and time to peak concentration (Tmax) were also changed, thereby suggesting to the authors that a tissue binding mechanism is more likely responsible for the changes than an elimination alteration (Young et al, 1993).

#### 3.5.1.J Dofetilide

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Class III antiarrhythmics have been shown to prolong the QT interval, which may result in ventricular fibrillation, and torsades de pointes (Prod Info CORDARONE(R) oral tablets, 2006; Prod Info sotalol (R) oral tablets, 2005). Modest increases in the QTc interval have been noted with paliperidone use (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006). Due to the risk of additive QTc prolongation, the concurrent administration of paliperidone and class III antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of paliperidone and class III antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided as this may result in additive QTc interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

#### 3.5.1.K Gatifloxacin

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Gatifloxacin may prolong the QTc interval in some patients, which may result in ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation. Additionally, rare cases of torsades de pointes have been reported with quinolones, including gatifloxacin, during post-marketing surveillance (Prod Info TEQUIN(R) tablets, injection, 2006). Modest increases in the QTc interval have been noted with paliperidone use (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006). Although pharmacokinetic studies of gatifloxacin and other drugs which prolong the QT interval have not been performed, an additive effect cannot be ruled out. Therefore, the concurrent administration of gatifloxacin and paliperidone should be avoided (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of gatifloxacin and paliperidone should be avoided as this may result in additive QTc interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive effects on QT prolongation

#### 3.5.1.L Hydroquinidine

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Several antipsychotic agents have demonstrated QT prolongation including amisulpride, haloperidone, paliperidone, quetiapine, risperidone, sertindole, sultopride, ziprasidone, and zotepine (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) oral tablets, 2009; Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

Prod Info Solian(R), 1999b; O'Brien et al, 1999b; Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006 Duenas-Laita et al, 1999b; Agelink et al, 2001b; Lande et al, 1992b; Prod Info GEODON(R) intramuscular inj 2005; Sweetman, 2003). Because Class IA antiarrhythmic agents may also prolong the QT interval and incre arrhythmias, the concurrent administration of antipsychotics with a drug from this class is not recommended ( (TM) oral tablets, 2009; Prod Info Quinaglute(R), 1999).

- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of a Class IA antiarrhythmic and an antipsychotic is r
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive cardiac effects
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) In an open-label QTc study of patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder (n=160), iloperic day was associated with QTc prolongation of 9 msec (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) oral tablets, 2009).
  - b) QRS widening, QTc interval prolongation, and torsades de pointes may occur with disopyramide ther Norpace(R), 1997).
  - c) The effects of combined therapy with quinidine (Class IA antiarrhythmic agent) and haloperidol (antip studied by giving 12 healthy volunteers haloperidol 5 mg alone and with 250 mg of quinidine bisulfate. Tl significant increases in the plasma concentrations of haloperidol when given concurrently with quinidine treatment alone. The mean area under the concentration curve (AUC) was increased from 54.3 ng/h/mL to 103.2 ng/h/mL on combined therapy. The peak concentration (Cmax) also showed an increase from 1 haloperidol to 3.8 ng/mL on combined therapy. Half-life (T1/2) and time to peak concentration (Tmax) we changed, thereby suggesting to the authors that a tissue binding mechanism is more likely responsible fc changes than an elimination alteration (Young et al, 1993).

### 3.5.1.M Ibutilide

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest
- 2) Summary: Class III antiarrhythmics have been shown to prolong the QT interval, which may result in ventricular fibrillation, and torsades de pointes (Prod Info CORDARONE(R) oral tablets, 2006; Prod Info sotal 2005). Modest increases in the QTc interval have been noted with paliperidone use (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) tablets, 2006). Due to the risk of additive QTc prolongation, the concurrent administration of paliperidone and antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of paliperidone and class III antiarrhythmic agents sh this may result in additive QTc interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2l
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

### 3.5.1.N Iloperidone

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of QT interval prolongation
- 2) Summary: Due to the potential for additive effects on the QT interval and increased risk of torsade de poir used when iloperidone and drugs that prolong the QT interval are given concomitantly. Consideration should cardiac function periodically with on-treatment ECGs and evaluating electrolyte (ie, magnesium, potassium) I iloperidone in patients with persistent QTc measurements greater than 500 msec (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) or:
  - 3) Severity: major
  - 4) Onset: unspecified
  - 5) Substantiation: theoretical
  - 6) Clinical Management: Concomitant use of iloperidone and drugs that prolong the QT interval may result in the QT interval and an increased risk of torsade de pointes. Iloperidone should be avoided in patients with sig cardiovascular illness, eg, cardiac arrhythmia, QT prolongation, recent acute myocardial infarction, and uncor failure. If concomitant use is necessary, consider monitoring cardiac function periodically with on-treatment E electrolyte (ie, magnesium, potassium) levels. Discontinue iloperidone in patients with persistent QTc measu 500 msec(Prod Info FANAPT(TM) oral tablets, 2009).
  - 7) Probable Mechanism: additive effects on the QT interval
  - 8) Literature Reports
    - a) In an open-label QTc study of patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder (n=160), iloperic day was associated with QTc prolongation of 9 msec (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) oral tablets, 2009).

### 3.5.1.O Lapatinib

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of QT interval prolongation
- 2) Summary: Due to the potential for additive effects on the QT interval and increased risk of torsade de poir used when lapatinib and drugs that prolong the QT interval are given concomitantly. Consideration should be cardiac function periodically with on-treatment ECGs and evaluating electrolyte (ie, magnesium, potassium) I TYKERB oral tablets, 2008). Thirteen patients had either QTcF (corrected QT by the Friedericia method) gre: an increase in QTcF of greater than 60 msec in an uncontrolled, open-label, dose escalation study in advanc (n=81) who received lapatinib doses ranging from 175 mg/day to 1800 mg/day, with serial ECGs collected on Info TYKERB oral tablets, 2008).
- 3) Severity: major



- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: Concomitant use of lapatinib and drugs that prolong the QT interval may result in a QT interval and an increased risk of torsade de pointes. Therefore, caution should be used when these agents are used concomitantly. Consider monitoring cardiac function periodically with on-treatment ECGs and evaluating electrolyte (magnesium, potassium) levels (Prod Info TYKERB oral tablets, 2008).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive effects on the QT interval

#### 3.5.1.P Levodopa

- 1) Interaction Effect: loss of levodopa efficacy
- 2) Summary: Because paliperidone is an antagonist with a high affinity for dopamine type 2 receptors, it is expected to antagonize the effects of levodopa and other dopamine agonists (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006). Usual doses of paliperidone is used concurrently in patients receiving levodopa. Monitor patients for loss of levodopa efficacy.
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: Concurrent use with paliperidone is expected to antagonize the effects of levodopa and other dopamine agonists due to pharmacologic antagonism (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006). Usual doses of paliperidone is used concurrently in patients receiving levodopa. Monitor patients for loss of levodopa efficacy.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: pharmacologic antagonism

#### 3.5.1.Q Mesoridazine

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Although citing no data, the manufacturer of mesoridazine states that concomitant use with other drugs that prolong the QT interval is contraindicated (Prod Info Serenil(R), 2001). Several antipsychotic agents have been shown to prolong the QT interval including amisulpride (Prod Info Solian(R), 1999d), haloperidol (O'Brien et al, 1999d), paliperidone (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006), quetiapine (Owens, 2001d), risperidone (Duenas-Laita et al, 1999 et al, 2001c), sultopride (Lande et al, 1992d), ziprasidone (Prod Info GEODON(R) intramuscular injection, oral tablets, 2004), and zotepine (Sweetman, 2004).
- 3) Severity: contraindicated
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of agents that prolong the QT interval, such as antipsychotics, is contraindicated.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

#### 3.5.1.R Methadone

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of QT interval prolongation
- 2) Summary: Cases of QT interval prolongation and serious arrhythmias, including torsade de pointes, have been reported with methadone use (Prod Info DOLOPHINE(R) HYDROCHLORIDE oral tablets, 2006). Treatment with paliperidone is associated with QTc prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006a). The coadministration of paliperidone and other drugs known to prolong the QTc interval, including methadone, should be avoided due to the potential for additive QT interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006a).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: Due to the potential for additive effects on the QT interval, avoid concomitant use of methadone (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006a).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive effects on QT interval prolongation

#### 3.5.1.S Moxifloxacin

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Moxifloxacin has been shown to prolong the QTc interval in some patients (Prod Info AVELOX(R) injection, 2005). Modest increases in the QTc interval have been noted with paliperidone use (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006). Although pharmacokinetic studies between moxifloxacin and paliperidone have not been conducted, an additive effect cannot be excluded. Therefore, the concurrent administration of moxifloxacin and paliperidone should be avoided (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of moxifloxacin and paliperidone should be avoided due to the potential for additive QTc interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive effects on QT prolongation

#### 3.5.1.T Nilotinib

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of QT interval prolongation
- 2) Summary: Due to the potential for additive effects on the QT interval and increased risk of torsade de pointes, the concurrent use of nilotinib with drugs that prolong the QT interval should be avoided. However, if concomitant use is required, caution should be used.

closely monitored for prolongation of the QT interval (Prod Info TASIGNA(R) oral capsules, 2007).

- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: Coadministration of nilotinib with drugs that prolong the QT interval should be avoided for additive effects on the QT interval and increased risk of torsades de pointes. However, if concurrent therapy is necessary, the patient should be monitored closely for prolongation of the QT interval (Prod Info TASIGNA(R) oral capsules, 2007).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive effects on QT interval prolongation

### 3.5.1.U Paroxetine

- 1) Interaction Effect: increased plasma concentrations of paliperidone
- 2) Summary: Concurrent use of paliperidone and paroxetine may result in increased paliperidone plasma concentrations. Paliperidone (9-hydroxyrisperidone) is the major active metabolite of risperidone (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2007). Concomitant use of paroxetine and risperidone has resulted in increased plasma concentrations of paliperidone and 9-hydroxyrisperidone, particularly at higher (40 mg) paroxetine doses (Saito et al, 2005; Spina et al, 2007). Consider monitoring for increased paliperidone side effects, including neuroleptic malignant syndrome, QTc prolongation, or tardive dyskinesia.
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: Use caution when paliperidone and paroxetine are used concomitantly as this may increase paliperidone plasma concentrations (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2007). Consider monitoring for increased paliperidone side effects, including neuroleptic malignant syndrome, QTc prolongation, or tardive dyskinesia.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: inhibition of the CYP2D6-mediated metabolism of paliperidone
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) In a drug interaction study, paliperidone exposures were a significant 16% (90% confidence interval, 10-22%) increase in average in CYP2D6 extensive metabolizers who were treated concomitantly with a single dose of paliperidone and paroxetine 20 mg/day. Studies with higher paroxetine doses have not been conducted. The clinical relevance of this interaction is not clear (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2007).
  - b) Paroxetine, a potent inhibitor of cytochrome CYP2D6, may impair the elimination of risperidone, primarily via CYP2D6-mediated alpha-hydroxylation and, to a lesser extent, by simultaneously affecting the further metabolism of risperidone (9-OH-risperidone) or other pathways of risperidone biotransformation. In a study in patients diagnosed with schizophrenia (n=7) or schizoaffective disorder depressive type (n=3), risperidone plasma concentrations increased when paroxetine was coadministered with risperidone. Patients were stabilized on risperidone and received adjunctive paroxetine 20 mg/day to treat negative symptoms, concomitant depression, or bipolar depression. Paroxetine dosage remained constant throughout the duration of the study. A significant elevation in risperidone plasma concentrations (p less than 0.01) and a slight, nonsignificant decrease in 9-OH-risperidone occurred. After 4 weeks of paroxetine treatment, total concentration of risperidone and 9-OH-risperidone was increased by 45% (p less than 0.05). The mean risperidone to 9-OH-risperidone ratio also changed significantly (p less than 0.001) with concomitant paroxetine. Extrapyramidal side effects occurred in one patient during the second week of paroxetine coadministration. The extrapyramidal symptoms in this patient increased 62% over baseline values during paroxetine coadministration. The extrapyramidal symptoms in patients after addition of SSRIs to antipsychotics might also be caused by a pharmacodynamic effect of paroxetine (Spina et al, 2001).
  - c) Risperidone plasma concentrations increased when risperidone-treated inpatients (n=12) with schizophrenia symptoms were coadministered incremental doses of paroxetine. Prior to initiating paroxetine, patients were on risperidone 2 mg twice daily for at least 6 weeks and steady-state plasma concentrations of risperidone and 9-hydroxyrisperidone (9-OH-risperidone) had been achieved. Paroxetine doses were administered in 3 consecutive increments of 10 mg/day, 20 mg/day, and 40 mg/day. Mean risperidone plasma concentrations during 10 mg paroxetine treatment were 3.8- (95% confidence interval (CI), 3.2 to 5.8; p less than 0.01), 7.1- (95% CI, 6.2 to 8.0; p less than 0.01), and 9.7-fold (95% CI, 7.8 to 22.5; p less than 0.01) higher compared with baseline. Increases in 9-OH-risperidone concentrations were not significant with paroxetine use. Mean active moiety (risperidone plus 9-OH-risperidone) concentrations increased by 1.8-fold (95% CI, 1.4 to 2.7; p less than 0.05) during the 40-mg paroxetine treatment. Increases were not significant with 10- or 20-mg doses. Metabolic ratio was significantly increased (p less than 0.01) by 1.8- to 6.2) with 10 mg of paroxetine, by 8.2-fold (95% CI, 6 to 16) with 20 mg, and by 12.6-fold (95% CI, 9.6 to 17.5) with 40 mg. Negative symptom scores were significantly improved during all paroxetine doses; however, extrapyramidal symptoms were significantly higher during 20- and 40-mg doses. The authors suggest that low-dose coadministration of paroxetine with risperidone may be safe and effective for treating schizophrenia with negative symptoms (Saito et al, 2005).

### 3.5.1.V Pirmenol

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Several antipsychotic agents have demonstrated QT prolongation including amisulpride, haloperidol, paliperidone, quetiapine, risperidone, sertindole, sultopride, ziprasidone, and zotepine (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) oral tablets, 1999b; O'Brien et al, 1999b; Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006; Duenas-Laita et al, 1999b; Agelink et al, 2001b; Lande et al, 1992b; Prod Info GEODON(R) intramuscular injection, 2005; Sweetman, 2003). Because Class IA antiarrhythmic agents may also prolong the QT interval and increase the risk of arrhythmias, the concurrent administration of antipsychotics with a drug from this class is not recommended (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) oral tablets, 2009; Prod Info Quinaglute(R), 1999).
- 3) Severity: major

- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of a Class IA antiarrhythmic and an antipsychotic is r
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive cardiac effects
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) In an open-label QTc study of patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder (n=160), iloperic day was associated with QTc prolongation of 9 msec (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) oral tablets, 2009).
  - b) QRS widening, QTc interval prolongation, and torsades de pointes may occur with disopyramide ther Norpace(R), 1997).
  - c) The effects of combined therapy with quinidine (Class IA antiarrhythmic agent) and haloperidol (antip studied by giving 12 healthy volunteers haloperidol 5 mg alone and with 250 mg of quinidine bisulfate. Tl significant increases in the plasma concentrations of haloperidol when given concurrently with quinidine treatment alone. The mean area under the concentration curve (AUC) was increased from 54.3 ng/h/mL to 103.2 ng/h/mL on combined therapy. The peak concentration (Cmax) also showed an increase from 1 haloperidol to 3.8 ng/mL on combined therapy. Half-life (T1/2) and time to peak concentration (Tmax) we changed, thereby suggesting to the authors that a tissue binding mechanism is more likely responsible fc changes than an elimination alteration (Young et al, 1993).

### 3.5.1.W Prajmaline

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest
- 2) Summary: Several antipsychotic agents have demonstrated QT prolongation including amisulpride, halop paliperidone, quetiapine, risperidone, sertindole, sultopride, ziprasidone, and zotepine (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) Prod Info Solian(R), 1999b; O'Brien et al, 1999b; Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006 Duenas-Laita et al, 1999b; Agelink et al, 2001b; Lande et al, 1992b; Prod Info GEODON(R) intramuscular inj 2005; Sweetman, 2003). Because Class IA antiarrhythmic agents may also prolong the QT interval and incre arrhythmias, the concurrent administration of antipsychotics with a drug from this class is not recommended ( (TM) oral tablets, 2009; Prod Info Quinaglute(R), 1999).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of a Class IA antiarrhythmic and an antipsychotic is r
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive cardiac effects
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) In an open-label QTc study of patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder (n=160), iloperic day was associated with QTc prolongation of 9 msec (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) oral tablets, 2009).
  - b) QRS widening, QTc interval prolongation, and torsades de pointes may occur with disopyramide ther Norpace(R), 1997).
  - c) The effects of combined therapy with quinidine (Class IA antiarrhythmic agent) and haloperidol (antip studied by giving 12 healthy volunteers haloperidol 5 mg alone and with 250 mg of quinidine bisulfate. Tl significant increases in the plasma concentrations of haloperidol when given concurrently with quinidine treatment alone. The mean area under the concentration curve (AUC) was increased from 54.3 ng/h/mL to 103.2 ng/h/mL on combined therapy. The peak concentration (Cmax) also showed an increase from 1 haloperidol to 3.8 ng/mL on combined therapy. Half-life (T1/2) and time to peak concentration (Tmax) we changed, thereby suggesting to the authors that a tissue binding mechanism is more likely responsible fc changes than an elimination alteration (Young et al, 1993).

### 3.5.1.X Procainamide

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest
- 2) Summary: Several antipsychotic agents have demonstrated QT prolongation including amisulpride, halop paliperidone, quetiapine, risperidone, sertindole, sultopride, ziprasidone, and zotepine (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) Prod Info Solian(R), 1999b; O'Brien et al, 1999b; Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006 Duenas-Laita et al, 1999b; Agelink et al, 2001b; Lande et al, 1992b; Prod Info GEODON(R) intramuscular inj 2005; Sweetman, 2003). Because Class IA antiarrhythmic agents may also prolong the QT interval and incre arrhythmias, the concurrent administration of antipsychotics with a drug from this class is not recommended ( (TM) oral tablets, 2009; Prod Info Quinaglute(R), 1999).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of a Class IA antiarrhythmic and an antipsychotic is r
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive cardiac effects
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) In an open-label QTc study of patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder (n=160), iloperic day was associated with QTc prolongation of 9 msec (Prod Info FANAPT(TM) oral tablets, 2009).
  - b) QRS widening, QTc interval prolongation, and torsades de pointes may occur with disopyramide ther Norpace(R), 1997).
  - c) The effects of combined therapy with quinidine (Class IA antiarrhythmic agent) and haloperidol (antip studied by giving 12 healthy volunteers haloperidol 5 mg alone and with 250 mg of quinidine bisulfate. Tl significant increases in the plasma concentrations of haloperidol when given concurrently with quinidine treatment alone. The mean area under the concentration curve (AUC) was increased from 54.3 ng/h/mL to 103.2 ng/h/mL on combined therapy. The peak concentration (Cmax) also showed an increase from 1 haloperidol to 3.8 ng/mL on combined therapy. Half-life (T1/2) and time to peak concentration (Tmax) we changed, thereby suggesting to the authors that a tissue binding mechanism is more likely responsible fc changes than an elimination alteration (Young et al, 1993).

treatment alone. The mean area under the concentration curve (AUC) was increased from 54.3 ng/h/mL to 103.2 ng/h/mL on combined therapy. The peak concentration (C<sub>max</sub>) also showed an increase from 1 haloperidol to 3.8 ng/mL on combined therapy. Half-life (T<sub>1/2</sub>) and time to peak concentration (T<sub>max</sub>) we changed, thereby suggesting to the authors that a tissue binding mechanism is more likely responsible for changes than an elimination alteration (Young et al, 1993).

### 3.5.1.Y Prochlorperazine

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Concomitant use of phenothiazines and antipsychotic agents may cause additive effects on the recommended. Q and T wave distortions have been observed in patients taking phenothiazines (Prod Info C<sub>prod</sub> Prod Info Stelazine(R), 2002; Prod Info Thorazine(R), 2002). Other phenothiazines may have similar effects, available. Several antipsychotic agents have demonstrated QT prolongation including amisulpride (Prod Info haloperidol (O'Brien et al, 1999a), paliperidone (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006), 2001a), risperidone (Duenas-Laita et al, 1999a), sertindole (Agelink et al, 2001a), sultopride (Lande et al, 1995) (Prod Info GEODON(R) intramuscular injection, oral capsule, 2005), and zotepine (Sweetman, 2003).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of agents that prolong the QT interval, such as phen antipsychotics, is not recommended.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

### 3.5.1.Z Ranolazine

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of QT interval prolongation
- 2) Summary: Paliperidone causes an increase of QTc interval and ranolazine prolongs the QTc interval in a If concomitant administration is unavoidable, use caution when paliperidone is coadministered with ranolazine for additive effects on QT interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral tablets, 2008a).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: Paliperidone causes an increase of QTc interval and ranolazine prolongs the QTc in related manner. If concomitant administration is unavoidable, use caution when paliperidone is coadministered to the potential for additive effects on QT interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(R) extended-release oral t
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive effects on QT interval prolongation

### 3.5.1.AA Sema tilide

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Class III antiarrhythmics have been shown to prolong the QT interval, which may result in ventricular fibrillation, and torsades de pointes (Prod Info CORDARONE(R) oral tablets, 2006; Prod Info sotal 2005). Modest increases in the QTc interval have been noted with paliperidone use (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006). Due to the risk of additive QTc prolongation, the concurrent administration of paliperidone and antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of paliperidone and class III antiarrhythmic agents should this may result in additive QTc interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

### 3.5.1.AB Sotalol

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Class III antiarrhythmics have been shown to prolong the QT interval, which may result in ventricular fibrillation, and torsades de pointes (Prod Info CORDARONE(R) oral tablets, 2006; Prod Info sotal 2005). Modest increases in the QTc interval have been noted with paliperidone use (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006). Due to the risk of additive QTc prolongation, the concurrent administration of paliperidone and antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of paliperidone and class III antiarrhythmic agents should this may result in additive QTc interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

### 3.5.1.AC Tedisamil

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Class III antiarrhythmics have been shown to prolong the QT interval, which may result in ventricular fibrillation, and torsades de pointes (Prod Info CORDARONE(R) oral tablets, 2006; Prod Info sotal 2005). Modest increases in the QTc interval have been noted with paliperidone use (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

tablets, 2006). Due to the risk of additive QTc prolongation, the concurrent administration of paliperidone and antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of paliperidone and class III antiarrhythmic agents should be avoided; this may result in additive QTc interval prolongation (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

#### 3.5.1.AD Tetrabenazine

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of QT interval prolongation
- 2) Summary: Due to the potential for additive effects on the QT interval and increased risk of torsade de pointes, the concurrent use of tetrabenazine with drugs that prolong the QT interval should be avoided. However, if concomitant use is necessary, the patient should be closely monitored for prolongation of the QT interval (Prod Info XENAZINE(R) oral tablets, 2008). In a double-blind, placebo controlled crossover study of healthy subjects, the effect of a single 25 mg or 50 mg dose of tetrabenazine on the QT interval was studied with moxifloxacin as a positive control. The 50 mg dose of tetrabenazine caused a millisecond mean increase in QT (Prod Info XENAZINE(R) oral tablets, 2008).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: Coadministration of tetrabenazine with drugs that prolong the QT interval should be avoided; there is a potential for additive effects on the QT interval and increased risk of torsade de pointes. However, if concomitant use is necessary, the patient should be monitored closely for prolongation of the QT interval (Prod Info XENAZINE(R) oral tablets, 2008).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive effects on QT interval prolongation

#### 3.5.1.AE Thioridazine

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Although citing no data, the manufacturer of thioridazine states that concomitant use with other drugs that prolong the QT interval is contraindicated (Prod Info Mellaril(R), 2001). Several antipsychotic agents have demonstrated QT prolongation including amisulpride (Prod Info Solian(R), 1999c), haloperidol (O'Brien et al, 1999c), pimozide (Prod Info Orziquet(R), 2001c), paliperidone (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006), risperidone (Agelink et al, 1999c), sertindole (Agelink et al, 2001c), sultopride (Lande et al, 1992c), ziprasidone (Prod Info GEODON(R) injection, oral capsule, 2005), and zotepine (Sweetman, 2004).
- 3) Severity: contraindicated
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of agents that prolong the QT interval, such as antipsychotics, is contraindicated.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

#### 3.5.1.AF Trifluoperazine

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, cardiac arrest)
- 2) Summary: Concomitant use of phenothiazines and antipsychotic agents may cause additive effects on the QT interval. Q and T wave distortions have been observed in patients taking phenothiazines (Prod Info Cefazolin(R), 2002; Prod Info Thorazine(R), 2002). Other phenothiazines may have similar effects, available. Several antipsychotic agents have demonstrated QT prolongation including amisulpride (Prod Info Solian(R), 1999c), haloperidol (O'Brien et al, 1999a), paliperidone (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006), risperidone (Duenas-Laita et al, 1999a), sertindole (Agelink et al, 2001a), sultopride (Lande et al, 1992c) (Prod Info GEODON(R) intramuscular injection, oral capsule, 2005), and zotepine (Sweetman, 2003).
- 3) Severity: major
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: The concurrent administration of agents that prolong the QT interval, such as phenothiazines, is not recommended.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive QT prolongation

## 4.0 Clinical Applications

Monitoring Parameters

Patient Instructions

Place In Therapy

Mechanism of Action / Pharmacology

Therapeutic Uses

Comparative Efficacy / Evaluation With Other Therapies

4.1 Monitoring Parameters

A) Therapeutic

1) Physical Findings

a) Schizophrenia

1) Patients should be monitored for signs of improvement in the target positive and negative symptoms as improved communication, decreased hallucinations and delusions, improved socialization, and decrease of improvement in socialization, grooming, and attention to activities of daily living should also be monitored.

B) Toxic

1) Laboratory Parameters

a) Fasting glucose test in patients with a diagnosis or with risk factors for diabetes mellitus at the initiation of periodically during treatment (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

2) Physical Findings

a) Hyperglycemia symptom monitoring in all patients for polydipsia, polyuria, polyphagia, and weakness (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

b) Neuroleptic malignant syndrome has been reported and patients should be monitored for the signs and symptoms (hyperpyrexia, muscle rigidity, altered mental status, and autonomic instability) (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

c) Orthostatic vital sign monitoring in patients susceptible to hypotension (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

d) QT prolongation has been reported with paliperidone, a baseline EKG may be considered (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

e) Suicide monitoring in high-risk patients (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006)

4.2 Patient Instructions

A) Paliperidone (By mouth)

Paliperidone

Treats schizophrenia (a mental disorder).

When This Medicine Should Not Be Used:

You should not use this medicine if you have had an allergic reaction to paliperidone or risperidone.

How to Use This Medicine:

Long Acting Tablet

Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine to use and how often. Your dose may need to be changed in order to find out what works best for you. Do not use more medicine or use it more often than your doctor tells you. You may take this medicine with or without food.

Swallow the extended-release tablet whole. Do not crush, break, or chew it. Swallow the tablet with a liquid, and while taking the extended-release form of this medicine, part of the tablet may pass into your stools. This is not something to worry about.

If a Dose is Missed:

If you miss a dose or forget to use your medicine, use it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, use the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

How to Store and Dispose of This Medicine:

Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.

Ask your pharmacist, doctor, or health caregiver about the best way to dispose of any leftover medicine after your treatment. You will also need to throw away old medicine after the expiration date has passed.

Keep all medicine away from children and never share your medicine with anyone.

Drugs and Foods to Avoid:

Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and minerals. Make sure your doctor knows if you are using medicines for heart rhythm problems (such as amiodarone, quinidine, sotalol, Betapace®, Cordarone®, Procanbid®) or a diuretic, also called a "water pill" (such as furosemide, hydrochlorothiazide, Aldactone®, Lasix®, Maxzide®).

Tell your doctor if you are using levodopa (Dopar®, Larodopa®), any medicine for mental illness (such as chlorpromazine, Thorazine®, Mellaril®), or certain antibiotic medicines (such as gatifloxacin, moxifloxacin, Tequin®). Tell your doctor if you are using any medicines that make you sleepy. These include sleeping pills, cold and cough medicines, narcotic pain relievers, and sedatives.

Do not drink alcohol while you are using this medicine.

**Warnings While Using This Medicine:**

Make sure your doctor knows if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding. Do not have a history of seizures, heart disease, kidney disease, stroke, or breast cancer. Make sure your doctor knows if you have Parkinson's disease, any trouble with swallowing, or a history of blocked bowels or stomach and intestine problems. Tell your doctor if you have ever had thoughts of hurting yourself.

Make sure your doctor knows if you or a family member has a heart condition called congenital long QT syndrome if you have ever had a condition called neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) that was caused by a medicine used to treat mental disorders.

This medicine may cause an increase in your blood sugar. If you have diabetes, you may need to check your blood sugar often. If you are using medicine for diabetes, your doctor may need to change your dose.

This medicine is not approved to treat behavior disorders in older people who have dementia. Using this medicine for these problems could increase the risk of death. This risk has not been shown for the approved uses of this medicine. Some side effects are more likely to happen in elderly people who have memory problems or other reduced mental abilities. Be sure the doctor knows if the person who will be using this medicine has Alzheimer's disease or similar problem ("dementia").

This medicine may cause tardive dyskinesia, which is a movement disorder. If you have muscle spasms, twitches, or uncontrolled tongue or jaw movements, stop taking this medicine and call your doctor right away. This is the risk of this side effect.

This medicine may make you dizzy or drowsy. Avoid driving, using machines, or doing anything else that you need to be alert for. You may also feel lightheaded or dizzy when you get up quickly from a sitting or lying position. You should get up slowly.

This medicine might reduce how much you sweat. Your body could get too hot if you do not sweat enough. If you are too hot, you might feel dizzy, weak, tired, or confused. You might vomit or have an upset stomach. Do not get too hot. Avoid exercising. Avoid places that are very hot. Call your doctor if you are too hot and cannot cool down.

Your doctor will need to check your progress at regular visits while you are using this medicine. Be sure to tell your doctor if your symptoms do not improve or if they get worse, call your doctor.

**Possible Side Effects While Using This Medicine:**

Call your doctor right away if you notice any of these side effects:

Allergic reaction: Itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, trouble breathing.

Dry mouth, increased thirst, muscle cramps, nausea, or vomiting.

Fast, slow, pounding, or irregular heartbeat.

Fever, confusion, sweating, or muscle stiffness.

Lightheadedness, dizziness, or fainting.

Neck muscle spasm, throat tightness, difficulty swallowing or breathing, or sticking out of the tongue.

Painful or prolonged erection of the penis.

Pinpoint red spots on skin.

Problems with speech, balance, or walking.

Seizures or tremors.

Swelling of breasts or unusual milk production.

Twitching or muscle movements you cannot control (often in your face, tongue, or jaw).

If you notice these less serious side effects, talk with your doctor:

Anxiety or restlessness.

Drizzling.

Headache.

Sleepiness or unusual drowsiness.

Stomach pain or upset stomach.

Unusual tiredness or weakness.

Weight gain.

If you notice other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, tell your doctor.

**4.3 Place In Therapy**

**A)** Current users of atypical antipsychotic drugs (including paliperidone) and typical antipsychotic drugs had a similar rate of sudden cardiac death, according to a retrospective cohort of 93,300 adult users of antipsychotic drugs and 186,600 adult users of typical antipsychotic drugs. The study included patients age 30 to 74 years (mean 45.7 +/- 11.8 years) with similar cardiovascular risk at baseline and had 1 outpatient visit in each of the 2 preceding years. Sudden cardiac death was defined as death occurring in the community and excluded deaths of patients admitted to the hospital, non-sudden deaths, deaths due to extrinsic causes related to ventricular tachyarrhythmia. Current use was defined as the interval between the time the prescription was filled and the day's supply. Low and high doses were defined as comparable to less than 100 milligrams (mg) of chlorpromazine, comparable to chlorpromazine 300 mg or greater, respectively. The adjusted rate of sudden cardiac death (incidence rate per 100 person-years) in current users of atypical antipsychotic drugs in 79,589 person-years was 2.26 (95% CI, 1.88 to 2.72, p less than 0.001) which was significantly higher than the rate in current users of typical antipsychotic drugs in 86,735 person-years which was 1.99 (95% CI, 1.68 to 2.34, p less than 0.001). The sudden cardiac death significantly increased with increasing dose in both the typical and atypical antipsychotic drug groups. In current users of atypical antipsychotic drugs, the incidence rate ratio increased from 1.59 (95% CI, 1.03 to 2.46) in low-dose use to 2.86 (95% CI, 1.88 to 4.34) in high-dose use. To limit the effects of confounding of the study results, there was a secondary analysis performed in a cohort of current users of atypical antipsychotic drugs who were also current users of typical antipsychotic drugs. The adjusted rate of sudden cardiac death in this cohort was 2.26 (95% CI, 1.88 to 2.72, p less than 0.001) which was significantly higher than the rate in current users of typical antipsychotic drugs who were also current users of atypical antipsychotic drugs in 86,735 person-years which was 1.99 (95% CI, 1.68 to 2.34, p less than 0.001).

by propensity score, which resulted in a similar risk of sudden death as the primary cohort analysis (Ray et al, 2009). In the New England Journal of Medicine, it has been suggested that antipsychotic drugs continue to be used in patients with benefit, but in vulnerable populations with cardiac risk profiles (eg, elderly patients), there should be an age-dependent prior to administration. It has also been suggested (although not formally tested) that ECGs be performed before and after initiation of antipsychotic therapy to screen for existing or emergent QT interval prolongation (Schneeweiss & Avorn, 2009).

**B)** Paliperidone is a benzisoxazole derivative, and an active metabolite of risperidone. It is indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia. The efficacy in improving positive symptoms, negative symptoms, disorganized thoughts, uncontrolled hostility/excitement, anxiety/depression among patients with schizophrenia has been established in three 6-week, multinational, fixed-dose and active-controlled (olanzapine) trials. While the mechanism of action of paliperidone is unclear, it is thought to block dopamine Type 2 (D<sub>2</sub>) and serotonin Type 2 (5HT<sub>2A</sub>) receptors, and has antagonistic effects on the alpha-1 adrenergic, and H<sub>1</sub> histaminergic receptors (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006). Due to the lack of efficacy data with haloperidol, fluphenazine, risperidone, and other conventional neuroleptics, the role of paliperidone in schizophrenia is unclear. Concomitant use of paliperidone with risperidone has not been studied.

**C)** Paliperidone extended-release is also being investigated as a monotherapy and as an adjunctive therapy to lithium treatment of acute manic and mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder, as well as in schizoaffective disorder. See Drug Consult reference: FIRST- VS SECOND-GENERATION ANTIPSYCHOTIC AGENTS FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA.

#### 4.4 Mechanism of Action / Pharmacology

**A)** Paliperidone is the major active metabolite of risperidone. While the mechanism of action is unknown, it is proposed to antagonize both the central dopamine Type 2 (D<sub>2</sub>) and serotonin Type 2 (5HT<sub>2A</sub>) receptors. It also has antagonistic effects on alpha-1 adrenergic, alpha-2 adrenergic, and H<sub>1</sub> histaminergic receptors; however, the degree of affinity is unclear. Paliperidone has no known affinity for cholinergic muscarinic or beta-1 and beta-2 adrenergic receptors (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006).

#### 4.5 Therapeutic Uses

##### 4.5.A Schizophrenia

FDA Labeled Indication

###### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, yes; Pediatric, no

Efficacy: Adult, Effective

Recommendation: Adult, Class IIa

Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

###### 2) Summary:

Paliperidone is indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia (Prod Info INVEGA(TM) extended-release oral tablets, 2006). In a 6-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo- and active-controlled, dose-response study (n=630) demonstrating the efficacy of paliperidone extended-release (ER) in schizophrenia symptoms, personal functioning, and social functioning (Kane et al, 2007).

In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study (n=113), paliperidone extended-release (ER) significantly reduced the time-to-recurrence of schizophrenia symptoms and maintained symptom stability relative to placebo (Kane et al, 2007).

Geriatric patients (n=114) were safely treated with paliperidone extended-release tablets and although there were no differences in efficacy or safety and tolerability, clinical improvements were seen, according to a prospective, 6-week randomized, placebo-controlled, optional 24-week open-label extension safety trial (Tzimos et al, 2008).

###### 3) Adult:

###### a) Acute Therapy

**1)** A 6-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo- and active-controlled, dose-response study demonstrating the efficacy of paliperidone extended-release (ER) in schizophrenia symptoms, personal functioning, and social functioning. The enrolled patients (n=630) were greater than 18 years of age (mean age, 37.1 years), experiencing an acute episode of schizophrenia (Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) score between 70 and 120), and had a diagnosis of schizophrenia according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fourth Edition (DSM-IV) for at least 1 year. After discontinuation of previous medication (including antiparkinsonian drugs, beta-blockers or other psychotropic agents) for three days prior to randomization, patients were randomized to either paliperidone ER 6 mg (n=123), paliperidone ER 9 mg (n=122), paliperidone ER 12 mg (n=125), or placebo (n=126) once daily for 6 weeks. The primary efficacy variable was the change in PANSS score from baseline to 6 weeks for each dose of paliperidone ER compared to placebo. The mean (SD) decrease in PANSS score was 17.9 (+/-22.2), 17.2 (+/-20.2), 23.3 (+/-20.1) for the 6 mg, 9 mg, and 12 mg paliperidone ER groups (p less than 0.001 vs placebo), respectively, compared with 4.1 (+/-23.2) for the placebo group. Clinical response (defined as a greater than 50% decrease in PANSS total score) was achieved in 56%, 51%, 61%, and 30% for the paliperidone ER 6 mg, 9 mg, 12 mg, and placebo groups, respectively (p less than 0.001 for all groups vs placebo). Improvement in personal and social functioning was also observed. (+/- SD) scores were 9.1 (+/-15.5), 8.1 (+/-14.5), 11.5 (+/-16), and 0.5 (+/-15.5) for the paliperidone 6 mg, 9 mg, 12 mg, and placebo groups, respectively (p less than 0.001). At 6 weeks, fewer patients were classified as marked on the Clinical and Global Impressions-Severity scale scores (paliperidone ER 6 mg: 62.6% at baseline vs 23% at 6 weeks, paliperidone ER 9 mg: 57.3% at baseline vs 23% at 6 weeks, paliperidone ER 12 mg: 64.4% at baseline vs 23% at 6 weeks, placebo: 59.5% at baseline vs 50.8% at 6 weeks, p less than 0.001 for all doses vs placebo). The number of patients who were classified as marked on the Clinical and Global Impressions-Severity scale scores (paliperidone ER 6 mg: 62.6% at baseline vs 23% at 6 weeks, paliperidone ER 9 mg: 57.3% at baseline vs 23% at 6 weeks, paliperidone ER 12 mg: 64.4% at baseline vs 23% at 6 weeks, placebo: 59.5% at baseline vs 50.8% at 6 weeks, p less than 0.001 for all doses vs placebo). The number of patients who were classified as marked on the Clinical and Global Impressions-Severity scale scores (paliperidone ER 6 mg: 62.6% at baseline vs 23% at 6 weeks, paliperidone ER 9 mg: 57.3% at baseline vs 23% at 6 weeks, paliperidone ER 12 mg: 64.4% at baseline vs 23% at 6 weeks, placebo: 59.5% at baseline vs 50.8% at 6 weeks, p less than 0.001 for all doses vs placebo).



adverse effects in the safety analysis group (n=629) was similar among all groups. The most common cause for discontinuation of the study was tachycardia (2% for paliperidone ER 12 mg, 1% in all other groups). It showed no observable dose-response relationship for the severity of adverse events. The most common effect was psychosis which occurred in 2% of the paliperidone ER 12 mg group, 1% of the placebo, paliperidone ER 6 mg group, and in 0% of the paliperidone ER 9 mg group. Most movement disorder-related adverse events were moderate in severity; 3 patients discontinued the study because of movement disorder-related adverse events (2 in the paliperidone ER 6 mg group, 2 in the 12 mg group) (Kane et al, 2007).

**b) Maintenance Therapy**

**1)** In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study, paliperidone extended-release (ER) tablets : time-to-recurrence of schizophrenia symptoms and maintained symptom stability relative to placebo. The study included 65 years old and had a diagnosis of schizophrenia according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Fourth Edition (DSM-IV) for at least 1 year. The patients were also experiencing an acute episode of schizophrenia (Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) total score of 70-120). The study consisted of an 8-week run-in phase in which patients received open-label paliperidone ER, starting at 9 milligrams (mg) once daily and adjusted until they remained on their stabilized dose. Patients then entered a double-blinded treatment phase in which they were randomized to receive paliperidone ER or placebo for maintenance therapy. The patients remained in the study until they experienced a recurrence event (defined as: psychiatric hospitalization, a pre-defined increase in Clinical Global Impression-Severity (CGI-S) score, deliberate self-injury, aggressive behavior, suicidal ideation), until they withdrew from the study or until the end of the study. The time to first recurrence during the double-blind phase was the primary efficacy variable. At the interim analysis (n=113), the study was terminated because significant efficacy was established; 14 patients (25%) in the paliperidone ER group experienced a recurrence compared to 29 patients (53%) in the placebo group. In the final analysis (n=205), paliperidone ER significantly reduced the time to recurrence (25% quantile of time-to-recurrence was 83 days for paliperidone ER vs 23 days for placebo, open-label phases of the trial, 73% of patients reported treatment-related adverse events while 37% of patients reported treatment-related adverse events in the double-blind phase. A 2 fold increase in treatment-related adverse events was reported for the placebo group than for the paliperidone ER group; most related to the underlying psychosis and aggressive reaction occurred more frequently in the placebo group (n=102, 23% and 6%, respectively) (Kramer et al, 2007).

**c) Geriatric**

**1)** According to a prospective, 6-week, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, optional 24-week safety trial, paliperidone treatment was well tolerated in the geriatric population compared with placebo. The study included 65 years old and had a diagnosis of schizophrenia according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Fourth Edition (DSM-IV) for at least 1 year. The patients were also experiencing an acute episode of schizophrenia (Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) total score of 70-120). The study consisted of an 8-week run-in phase in which patients received open-label paliperidone ER, starting at 9 milligrams (mg) once daily and adjusted until they remained on their stabilized dose. Patients then entered a double-blinded treatment phase in which they were randomized to receive paliperidone ER or placebo for maintenance therapy. The patients remained in the study until they experienced a recurrence event (defined as: psychiatric hospitalization, a pre-defined increase in Clinical Global Impression-Severity (CGI-S) score, deliberate self-injury, aggressive behavior, suicidal ideation), until they withdrew from the study or until the end of the study. The time to first recurrence during the double-blind phase was the primary efficacy variable. At the interim analysis (n=113), the study was terminated because significant efficacy was established; 14 patients (25%) in the paliperidone ER group experienced a recurrence compared to 29 patients (53%) in the placebo group. In the final analysis (n=205), paliperidone ER significantly reduced the time to recurrence (25% quantile of time-to-recurrence was 83 days for paliperidone ER vs 23 days for placebo, open-label phases of the trial, 73% of patients reported treatment-related adverse events while 37% of patients reported treatment-related adverse events in the double-blind phase. A 2 fold increase in treatment-related adverse events was reported for the placebo group than for the paliperidone ER group; most related to the underlying psychosis and aggressive reaction occurred more frequently in the placebo group (n=102, 23% and 6%, respectively) (Kramer et al, 2007).

## 4.6 Comparative Efficacy / Evaluation With Other Therapies

### 4.6.A Quetiapine Fumarate

#### 4.6.A.1 Schizophrenia, Recent exacerbation, in hospitalized patients

**a)** In a randomized, double-blind, placebo- and active-controlled clinical trial (n=394), treatment with paliperidone ER produced significantly improved Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) total scores compared to placebo in hospitalized patients with a recent exacerbation of schizophrenia. Hospitalized patients 18 to 65 years of age (defined as lasting less than 4 weeks but more than 4 days) of schizophrenia (paranoid, disorganized, or undifferentiated) and diagnosed using Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fourth edition (DSM-IV), a Clinical Global Impression Severity (CGI-S) scale score of 5 or greater, and symptom scores of 4 or greater on 2 or more of the following: hostility, excitement, tension, uncooperativeness, and poor impulse control (with a combined score of these items of 4 or greater) were eligible for enrollment. Following the discontinuation of all psychotropic agents, patients were randomized to receive paliperidone ER (n=157; baseline mean PANSS total score, 102.8 +/- 13.1 points), quetiapine (n=157; baseline mean PANSS total score, 101.3 +/- 13.3 points), or placebo (n=80; baseline mean PANSS total score, 103.8 +/- 15.7 points). In the treatment phase, paliperidone ER was initiated at 6 milligrams (mg)/day on days 1 to 3 and then increased to 9 mg/day on day 4, 12 mg/day on day 5, 18 mg/day on day 6, 24 mg/day on day 7, 30 mg/day on day 8, 36 mg/day on day 9, 42 mg/day on day 10, 48 mg/day on day 11, 54 mg/day on day 12, 60 mg/day on day 13, and 66 mg/day on day 14 (mean dose, 690.9 +/- 134.3 mg/day). Psychotropic medications (excluding placebo, paliperidone ER or quetiapine) could be added following the 14-day monotherapy phase (one or more agents: paliperidone ER, 52.9%; quetiapine, 55.4%; placebo, 66.7%). The least-squares mean PANSS total score from baseline to day 14 was significantly decreased in the paliperidone ER arm (-23.4 +/- 1.8 (standard error (SE)) points; p less than 0.001) (primary endpoint) and the placebo arm (-17.1 +/- 1.8 (SE) points; p less than 0.001) (secondary endpoint) and the placebo arm between group analyses (using a least-squares mean differences in change scores with the last observation).

patients in the paliperidone ER arm had significantly improved PANSS total score, PANSS scale negative symptoms, PANSS scale disorganized thoughts scores, PANSS scale uncontrolled hostility/excitement scores, and CGI with patients in the quetiapine and placebo arms at day 14 and at the end of 6 weeks of treatment (day 42) (Table 1). The PANSS scale positive symptoms score (PANSS-P) and Clinical Global Impression of Change (CGI-C) significantly improved in the paliperidone ER arm compared with the quetiapine and placebo arms at day 14 and paliperidone ER significantly improved PANSS-P and CGI-C compared with placebo at day 42 (Table 1). Serious adverse events were reported in 2.5% of patients in the paliperidone ER, quetiapine, and placebo arms, respectively. Extrapyramidal symptoms were significantly (p less than 0.001) higher in the paliperidone ER arm following the 14-day monotherapy phase compared with quetiapine using the Simpson-Angus Rating Scale (total score). The incidence of movement disorders at day 14 was significantly different between the 3 arms using the Barnes Akathisia Rating Scale and the Abnormal Involuntary Movements Scale (Canuso et al, 2009).

Table 1: Between Group Analyses					
Outcome measures	Day 14			Day 42	
	Paliperidone ER versus Quetiapine	Paliperidone ER versus Placebo	Quetiapine versus Placebo	Paliperidone ER versus Quetiapine	Paliperidone ER versus Placebo
PANSS score Mean (SE)					
Total	-6.3* (1.8)	-8.4* (2.2)	-2.1 (2.2)	-4.7* (2)	-7.8* (2)
Positive symptoms	-1.6* (0.6)	-2.1* (0.7)	-0.5 (0.7)	-1.1 (0.6)	-1.9* (0.6)
Negative symptoms	-1.3* (0.5)	-2.2* (0.6)	-0.9 (0.6)	-1.2* (0.5)	-2.1* (0.5)
Anxiety/depression	-0.5 (0.3)	-0.6 (0.4)	-0.1 (0.4)	-0.4 (0.3)	-0.5 (0.4)
Disorganized thoughts	-1.3* (0.4)	-2.1* (0.5)	-0.8 (0.5)	-1* (0.5)	-2* (0.6)
Uncontrolled hostility/excitement	-1.5* (0.4)	-1.6* (0.5)	-0.1 (0.5)	-1* (0.4)	-1.3* (0.4)
CGI-S (Mean SE)	-0.3* (0.1)	-0.4* (0.1)	-0.1 (0.1)	-0.3* (0.1)	-0.5* (0.1)
CGI-C (Mean SE)	-0.4* (0.1)	-0.5* (0.1)	-0.2 (0.1)	-0.1 (0.1)	-0.4* (0.1)

\*p less than 0.05

PANSS, Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale; SE, standard error; CGI-S, Clinical Global Impression of Change

6.0 References

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**DRUGDEX® Evaluations****LAMOTRIGINE****0.0 Overview****1) Class**

- a) This drug is a member of the following class(es):  
 Anticonvulsant  
 Phenyltriazine

**2) Dosing Information****a) Adult**

- 1) caution for potential for dispensing errors involving similarly named medications (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewab disintegrating tablets, 2009)  
 2) safety and efficacy as initial monotherapy, for conversion to monotherapy from a non-enzyme-inducing antiepi conversion to monotherapy from 2 or more concomitant antiepileptic drugs has not been established (Prod Info L orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)

**a) Bipolar I disorder**

- 1) (patients not taking enzyme-inducing drugs or valproic acid) 25 mg/day orally for 2 weeks, then 50 mg 200 mg/day; usual maintenance dose of lamotrigine in patients not taking enzyme-inducing drugs or valp dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)  
 2) (added to valproic acid regimen) 25 mg/day orally every other day for 2 weeks, then 25 mg/day for 2 usual maintenance dose of lamotrigine in patients taking valproic acid is 100 mg/day (Prod Info LAMICT, disintegrating tablets, 2009)  
 3) (added to enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drug regimen without valproic acid) 50 mg/day orally for 2 we then 200 mg/day for 1 week (in divided doses), then 300 mg/day for 1 week (in divided doses), then may mg/day (in divided doses) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disi

**b) Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; Adjunct**

- 1) (added to antiepileptic drug regimen with valproic acid) 25 mg/day ORALLY every OTHER day for 2 v dosage by 25 to 50 mg/day ORALLY every 1 to 2 weeks to the usual maintenance dose of 100 to 400 m of patients adding lamotrigine to valproic acid ALONE ranges from 100 to 200 mg/day (Prod Info LAMIC disintegrating tablets, 2009)  
 2) (added to antiepileptic drug regimen not containing enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs or valproic a 2 weeks; may increase dosage by 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to the usual maintenance dose of 225 1 chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)  
 3) (added to enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drug regimen without valproic acid) 50 mg/day ORALLY for 2 weeks; may increase dosage by 100 mg/day ORALLY every 1 to 2 weeks to the usual maintenance dos LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)

**c) Partial seizure, Adjunct or monotherapy**

- 1) (chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating tablets; added to antiepileptic drug regimen with valproic then 25 mg/day for 2 weeks; may increase dosage by 25 to 50 mg/day ORALLY every 1 to 2 weeks to th 2 divided doses; usual maintenance dose of patients adding lamotrigine to valproic acid ALONE ranges 1 dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)  
 2) (chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating tablets; added to antiepileptic drug regimen not containi ORALLY for 2 weeks, then 50 mg/day for 2 weeks; may increase dosage by 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 wee in 2 divided doses (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrati  
 3) (chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating tablets; added to antiepileptic drug regimen containing e mg/day orally for 2 weeks, then 100 mg/day (in 2 divided doses) for 2 weeks; may increase dosage by 11 maintenance dose of 300 to 500 mg/day (in 2 divided doses) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible 2009)  
 4) (chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating tablets; conversion to monotherapy in patients, 16 yr an inducing antiepileptic drug) 500 mg/day orally (in 2 divided doses); titrate lamotrigine to the targeted dos withdraw the other drug by 20% decrements each week over a 4-week period (Prod Info LAMICTAL che disintegrating tablets, 2009)  
 5) (chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating tablets; conversion to monotherapy in patients, 16 yr an lamotrigine to 200 mg/day while maintaining valproic acid dose, the maintain lamotrigine dose at 200 mg by decrements no greater than 500 mg/day per week and then maintain the dose at 500 mg/day for 1 we while simultaneously decreasing the valproic acid to 250 mg/day and maintain this for 1 week, finally dis 100 mg/day each week until the maintenance dose of 500 mg/day is reached(Prod Info LAMICTAL chew disintegrating tablets, 2009)  
 6) (extended-release tablets; added to antiepileptic drug regimen with valproic acid) weeks 1 and 2, 25 r mg/day; week 5, 50 mg/day; week 6, 100 mg/day; week 7, 150 mg/day; weeks 8 onwards to maintenanc 200 to 250 mg/day (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)  
 7) (extended-release tablets; added to antiepileptic drug regimen not containing enzyme-inducing drugs weeks 3 and 4, 50 mg/day; week 5, 100 mg/day; week 6, 150 mg/day; week 7, 200 mg/day; weeks 8 on at weekly intervals), 300 to 400 mg/day (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)



dose of 225 to 375 mg/day in 2 divided doses (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, or **6**) (chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating tablets; over age 12; added to enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drug regimen ORALLY for 2 weeks, then 100 mg/day (in 2 divided doses) for 2 weeks; may increase dosage by 100 mg to the usual maintenance dose of 300 to 500 mg/day (in 2 divided doses) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)

**7**) (extended-release tablets; age 13 and older; added to antiepileptic drug regimen with valproic acid) weeks 3 and 4, 25 mg/day; week 5, 50 mg/day; week 6, 100 mg/day; week 7, 150 mg/day; week 8 onwa 100 mg/day at weekly intervals), 200 to 250 mg/day (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)

**8**) (extended-release tablets; age 13 and older; added to antiepileptic drug regimen not containing enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs or nearest whole tablet) ORALLY; weeks 3 and 4, 50 mg/day; week 5, 100 mg/day; week 6, 150 mg/day; week 7, 200 mg/day; week 8, 250 mg/day (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)

**9**) (extended-release tablets; age 13 and older; added to antiepileptic drug regimen containing enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs or nearest whole tablet) ORALLY; weeks 3 and 4, 100 mg/day; week 5, 200 mg/day; week 6, 300 mg/day; week 7, 400 mg/day; week 8, 500 mg/day (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)

**10**) (extended-release tablets; age 13 and older; conversion from immediate-release lamotrigine tablets; release lamotrigine; may need adjustments depending on therapeutic response after conversion (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)

**c) Tonic-clonic seizure, Primary generalized; Adjunct**

**1**) (2 to 12 yr; added to antiepileptic drug regimen with valproic acid) 0.15 mg/kg/day (rounded down to the nearest whole tablet) for 2 weeks, then 0.3 mg/kg/day (rounded down to the nearest whole tablet) in 1 to 2 divided doses for 2 to 2 weeks (rounded down to the nearest whole tablet) to the usual maintenance dose of 1 to 5 mg/kg/day (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)

**2**) (2 to 12 yr; added to antiepileptic drug regimen not containing enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs or nearest whole tablet) ORALLY in 1 to 2 divided doses for 2 weeks, then 0.6 mg/kg/day (rounded down to the nearest whole tablet) in 1 to 2 divided doses (max 300 mg/day) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)

**3**) (2 to 12 yr; added to enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drug regimen without valproic acid) 0.6 mg/kg/day divided doses for 2 weeks, then 1.2 mg/kg/day (rounded down to the nearest whole tablet) in 2 divided doses for 2 weeks (rounded down to the nearest whole tablet) to the usual maintenance dose of 1 to 5 mg/kg/day (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)

**4**) (over age 12; added to antiepileptic drug regimen with valproic acid) 25 mg/day orally every other day increase dosage by 25 to 50 mg/day ORALLY every 1 to 2 weeks to the usual maintenance dose of 100 to 200 mg/day (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)

**5**) (over age 12; added to antiepileptic drug regimen not containing enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs or nearest whole tablet) ORALLY in 1 to 2 divided doses for 2 weeks, then 100 mg/day (in 2 divided doses) for 2 weeks; may increase dosage by 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to the usual maintenance dose of 300 to 500 mg/day (in 2 divided doses) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)

**6**) (over age 12; added to enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drug regimen without valproic acid) 50 mg/day ORALLY for 2 weeks; may increase dosage by 100 mg/day ORALLY every 1 to 2 weeks to the usual maintenance dose of 300 to 500 mg/day (in 2 divided doses) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)

**3) Contraindications**

- a) hypersensitivity to lamotrigine or any component of the product (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)
- Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)

**4) Serious Adverse Effects**

- a) Anemia
- b) Angioedema
- c) Disseminated intravascular coagulation
- d) Eosinophil count raised
- e) Erythema multiforme
- f) Leukopenia
- g) Liver failure
- h) Stevens-Johnson syndrome
- i) Thrombocytopenia
- j) Toxic epidermal necrolysis

**5) Clinical Applications**

- a) FDA Approved Indications
  - 1) Bipolar I disorder
  - 2) Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; Adjunct
  - 3) Partial seizure, Adjunct or monotherapy
  - 4) Tonic-clonic seizure, Primary generalized; Adjunct

**1.0 Dosing Information**

Drug Properties

Storage and Stability

Adult Dosage

Pediatric Dosage

**1.1 Drug Properties**

- A)** Information on specific products and dosage forms can be obtained by referring to the Tradename List (Product In
- B)** Synonyms
  - Lamotrigine
- C)** Orphan Drug Status
  - 1)** Lamotrigine has been designated an orphan product for use in the treatment of Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.
- D)** Physicochemical Properties
  - 1)** Molecular Weight
    - a)** 256.09 (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
  - 2)** pKa
    - a)** 5.7 (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
  - 3)** Solubility
    - a)** Lamotrigine is very slightly soluble in water (0.17 mg/mL at 25 degrees C) and slightly soluble in 0.1 mola LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

**1.2 Storage and Stability**

- A)** Preparation
  - 1)** Oral route
    - a)** Chewable Dispersible Tablets
      - 1)** Chewable dispersible tablets may be swallowed whole, chewed, or dispersed in water or diluted fruit, nearest whole tablet. Disperse by adding tablets to a small amount of liquid (1 teaspoon, or enough to cc dispersed (approximately 1 min), swirl solution and consume entire volume immediately (Prod Info LAMI orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
    - b)** Orally Disintegrating Tablets
      - 1)** Orally disintegrating tablets should be placed onto the tongue and moved around in the mouth. The t without water and may be taken with or without food (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tab
    - c)** Extended-Release Tablets
      - 1)** Extended-release tablets must be swallowed whole with or without food. The tablet must not be chew extended-release tablets, 2009).
- B)** Lamotrigine 25 milligrams (mg) tablets and lamotrigine chewable dispersible 2 mg, 5 mg and 25 mg tablets should Fahrenheit (F)) with excursions permitted between 15 and 30 degrees C (59 to 86 degrees F) in a dry place. Lamotrigi stored at 25 degrees C (77 degrees F) with excursions permitted between 15 to 30 degrees C (59 to 86 degrees F) in (R), 2003f).

**1.3 Adult Dosage**

Normal Dosage

Dosage in Renal Failure

Dosage in Hepatic Insufficiency

Dosage in Other Disease States

**1.3.1 Normal Dosage**

**1.3.1.A Oral route**

Bipolar I disorder

Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; Adjunct

Partial seizure, Adjunct or monotherapy

Tonic-clonic seizure, Primary generalized; Adjunct



**1.3.1.A.1 Bipolar I disorder**

**a) Not Taking Enzyme-Inducing Antiepileptic Drugs or Valproic Acid**

1) The target dose of lamotrigine is 200 milligrams (mg)/day. Doses up to 400 mg/day as monotherapy benefit was observed at 400 mg/day as compared to 200 mg/day (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable tablets, 2009)

2) For patients not taking carbamazepine (or other enzyme-inducing drugs) or valproic acid:

Weeks 1 and 2:	25 mg/day
Weeks 3 and 4:	50 mg/day
Week 5:	100 mg/day
Week 6:	200 mg/day
Week 7:	200 mg/day (target dose)

**b) Added to Valproic Acid Regimen**

1) The target dose of lamotrigine in combination with valproic acid is 100 mg/day (Prod Info LAMICTAL disintegrating tablets, 2009):

2) For patients taking valproic acid:

Weeks 1 and 2:	25 mg every other day
Weeks 3 and 4:	25 mg/day
Week 5:	50 mg/day
Week 6:	100 mg/day
Week 7:	100 mg/day (target dose)

**c) Added to Enzyme-Inducing Antiepileptic Drug Regimen (Without Valproic Acid)**

1) The target dose of lamotrigine in combination with carbamazepine or other enzyme-inducing drug dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

2) For patients taking carbamazepine (or other enzyme-inducing drugs), but not taking valproic acid:

Weeks 1 and 2:	50 mg/day
Weeks 3 and 4:	100 mg/day (divided doses)
Week 5:	200 mg/day (divided doses)
Week 6:	300 mg/day (divided doses)
Week 7:	400 mg/day (divided doses) (target dose)

**d) Adjustment - Discontinuation of Psychotropics**

1) For discontinuation of psychotropic drugs excluding valproic acid, carbamazepine, or other enzyme dose (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablet

**e) Adjustment - Discontinuation of Valproic Acid**

1) For patients discontinuing valproic acid, the dose of lamotrigine should be doubled over a 2-week period (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):

AFTER DISCONTINUATION OF VALPROIC ACID	
Current lamotrigine dose:	100 mg/day
Week 1:	150 mg/day
Week 2:	200 mg/day
Week 3 and onward:	200 mg/day

**f) Adjustment - Discontinuation of Carbamazepine**

1) For patients discontinuing carbamazepine or other enzyme-inducing agents, the dose of lamotrigine should be decreased by half over a 2-week period in equal weekly decrements. The dose may then be increased to 200 mg/day (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablet

AFTER DISCONTINUATION OF CARBAMAZEPINE OR OTHER ENZYME-INDUCING DRUGS	
Current lamotrigine dose:	400 mg/day
Week 1:	400 mg/day
Week 2:	300 mg/day
Week 3 and onward:	200 mg/day

**1.3.1.A.2 Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; Adjunct**

**a) With Valproic Acid**

1) For adult patients adding lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen containing valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):

Lamotrigine added to antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen containing valproic acid:

Weeks 1 and 2: 25 milligrams (mg) every other day

Weeks 3 and 4: 25 mg every day

Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 25 to 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve Usual maintenance dose: 100 to 400 mg/day (1 or 2 divided doses)

The usual maintenance dose in patients adding lamotrigine to valproic acid alone ranges

- b) Without Valproic Acid**
  - 1)** For adult patients receiving enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (carbamazepine, phenytoin) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):  
Lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without valproic acid:  
Weeks 1 and 2: 50 mg/day  
Weeks 3 and 4: 100 mg/day (in 2 divided doses)  
Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 100 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve Usual maintenance dose: 300 to 500 mg/day (in two divided doses)
- c) With Antiepileptic Drugs Not Containing Enzyme-Inducing Properties or Valproic Acid**
  - 1)** For adult patients adding lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen not containing enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):  
Lamotrigine added to AED regimen not containing drug-inducing AED or valproic acid:  
Weeks 1 and 2: 25 mg/day  
Weeks 3 and 4: 50 mg/day  
Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve Usual maintenance dose: 225 to 375 mg/day (in 2 divided doses)

**1.3.1.A.3 Partial seizure, Adjunct or monotherapy**

- a) With Valproic Acid**
  - 1)** For patients age 13 years or older adding extended-release lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009):  
Extended-release lamotrigine added to AED regimen containing valproic acid:  
Weeks 1 and 2: 25 milligrams (mg) once every other day  
Weeks 3 and 4: 25 mg once daily  
Week 5: 50 mg once daily  
Week 6: 100 mg once daily  
Week 7: 150 mg once daily  
Week 8 onwards to maintenance: 200 to 250 mg once daily  
Dose increase at week 8 or later should not exceed 100 mg daily at weekly intervals
  - 2)** For adult patients adding chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):  
Chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrigine added to AED regimen containing valproic acid:  
Weeks 1 and 2: 25 milligrams (mg) every other day  
Weeks 3 and 4: 25 mg every day  
Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 25 to 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve Usual maintenance dose: 100 to 400 mg/day (1 or 2 divided doses)  
The usual maintenance dose in patients adding lamotrigine to valproic acid alone ranges
- b) Without Valproic Acid**
  - 1)** (extended-release tablets) For patients 13 years or older receiving enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (phenobarbital, or primidone) without valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009):  
Extended-release lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without valproic acid:  
Weeks 1 and 2: 50 mg once daily  
Weeks 3 and 4: 100 mg once daily  
Week 5: 200 mg once daily  
Week 6: 300 mg once daily  
Week 7: 400 mg once daily  
Week 8 onwards to maintenance: 400 to 600 mg once daily  
Dose increase at week 8 or later should not exceed 100 mg daily at weekly intervals
  - 2)** (chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating tablets) For adult patients receiving enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (phenytoin, phenobarbital, or primidone) without valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):  
Chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without valproic acid:  
Weeks 1 and 2: 50 mg/day  
Weeks 3 and 4: 100 mg/day (in 2 divided doses)  
Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 100 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve Usual maintenance dose: 300 to 500 mg/day (in two divided doses)
- c) With Antiepileptic Drugs Not Containing Enzyme-Inducing Properties or Valproic Acid**
  - 1)** For patients 13 years or older adding extended-release lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen not containing enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009):  
Extended-release lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without valproic acid:  
Weeks 1 and 2: 25 mg once daily  
Weeks 3 and 4: 50 mg once daily  
Week 5: 100 mg once daily  
Week 6: 150 mg once daily  
Week 7: 200 mg once daily

Week 8 onwards to maintenance: 300 to 400 mg once daily

Dose increase at week 8 or later should not exceed 100 mg daily at weekly intervals

- 2) For adult patients adding chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen containing valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):

Chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrigine added to AED regimen not containing valproic acid:

Weeks 1 and 2: 25 mg/day

Weeks 3 and 4: 50 mg/day

Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve maintenance

Usual maintenance dose: 225 to 375 mg/day (in 2 divided doses)

- d) Conversion from Immediate-Release to Extended-Release Formulation

- 1) The initial dose of extended-release lamotrigine in patients age 13 years and older should match the initial dose of immediate-release lamotrigine. Depending on the therapeutic response after conversion, the total daily dose may need to be adjusted. (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

- e) Conversion to Monotherapy, With Enzyme-Inducing Antiepileptic Drug

- 1) The recommended dose for conversion from adjunctive therapy with a single-enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drug to monotherapy in patients 16 years-old and older, is 500 milligrams/day (mg/day) given in 2 divided doses. Lamotrigine should be titrated as follows (Prod Info LAMICTAL orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):

Weeks 1 and 2: 50 mg/day

Weeks 3 and 4: 100 mg/day (in two divided doses)

Doses may be increased by 100 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve maintenance.

After achieving a dose of 500 mg/day of lamotrigine, withdrawal of the concomitant drug should be initiated over a 4-week period.

- f) Conversion to Monotherapy, With Valproic Acid

The recommended dose for conversion from adjunctive therapy with valproic acid to monotherapy with lamotrigine is 500 milligrams/day (mg/day) given in 2 divided doses. The conversion regimen involves 4 steps. Firstly, the valproic acid dose is maintained at a fixed level. Lamotrigine should be titrated as follows (Prod Info LAMICTAL orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):

Weeks 1 and 2: 25 mg every other day

Weeks 3 and 4: 25 mg every day

Doses may be increased by 25 to 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve the target dose.

Secondly, while maintaining the lamotrigine dose at 200 mg/day, valproic acid should be gradually decreased to 500 mg/day per week. This regimen should be maintained for 1 week. Thirdly, the lamotrigine dose is simultaneously decreased to 250 mg/day. This regimen should also be maintained for 1 week. Fourthly, valproic acid is completely discontinued and lamotrigine should be increased by 100 mg/day every week until the recommended maintenance dose of 500 mg/day is achieved. (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

- g) Conversion to Monotherapy, With Non-Enzyme-Inducing Antiepileptic Drug

- 1) The effects of non-enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs other than valproic acid on the metabolism of lamotrigine are not well defined. No dosing guidelines can be provided for the safe and effective conversion to monotherapy with lamotrigine. (Prod Info LAMICTAL orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

- h) Partial Seizures - Refractory

- 1) In the treatment of simple and complex partial seizures refractory to multiple combinations of antiepileptic drugs, lamotrigine 500 mg/day has been effective. Dose adjustments are made based on clinical response rather than plasma levels in the range of 1 to 4 micrograms/milliliter (Graves & Leppik, 1991; Jawad

#### 1.3.1.A.4 Tonic-clonic seizure, Primary generalized; Adjunctive

- a) With Valproic Acid

- 1) For adult patients adding lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen containing valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):

Lamotrigine added to antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen containing valproic acid:

Weeks 1 and 2: 25 milligrams (mg) every other day

Weeks 3 and 4: 25 mg every day

Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 25 to 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve maintenance

Usual maintenance dose: 100 to 400 mg/day (1 or 2 divided doses)

The usual maintenance dose in patients adding lamotrigine to valproic acid alone ranges from 100 to 400 mg/day.

- b) Without Valproic Acid

- 1) For adult patients receiving enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (carbamazepine, phenytoin) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):

Lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without valproic acid:

Weeks 1 and 2: 50 mg/day

Weeks 3 and 4: 100 mg/day (in 2 divided doses)

Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 100 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve maintenance

Usual maintenance dose: 300 to 500 mg/day (in two divided doses)

- c) With Antiepileptic Drugs Not Containing Enzyme-Inducing Properties or Valproic Acid

- 1) For adult patients adding lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen not containing enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):

Lamotrigine added to AED regimen not containing enzyme-inducing AED or valproic acid:

Weeks 1 and 2: 25 mg/day

Weeks 3 and 4: 50 mg/day  
Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve  
Usual maintenance dose: 225 to 375 mg/day (in 2 divided doses)

**1.3.1.B Important Note**

- 1) Use caution when dispensing lamotrigine (Lamictal(R), Lamisil(R), lamivudine, Ludiomil(R), labetalol, and errors involving these similarly named medications (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, o
- 2) Safety and efficacy of lamotrigine has not been established (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible or 2009):
  - as initial monotherapy
  - for conversion to monotherapy from a non-enzyme-inducing antiepileptic agent other than valproic acid
  - for simultaneous conversion to monotherapy from 2 or more concomitant antiepileptic drugs

**1.3.1.C Withdrawal**

- 1) In patients requiring discontinuation of lamotrigine, the dosage should be decreased by about 50% per week. In patients whose safety require a more rapid withdrawal. Discontinuing an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic agent should be done gradually. Discontinuing valproic acid should shorten the half-life of lamotrigine (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible extended-release tablets, 2009).

**1.3.2 Dosage in Renal Failure**

- A) Use reduced maintenance doses in patients with significant renal impairment. Use with caution in patients with renal impairment. (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).
- B) Twenty volunteers with chronic renal failure (mean creatinine clearance 13 milliliters/minute) were given a single 600 milligram dose of lamotrigine. The elimination half-life was prolonged compared to that observed in volunteers with normal renal function (50 hours vs 25 hours). Another 600 milligram dose of lamotrigine. On average, approximately 17% (range 5.6% to 35.1%) of lamotrigine was removed during hemodialysis was 12.2 hours, while that between sessions was 59.6 hours (Fillastre et al, 2009).
- C) Dosage of lamotrigine need not be altered in the presence of impaired renal function since lamotrigine disposition is not significantly altered. The pharmacokinetics of lamotrigine in 10 subjects with renal failure (estimated creatinine clearance of 10.6 to 25.0 mL/min) were similar to those in subjects with normal renal function since lamotrigine was largely cleared by metabolism and not by renal excretion. Therefore, impaired renal function would have little effect on the plasma concentrations of lamotrigine.

**1.3.3 Dosage in Hepatic Insufficiency**

- A) The manufacturer recommends that in patients with moderate and severe liver impairment without ascites, the initial, escalation, and maintenance dosing should be reduced by approximately 25%. In patients with severe hepatic impairment with ascites, the initial, escalation, and maintenance dosing should be reduced by approximately 50%. Clinical response should also be considered during escalation and maintenance dosing (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

**1.3.6 Dosage in Other Disease States**

- A) Hyperbilirubinemia
  - 1) Elimination of lamotrigine is not significantly impaired in patients with Gilbert's syndrome (unconjugated hyperbilirubinemia).
- B) Pregnancy
  - 1) Dose-normalized lamotrigine concentrations progressively decreased during pregnancy with a 40% and 60% decrease in women on lamotrigine monotherapy in 2 retrospective studies (n=12 and n=11, respectively). Lamotrigine clearance decreased during pregnancy in a retrospective (n=12) and prospective (n=14) study, respectively. The clearance and concentration of lamotrigine decreased during pregnancy. Other evidence suggest that there was a less pronounced reduction in lamotrigine plasma concentration in patients receiving enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs or valproic acid (Tomson & Battino, 2007).
  - 2) Lamotrigine clearance increased by more than 50% in some women at the onset of pregnancy with a drug effect reversed soon after delivery. Increased doses of lamotrigine may be required to maintain therapeutic levels during pregnancy (Tran et al, 2002a).

**1.4 Pediatric Dosage**

Normal Dosage

Dosage in Renal Failure

Dosage in Hepatic Insufficiency

Dosage in Other Disease States

**1.4.1 Normal Dosage**

**1.4.1.A Oral route**

Convulsions in the newborn, Intractable

Epilepsy, Refractory

Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; Adjunct

Partial seizure, Adjunct or monotherapy

Status epilepticus

Tonic-clonic seizure, Primary generalized; Adjunct

**1.4.1.A.1 Convulsions in the newborn, Intractable**

a) Adjunctive lamotrigine was successful in reducing the number of seizures in patients with intractable label study. In neonates who were taking enzyme-inducing agents, doses up to 10 milligrams per kilogram between 1 and 12 months of age, who were taking enzyme-inducing agents, final doses ranged between of age, taking valproate and enzyme inducers, were dosed between 5 to 10 mg/kg/day. In infants between mg/kg/day was the final dose (Mikati et al, 2002).

**1.4.1.A.2 Epilepsy, Refractory**

a) Lamotrigine is effective in intractable childhood epilepsy. Doses of lamotrigine 2 to 15 milligrams/kilogram (maximum of 15 milligrams/kilogram/day used in patients on enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (AEDs, valproate only) (Gibbs et al, 1992); (Yven et al, 1992)(Mims, 1992; Hosking, 1993; Pons, 1993).

**1.4.1.A.3 Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; Adjunct**

a) Age 2 to 12 Years

1) With Valproic Acid

a) For patients 2 to 12 years of age adding lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen (dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):

Lamotrigine added to AED regimen containing valproic acid in patients 2 to 12 years of age  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 0.15 milligram/kilogram/day (mg/kg/day) in one or two divided doses, 1 tablets should be used for dosing

Weeks 3 and 4: 0.3 mg/kg/day in one or two divided doses, rounded down to the nearest  
 Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased every 1 to 2 weeks by 0.3 mg/kg/day, to the previously administered daily dose to achieve maintenance.

Usual maintenance dose: 1 to 5 mg/kg/day (maximum 200 mg/day in 1 or 2 divided doses)  
 The usual maintenance dose in patients adding lamotrigine to valproic acid alone

Maintenance doses in patients weighing less than 30 kg may need to be increased  
 INITIAL WEIGHT BASED DOSING GUIDE:

Patient weight 6.7 to 14 kg, dose for weeks 1 and 2 is 2 mg every other day; dose  
 Patient weight 14.1 to 27 kg, dose for weeks 1 and 2 is 2 mg every day; dose for  
 Patient weight 27.1 to 34 kg, dose for weeks 1 and 2 is 4 mg every day; dose for  
 Patient weight 34.1 to 40 kg, dose for weeks 1 and 2 is 5 mg every day; dose for

2) Without Valproic Acid

a) For patients age 2 to 12 years old receiving enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (c without valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally  
 Lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without valproic acid in patients 2 to 12 years of age:

Weeks 1 and 2: 0.6 milligram/kilogram/day (mg/kg/day) in two divided doses, rounded  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 1.2 mg/kg/day in two divided doses, rounded down to the nearest whc  
 Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased every 1 to 2 weeks by 1.2 mg/kg/day, to the previously administered daily dose to achieve maintenance.

Usual maintenance dose: 5 to 15 mg/kg/day (maximum 400 mg/day in 2 divided doses)  
 Maintenance doses in patients weighing less than 30 kg may need to be increased

3) With Antiepileptic Drugs Not Containing Enzyme-Inducing Properties or Valproic Acid

a) For patients 2 to 12 years of age adding lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen r acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating ta  
 Lamotrigine added to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen not containing drug-inducing AE

Weeks 1 and 2: 0.3 milligram/kilogram/day (mg/kg/day) in one or two divided doses, rc  
 tablets should be used for dosing.

Weeks 3 and 4: 0.6 mg/kg/day in two divided doses, rounded down to the nearest whc  
 Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased every 1 to 2 weeks by 0.6 mg/kg/day, to the previously administered daily dose to achieve maintenance.

Usual maintenance dose: 4.5 to 7.5 mg/kg/day (maximum 300 mg/day in 2 divided doses)  
 Maintenance doses in patients weighing less than 30 kg may need to be increased

b) Age 12 Years and Older

1) With Valproic Acid

- a) For patients 12 years and older adding lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen containing valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):  
 Lamotrigine added to antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen containing valproic acid:  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 25 milligrams (mg) every other day  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 25 mg every day  
 Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 25 to 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks  
 Usual maintenance dose: 100 to 400 mg/day (1 or 2 divided doses)  
 The usual maintenance dose in patients adding lamotrigine to valproic acid alone

2) Without Valproic Acid

- a) For patients 12 years and older receiving enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, or primidone) without valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):  
 Lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without valproic acid:  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 50 mg/day  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 100 mg/day (in 2 divided doses)  
 Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 100 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve  
 Usual maintenance dose: 300 to 500 mg/day (in two divided doses)

3) With Antiepileptic Drugs Not Containing Enzyme-Inducing Properties or Valproic Acid

- a) For patients 12 years and older adding lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen not containing valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):  
 Lamotrigine added to AED regimen not containing drug-inducing AED or valproic acid:  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 25 mg/day  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 50 mg/day  
 Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achieve  
 Usual maintenance dose: 225 to 375 mg/day (in 2 divided doses)

**1.4.1.A.4 Partial seizure, Adjunct or monotherapy**

a) Extended-release Tablets, Age 13 Years and Older

1) With Valproic Acid

- a) For patients 13 years of age and older adding extended-release lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen containing valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009):  
 Extended-release lamotrigine added to AED regimen containing valproic acid:  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 25 milligrams (mg) once every other day  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 25 mg once daily  
 Week 5: 50 mg once daily  
 Week 6: 100 mg once daily  
 Week 7: 150 mg once daily  
 Week 8 onwards to maintenance: 200 to 250 mg once daily  
 Dose increase at week 8 or later should not exceed 100 mg daily at weekly intervals

1) Without Valproic Acid

- a) (extended-release tablets) For patients 13 years or older receiving enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, or primidone) without valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009):  
 Extended-release lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without valproic acid:  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 50 mg once daily  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 100 mg once daily  
 Week 5: 200 mg once daily  
 Week 6: 300 mg once daily  
 Week 7: 400 mg once daily  
 Week 8 onwards to maintenance: 400 to 600 mg once daily  
 Dose increase at week 8 or later should not exceed 100 mg daily at weekly intervals

2) With Antiepileptic Drugs Not Containing Enzyme-Inducing Properties or Valproic Acid

- a) For patients 13 years or older adding extended-release lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen not containing valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009):  
 Extended-release lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without valproic acid:  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 25 mg once daily  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 50 mg once daily  
 Week 5: 100 mg once daily  
 Week 6: 150 mg once daily  
 Week 7: 200 mg once daily  
 Week 8 onwards to maintenance: 300 to 400 mg once daily  
 Dose increase at week 8 or later should not exceed 100 mg daily at weekly intervals

2) Conversion from Immediate-Release to Extended-Release Formulation

- a) The initial dose of extended-release lamotrigine in patients age 13 years and older should match the initial dose of immediate-release lamotrigine. Depending on the therapeutic response after conversion, the total daily dose may be adjusted (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

b) Chewable Dispersible or Orally Disintegrating Tablets, Age 2 to 12 Years

1) With Valproic Acid

- a) For patients 2 to 12 years of age adding chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen containing valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):  
 Lamotrigine added to antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen containing valproic acid:  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 25 milligrams (mg) every other day  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 25 mg every day  
 Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 25 to 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks  
 Usual maintenance dose: 100 to 400 mg/day (1 or 2 divided doses)  
 The usual maintenance dose in patients adding lamotrigine to valproic acid alone

Chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrigine added to AED regimen containing  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 0.15 milligram/kilogram/day (mg/kg/day) in one or two divided doses, 1  
 tablets should be used for dosing  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 0.3 mg/kg/day in one or two divided doses, rounded down to the near  
 Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased every 1 to 2 weeks by 0.3 mg/kg/day, r  
 the previously administered daily dose to achieve maintenance.

Usual maintenance dose: 1 to 5 mg/kg/day (maximum 200 mg/day in 1 or 2 divided do  
 The usual maintenance dose in patients adding lamotrigine to valproic acid alone  
 Maintenance doses in patients weighing less than 30 kg may need to be increase  
 INITIAL WEIGHT BASED DOSING GUIDE:

Patient weight 6.7 to 14 kg, dose for weeks 1 and 2 is 2 mg every OTHER day; dc  
 Patient weight 14.1 to 27 kg, dose for weeks 1 and 2 is 2 mg every day; dose for v  
 Patient weight 27.1 to 34 kg, dose for weeks 1 and 2 is 4 mg every day; dose for v  
 Patient weight 34.1 to 40 kg, dose for weeks 1 and 2 is 5 mg every day; dose for v

2) Without Valproic Acid

a) For patients age 2 to 12 years old receiving enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (c  
 without valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally  
 Chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without v  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 0.6 milligram/kilogram/day (mg/kg/day) in two divided doses, rounded  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 1.2 mg/kg/day in two divided doses, rounded down to the nearest whc  
 Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased every 1 to 2 weeks by 1.2 mg/kg/day, r  
 the previously administered daily dose to achieve maintenance.  
 Usual maintenance dose: 5 to 15 mg/kg/day (maximum 400 mg/day in 2 divided doses  
 Maintenance doses in patients weighing less than 30 kg may need to be increase

3) With Antiepileptic Drugs Not Containing Enzyme-Inducing Properties or Valproic Acid

a) For patients 2 to 12 years of age adding chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotri  
 containing enzyme-inducing properties or valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispers  
 2009):

Chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrigine added to an antiepileptic drug (AE  
 valproic acid in patients 2 to 12 years of age:

Weeks 1 and 2: 0.3 milligram/kilogram/day (mg/kg/day) in one or two divided doses, rc  
 tablets should be used for dosing.

Weeks 3 and 4: 0.6 mg/kg/day in two divided doses, rounded down to the nearest whc  
 Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased every 1 to 2 weeks by 0.6 mg/kg/day, r  
 the previously administered daily dose to achieve maintenance.

Usual maintenance dose: 4.5 to 7.5 mg/kg/day (maximum 300 mg/day in 2 divided dos  
 Maintenance doses in patients weighing less than 30 kg may need to be increase

c) Chewable Dispersible or Orally Disintegrating Tablets, Age 12 Years and Older

1) With Valproic Acid

a) For patients 12 years and older adding chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrig  
 valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintec  
 Chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrigine added to antiepileptic drug (AED)  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 25 milligrams (mg) every other day  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 25 mg every day  
 Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 25 to 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks  
 Usual maintenance dose: 100 to 400 mg/day (1 or 2 divided doses)  
 The usual maintenance dose in patients adding lamotrigine to valproic acid alone

2) Without Valproic Acid

a) For patients 12 years and older receiving enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (cart  
 without valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally  
 Chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without v  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 50 mg/day  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 100 mg/day (in 2 divided doses)  
 Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 100 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to a  
 Usual maintenance dose: 300 to 500 mg/day (in two divided doses)

3) With Antiepileptic Drugs Not Containing Enzyme-Inducing Properties or Valproic Acid

a) For patients 12 years and older adding chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrig  
 containing enzyme-inducing properties or valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispers  
 2009):

Chewable dispersible or orally disintegrating lamotrigine added to AED regimen not contain  
 Weeks 1 and 2: 25 mg/day  
 Weeks 3 and 4: 50 mg/day  
 Wee 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achi  
 Usual maintenance dose: 225 to 375 mg/day (in 2 divided doses)

1.4.1.A.5 Status epilepticus

a) Successful control of status epilepticus refractory to parenteral diazepam was achieved in one 17-ye  
 over 24 hours followed by 200 milligrams twice a day. Although this case report was encouraging, more

lamotrigine in status epilepticus (Pisani et al, 1991).

#### 1.4.1.A.6 Tonic-clonic seizure, Primary generalized; Adjunct

##### a) Age 2 to 12 Years

###### 1) With Valproic Acid

a) For patients 2 to 12 years of age adding lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen (dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009):

Lamotrigine added to AED regimen containing valproic acid in patients 2 to 12 years of age

Weeks 1 and 2: 0.15 milligram/kilogram/day (mg/kg/day) in one or two divided doses, 1 tablets should be used for dosing

Weeks 3 and 4: 0.3 mg/kg/day in one or two divided doses, rounded down to the nearest

Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased every 1 to 2 weeks by 0.3 mg/kg/day, to the previously administered daily dose to achieve maintenance.

Usual maintenance dose: 1 to 5 mg/kg/day (maximum 200 mg/day in 1 or 2 divided doses)

The usual maintenance dose in patients adding lamotrigine to valproic acid alone

Maintenance doses in patients weighing less than 30 kg may need to be increased

###### INITIAL WEIGHT BASED DOSING GUIDE:

Patient weight 6.7 to 14 kg, dose for weeks 1 and 2 is 2 mg every other day; dose

Patient weight 14.1 to 27 kg, dose for weeks 1 and 2 is 2 mg every day; dose for 1

Patient weight 27.1 to 34 kg, dose for weeks 1 and 2 is 4 mg every day; dose for 1

Patient weight 34.1 to 40 kg, dose for weeks 1 and 2 is 5 mg every day; dose for 1

###### 2) Without Valproic Acid

a) For patients age 2 to 12 years old receiving enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (without valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally

Lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without valproic acid in patients 2 to 12 years of age:

Weeks 1 and 2: 0.6 milligram/kilogram/day (mg/kg/day) in two divided doses, rounded

Weeks 3 and 4: 1.2 mg/kg/day in two divided doses, rounded down to the nearest whole

Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased every 1 to 2 weeks by 1.2 mg/kg/day, to the

previously administered daily dose to achieve maintenance.

Usual maintenance dose: 5 to 15 mg/kg/day (maximum 400 mg/day in 2 divided doses)

Maintenance doses in patients weighing less than 30 kg may need to be increased

###### 3) With Antiepileptic Drugs Not Containing Enzyme-Inducing Properties or Valproic Acid

a) For patients 2 to 12 years of age adding lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen (acid (valproic acid) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally

Lamotrigine added to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen not containing drug-inducing AED

Weeks 1 and 2: 0.3 milligram/kilogram/day (mg/kg/day) in one or two divided doses, 1 tablets should be used for dosing.

Weeks 3 and 4: 0.6 mg/kg/day in two divided doses, rounded down to the nearest whole

Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased every 1 to 2 weeks by 0.6 mg/kg/day, to the

previously administered daily dose to achieve maintenance.

Usual maintenance dose: 4.5 to 7.5 mg/kg/day (maximum 300 mg/day in 2 divided doses)

Maintenance doses in patients weighing less than 30 kg may need to be increased

##### b) Age 12 Years and Older

###### 1) With Valproic Acid

a) For patients 12 years and older adding lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen (oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006):

Lamotrigine added to antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen containing valproic acid:

Weeks 1 and 2: 25 milligrams (mg) every other day

Weeks 3 and 4: 25 mg every day

Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 25 to 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks

Usual maintenance dose: 100 to 400 mg/day (1 or 2 divided doses)

The usual maintenance dose in patients adding lamotrigine to valproic acid alone

###### 2) Without Valproic Acid

a) For patients 12 years and older receiving enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs (EIAED) (without valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 20

Lamotrigine added to EIAED regimen without valproic acid:

Weeks 1 and 2: 50 mg/day

Weeks 3 and 4: 100 mg/day (in 2 divided doses)

Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 100 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to a

Usual maintenance dose: 300 to 500 mg/day (in two divided doses)

###### 3) With Antiepileptic Drugs Not Containing Enzyme-Inducing Properties or Valproic Acid

a) For patients 12 years and older adding lamotrigine to an antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen (acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating ta

Lamotrigine added to AED regimen not containing drug-inducing AED or valproic acid:

Weeks 1 and 2: 25 mg/day

Weeks 3 and 4: 50 mg/day

Week 5 and onward: Doses may be increased by 50 mg/day every 1 to 2 weeks to achi

Usual maintenance dose: 225 to 375 mg/day (in 2 divided doses)



**1.4.1.B Important Note**

- 1) Safety and efficacy of extended-release lamotrigine has not been established in patients below 13 years of age (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) The risk of developing a potentially life-threatening rash is appreciably higher in children than in adults. Dose escalation regimens (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2007) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, 2007) may also be higher with concomitant valproic acid and divalproex sodium use (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, 2007) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).
- 3) Only whole tablets of the chewable dispersible tablets should be used. Doses should be rounded down to whole tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2007).

**1.4.2 Dosage in Renal Failure**

- A) Use reduced maintenance doses in patients with significant renal impairment. Use with caution in patients with moderate renal impairment (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).
- B) Dosage of lamotrigine need not be altered in the presence of impaired renal function since lamotrigine disposition is not significantly altered in patients with renal failure (estimated creatinine clearance of 10.6 to 25.0 mL/min). The maximum concentration and area-under-the curve were similar since lamotrigine was largely cleared by metabolism rather than excretion. Therefore, impaired renal function would have little effect on the plasma concentrations of lamotrigine.
- C) Twenty volunteers with chronic renal failure (mean creatinine clearance 13 milliliters/min) were given a single 600 milligram dose of lamotrigine. On average, approximately 17% (range 5.6 to 35.1%) of lamotrigine was removed during hemodialysis. The half-life in these patients during hemodialysis was 12.2 hours, while that between sessions was 59.6 hr (Fillastre et al, 1987).

**1.4.3 Dosage in Hepatic Insufficiency**

- A) The manufacturer recommends that in patients with moderate and severe liver impairment without ascites, the initial, escalation, and maintenance doses be reduced by approximately 25%. In patients with severe hepatic impairment with ascites, the initial, escalation, and maintenance doses should be reduced by approximately 50%. Clinical response should also be considered during escalation and maintenance dosing (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

**1.4.5 Dosage in Other Disease States**

- A) Hyperbilirubinemia
  - 1) Elimination of lamotrigine is not significantly impaired in patients with Gilbert's syndrome (unconjugated hyperbilirubinemia) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

**2.0 Pharmacokinetics**

Onset and Duration

Drug Concentration Levels

ADME

**2.1 Onset and Duration**

- A) Onset
  - 1) Initial Response
    - a) Seizure, oral: 3 months (Gibbs et al, 1992a; Jawad et al, 1989c).
- B) Duration
  - 1) Multiple Dose
    - a) Seizure, oral: at least 6 months (Gibbs et al, 1992a).

**2.2 Drug Concentration Levels**

- A) Therapeutic Drug Concentration
  - 1) Seizure, 1 to 4 mcg/mL (not well-established) (Garnett, 1997; Cohen et al, 1987a).
    - a) The therapeutic concentration range for lamotrigine has not been determined (Brodie, 1992) (Goa et al, 1993b; Naylor et al, 1993). Many patients have required higher levels (Garnett, 1997).
    - b) In children optimal levels have been between 0.5 to 5.4 mcg/ml (Battino et al, 1996)(Battino et al, 1995a).
    - c) Pharmacokinetics remained approximately linear within individuals (Battino et al, 1997; Bartoli et al, 1997).
    - d) Adults have a higher concentration to dose ratio than children (Battino et al, 1997; Bartoli et al, 1997).
    - e) Extended Release Tablets
      - 1) In an open-label, crossover study of 44 epileptic patients on concomitant ant-epileptic drugs (AEDs) extended-release lamotrigine once daily with immediate-release lamotrigine twice daily showed that steady-state lamotrigine concentrations were not significantly different from those of the immediate-release product. The degree of fluctuation decreased by 17%, 34% and 37% for extended-release lamotrigine administered concomitantly with carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, and primidone, valproic acid, or all other AEDS, respectively, compared with immediate-release lamotrigine was associated with lower peaks, longer time to peaks and lower peak-to-trough fluctuation (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

- B) Peak Concentration**
- 1) Oral, single dose: 0.58 to 4.63 mg/L (50 to 400 mg)(Goa et al, 1993b; Prod Info Lamictal, 94; Prod Info Lamictal, 94; Prod Info Lamictal, 94; Prod Info Lamictal, 97; Goa et al, 1993b).
    - a) Peak plasma concentrations increased linearly from 0.58 to 4.63 mg/L in healthy subjects administered 50 mg (Goa et al, 1993b; Prod Info Lamictal, 94; Prod Info Lamictal, 97; Goa et al, 1993b).
    - b) In two small studies of patients with epilepsy, plasma concentrations increased linearly with doses of 50 to 400 mg (11/22/95.).
  - c) Extended Release Tablet
    - 1) In an open-label, crossover study of 44 epileptic patients on concomitant anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs) ; extended-release lamotrigine once daily with immediate-release lamotrigine twice daily showed a mean 12% decrease in C<sub>max</sub> with extended-release lamotrigine. Analysis of the data based on concomitant AED use showed, the decrease in C<sub>max</sub> inducing AEDs (ie, carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, and primidone), 12% for patients receiving extended-release lamotrigine with concomitant AEDs, 12% for patients receiving immediate-release lamotrigine with concomitant AEDs (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).
  - d) Rectal Administration
    - 1) A peak concentration of 0.54 mcg/mL was achieved in 6.5 hours in 12 healthy adults after rectal administration compared with a peak concentration of 1.43 mcg/mL in 0.79 hour after oral administration of lamotrigine 100 mg (Birnbaum et al, 2001).
- C) Time to Peak Concentration**
- 1) Oral: (adult) 1.4 hours to 4.8 hours (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
    - a) Immediate-Release
      - a) In healthy volunteers and adult patients with epilepsy, peak plasma concentration was achieved 1.4 to 4.8 hours after oral administration (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
      - b) A second peak has been reported at 4 to 6 hours, possibly due to enterohepatic recycling (Garnett et al, 1997).
    - 2) Extended Release Tablet
      - a) In an open-label, crossover study of 44 epileptic patients on concomitant anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs) comparison of extended-release lamotrigine once daily with immediate-release lamotrigine twice daily (T<sub>max</sub>) following administration of extended-release lamotrigine was 4 to 11 hours compared with 1 to 6 hours for immediate-release lamotrigine. Specifically, in patients receiving concomitant enzyme inducing AEDs (ie carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, and primidone), the T<sub>max</sub> was approximately 4 to 6 hours; in patients receiving concomitant valproic acid, the T<sub>max</sub> was 9 to 11 hours; in patients receiving concomitant AEDs (ie carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, and primidone), the T<sub>max</sub> was 6 to 10 hours (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).
    - 3) Rectal Administration
      - a) A peak concentration of 0.54 mcg/mL was achieved in 6.5 hours in 12 healthy adults after rectal administration compared with a peak concentration of 1.43 mcg/mL in 0.79 hour after oral administration of lamotrigine 100 mg (Birnbaum et al, 2001).
  - 2) Oral: (pediatric) 1.6 hours to 5.2 hours (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
    - a) Adults
      - 1) Immediate-Release
        - a) In healthy volunteers and adult patients with epilepsy, peak plasma concentration was achieved 1.6 to 5.2 hours after oral administration (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
        - b) A second peak has been reported at 4 to 6 hours, possibly due to enterohepatic recycling (Garnett et al, 1997).
      - 2) Extended Release Tablet
        - a) In an open-label, crossover study of 44 epileptic patients on concomitant anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs) comparison of extended-release lamotrigine once daily with immediate-release lamotrigine twice daily (T<sub>max</sub>) following administration of extended-release lamotrigine was 1.6 to 5.2 hours compared with 1 to 6 hours for immediate-release lamotrigine. Specifically, in patients receiving concomitant enzyme inducing AEDs (ie carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, and primidone), the T<sub>max</sub> was approximately 1.6 to 5.2 hours; in patients receiving concomitant valproic acid, the T<sub>max</sub> was 1.6 to 5.2 hours; in patients receiving concomitant AEDs (ie carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, and primidone), the T<sub>max</sub> was 1.6 to 5.2 hours (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).
      - 3) Rectal Administration
        - a) A peak concentration of 0.54 mcg/mL was achieved in 6.5 hours in 12 healthy adults after rectal administration compared with a peak concentration of 1.43 mcg/mL in 0.79 hour after oral administration of lamotrigine 100 mg (Birnbaum et al, 2001).
    - b) Pediatrics
      - 1) In pediatric patients with epilepsy, ages 10 months to 5.3 years old, the peak concentration was achieved 1.6 to 5.2 hours after oral administration of lamotrigine 100 mg compared with 1.6 to 5.2 hours after oral administration of lamotrigine 100 mg with concomitant carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital or valproate. The mean time to peak was 5.2 hours (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
      - 2) In pediatric patients with epilepsy, ages 5 to 11 years old, the mean peak concentration of lamotrigine was 1.6 to 5.2 mcg/mL compared with 1.6 to 5.2 mcg/mL with concomitant carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, or primidone; to 4.5 hours among patients taking lamotrigine 100 mg dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
      - 3) Peak concentrations in 3 neonates between the ages of 3 and 4 weeks, were obtained at 4 hours, with lamotrigine 100 mg (Mikati et al, 2003).
- D) Area Under the Curve**
- 1) Oral, (adult) 56.6 mg x hr/L (Garnett, 1997).
  - 2) Oral (elderly) 91.8 mg x hr/L (Garnett, 1997)
  - 3) Oral (pediatric) 61 mcg x hr/mL (Chen et al, 1999)
    - a) The AUC in adults was 56.6 mg x hr/L (Garnett, 1997)
    - b) Area under the curve was 55% higher in the elderly (91.8 mg x hr/L) (Garnett, 1997).
    - c) The AUC in children was 61 mcg x hr/mL (Chen et al, 1999).
  - d) Extended Release Tablet
    - 1) In an open-label, crossover study of 44 epileptic patients on concomitant anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs) ; extended-release lamotrigine once daily with immediate-release lamotrigine twice daily, showed the mean AUC with extended-release lamotrigine was approximately 21% lower than immediate-release lamotrigine in patients receiving concomitant AEDs (ie carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, and primidone), 6% lower in patients receiving concomitant valproic acid, and 6% lower in patients in this study, experienced up to 70% decrease in AUC when switched to the extended-release lamotrigine tablets, 2009).

## 2.3 ADME

### Absorption

Distribution

Metabolism

Excretion

Elimination Half-life

Extracorporeal Elimination

### 2.3.1 Absorption

#### A) Bioavailability

- 1) Oral tablets: 98% (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
  - a) Lamotrigine is rapidly and completely absorbed after oral administration with an absolute bioavailability of 98% (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
  - b) Lamotrigine chewable/dispersible tablets are equivalent to the compressed tablets in terms of rate and extent of absorption when dispersed in water, chewed, swallowed as whole or disintegrated in the mouth (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
  - c) The relative bioavailability was 0.52 when a lamotrigine 100-mg chewable dispersible tablet was administered orally and swallowed whole in 12 healthy adults (Birnbaum et al, 2001). The rectal suspension was prepared by dispersing the tablet in 6 mL of tap water (room temperature), followed by two 2-mL syringe-tubing rinses, with the suspension placed into a 6-mL syringe. The AUC for rectally administered lamotrigine was 29.68 mcg/mL x hr compared with 54.94 mcg/mL x hr (p < 0.001).

#### B) Effects of Food

- 1) No effect on systemic availability (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
  - a) The bioavailability of lamotrigine is not affected by food (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

### 2.3.2 Distribution

#### A) Distribution Sites

##### 1) Protein Binding

- a) Plasma protein: 55% (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
  - 1) Lamotrigine is approximately 55% bound to human plasma proteins at concentration from 1 to 1000 µg/mL (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

#### B) Distribution Kinetics

##### 1) Volume of Distribution

- a) adult, 0.9 to 1.3 L/kg (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 1999)
  - 1) The mean apparent volume of distribution of lamotrigine after oral administration ranges from 0.9 to 1.3 L/kg in healthy volunteers (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 1999).
  - 2) The volume of distribution in patients receiving concurrent antiepileptic therapy is 1.2 to 1.5 L/kg (Chen et al, 1999).
  - 3) The volume of distribution in children was 1.5 L/kg (Chen et al, 1999).

### 2.3.3 Metabolism

#### A) Metabolism Sites and Kinetics

- 1) Liver, extensive (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
- 2) Lamotrigine is metabolized primarily by glucuronic acid conjugation into inactive metabolites. When given to healthy volunteers, however, in patients receiving other anticonvulsants this may not occur (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

### 2.3.4 Excretion

#### A) Kidney

##### 1) Renal Clearance (rate)

- a) Adult, (healthy volunteers) 0.18 to 0.58 mL/min/kg; (epilepsy), 0.28 to 1.21 mL/min/kg (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)
  - 1) The mean apparent plasma clearance of lamotrigine was between 0.44 and 0.58 mL/min/kg in healthy volunteers taking lamotrigine alone, between 0.18 and 0.3 mL/min/kg in patients taking concomitant valproic acid (n=24) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
  - 2) The mean apparent plasma clearance of lamotrigine in adult patients with epilepsy taking concomitant lamotrigine was 0.53 mL/min/kg (n=25). When taken concomitantly with an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication, the mean apparent plasma clearance of lamotrigine was 0.26 to 0.48 mL/min/kg (n=41) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
- b) Elderly, 0.26 to 0.48 mL/min/kg (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)
  - 1) In 12 elderly volunteers between the ages of 65 and 76 years (mean creatinine clearance, 61 mL/min) the mean apparent plasma clearance of lamotrigine was 0.26 to 0.48 mL/min/kg (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

- was 0.40 mL/min/kg (range, 0.26 to 0.48 mL/min/kg) following a single 150-mg dose of lamotrigine (oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
- c) Gender, no effect (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)
    - 1) In general, the clearance of lamotrigine is not affected by gender. However, during dose escalation of valproic acid (n=77), the mean trough lamotrigine concentrations, unadjusted for weight, were higher in males (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
  - d) Hepatic Impairment, 0.15 to 0.3 mL/min/kg (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)
    - 1) Following a single 100-mg dose of lamotrigine the mean apparent clearances of lamotrigine in patients with mild ascites (n=2), and severe with ascites (n=5) hepatic impairment were 0.30 +/- 0.09, 0.24 +/- 0.1, 0.2 compared with 0.37 +/- 0.1 mL/min/kg in the healthy control patients (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
  - e) Pediatric, 0.24 to 3.62 mL/min/kg (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)
    - 1) The mean apparent plasma clearance of lamotrigine in pediatric patients with epilepsy (age range 10 months to 12 years) on an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication regimen was 3.62 mL/min/kg (n=10). When lamotrigine was taken concomitantly with an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication regimen, the mean plasma clearance was 1.2 mL/min/kg (n=7), and was 0.4 mL/min/kg (n=8) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
    - 2) The mean apparent plasma clearance of lamotrigine in pediatric patients with epilepsy (age range 10 months to 12 years) on an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication regimen was 2.54 mL/min/kg (n=7). When lamotrigine was taken concomitantly with an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication regimen, the mean plasma clearance was 0.89 mL/min/kg (n=8), and was 0.2 mL/min/kg (n=3) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
    - 3) The mean apparent plasma clearance of lamotrigine in pediatric patients with epilepsy (age range 10 months to 12 years) on an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication regimen was 1.3 mL/min/kg (n=11). When lamotrigine was taken concomitantly with an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication regimen, the mean plasma clearance was 0.5 mL/min/kg (n=8), and was 0.3 mL/min/kg (n=4) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
    - 4) The mean apparent clearance in infants less than 2 months old was 0.119 liter per hour per kilogram (n=2) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
  - f) Race, 25% lower in non-Caucasians (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)
    - 1) The apparent clearance of lamotrigine was 25% lower in non-Caucasians than in Caucasians (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
  - g) Renal Impairment, 2 mL/min (Garnett, 1997)
    - 1) The clearance was reduced to 2 mL/min in patients with renal failure (Garnett, 1997).
- 2) Renal Excretion (%)
- a) 94% (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)
    - 1) Following oral administration in healthy volunteers, 94% of the drug was recovered in the urine (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009; Peck, 1991e).
- B) Feces
- 1) Feces, 2% (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)
    - a) After oral administration of lamotrigine, 2% was recovered in the feces (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

### 2.3.5 Elimination Half-life

- A) Parent Compound
- 1) ELIMINATION HALF-LIFE
    - a) Adult, (healthy volunteers) 25.4 to 70.3 hours; (epilepsy), 12.6 to 58.8 hours (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)
      - 1) The elimination half-life of lamotrigine in healthy adult volunteers (n=215) taking no other medication was 25.4 to 70.3 hours taken concomitantly with valproic acid (n=24) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
      - 2) The elimination half-life of lamotrigine in adult patients with epilepsy taking lamotrigine concomitantly with valproic acid and an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication regimen (n=41) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
    - b) Elderly, 31.2 hours (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)
      - 1) In 12 elderly volunteers between the ages of 65 and 76 years (mean creatinine clearance, 61 mL/min) the half-life was 31.2 hours (range, 24.5 to 43.4 hours) following a single 150-mg dose of lamotrigine (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
    - c) Hepatic Impairment, 46 +/- 20 hours to 100 +/- 48 hours (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)
      - 1) Following a single 100-mg dose of lamotrigine the mean half-life elimination of lamotrigine in patients with mild ascites (n=2), and severe with ascites (n=5) hepatic impairment were 46 +/- 20 hours, 72 +/- 44 hours compared with 33 +/- 7 hours in healthy control patients (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
    - d) Pediatric, 7 hours to 65.8 hours (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)
      - 1) The elimination half-life of lamotrigine in pediatric patients with epilepsy (age range, 10 months to 12 years) on an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication regimen (n=10). When taken concomitantly with an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication regimen, the half-life was 19 hours (n=7). When taken concomitantly with valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
      - 2) The mean elimination half-life of lamotrigine in pediatric patients with epilepsy (age range, 5 to 12 years) on an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication regimen was 7 hours (n=11). When lamotrigine was taken concomitantly with an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication regimen, the mean elimination half-life was 1.3 mL/min/kg (n=11). When lamotrigine was taken concomitantly with an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medication regimen, the mean plasma clearance was 0.5 mL/min/kg (n=8), and was 0.3 mL/min/kg (n=4) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

antiepileptic medication regimen was 7 hours (n=7). When lamotrigine was taken concomitantly with medication regimen, the elimination half-life was 19.1 hours (n=8). When taken concomitantly with v LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

- 3) The estimated half-life of lamotrigine in neonates taking enzyme-inducing agents was 23.4 hours
- e) Renal Impairment, 13 hours to 57.4 hours (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, or:
  - 1) Following a single 100-mg dose of lamotrigine, volunteers with chronic renal failure (n=12; mean patients undergoing hemodialysis (n=6) the mean plasma half-lives were 42.9 hours (chronic renal f (between hemodialysis) compared with 26.2 hours in healthy volunteers (Prod Info LAMICTAL chew disintegrating tablets, 2009).

**2.3.6 Extracorporeal Elimination**

**A) Hemodialysis**

- 1) Dialyzable: Yes (Prod Info Lamictal(R), 2003g; Garnett, 1997).
  - a) Approximately 20% (range, 5.6% to 35.1%) of the amount of lamotrigine present in the body was elir Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

**3.0 Cautions**

Contraindications

Precautions

Adverse Reactions

Teratogenicity/Effects in Pregnancy/Breastfeeding

Drug Interactions

**3.0.A Black Box WARNING**

- 1) Oral (Tablet; Tablet, Chewable; Tablet, Disintegrating; Tablet, Extended Release)
  - a) Serious Skin Rashes: Lamotrigine can cause serious rashes requiring hospitalization and discontinuation of tre included Stevens-Johnson syndrome, is approximately 0.8% (8 per 1,000) in pediatric patients (2 to 16 years of a lamotrigine as adjunctive therapy for epilepsy and 0.3% (3 per 1,000) in adults on adjunctive therapy for epilepsy. patients (2 to 16 years of age) with epilepsy taking adjunctive immediate-release formulation of lamotrigine, there experience, rare cases of toxic epidermal necrolysis and/or rash-related death have been reported in adult and pe a precise estimate of the rate.
  - b) The risk of serious rash caused by treatment with lamotrigine is not expected to differ from that with the immec relatively limited treatment experience with lamotrigine makes it difficult to characterize the frequency and risk of s
  - c) Other than age, there are as yet no factors identified that are known to predict the risk of occurrence or the sev suggestions, yet to be proven, that the risk of rash may also be increased by (1) coadministration of lamotrigine w sodium), (2) exceeding the recommended initial dose of lamotrigine, or (3) exceeding the recommended dose esc in the absence of these factors.
  - d) Nearly all cases of life-threatening rashes caused by the immediate-release formulation of lamotrigine have oc However, isolated cases have occurred after prolonged treatment (eg, 6 months). Accordingly, duration of therapy potential risk heralded by the first appearance of a rash.
  - e) Although benign rashes are also caused by lamotrigine, it is not possible to predict reliably which rashes will p lamotrigine should ordinarily be discontinued at the first sign of rash, unless the rash is clearly not drug-related. D becoming life-threatening or permanently disabling or disfiguring (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

**3.1 Contraindications**

- A) hypersensitivity to lamotrigine or any component of the product (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tal Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)

**3.2 Precautions**

- A) skin rash, serious and potentially life-threatening, has been reported; discontinue drug if alternate etiology for reac dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release
- B) concomitant use with valproic acid; dose adjustment may be required (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- C) pediatric patients (2 to 16 years of age); higher rate of serious rash (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible ora Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- D) abrupt drug discontinuation should be avoided due to the potential for increased seizure frequency (Prod Info LAM orally disintegrating tablets, 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- E) allergy to other antiepileptic drugs, preexisting; lamotrigine may increase risk of nonserious rash (Prod Info LAMIC disintegrating tablets, 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)

- F)** bipolar disorder, treatment of; possible increased risk for worsening depression or suicidality (Prod Info LAMICTAL disintegrating tablets, 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- G)** blood dyscrasias (ie, neutropenia, anemia, leukopenia, pancytopenia, thrombocytopenia, aplastic anemia, pure red LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- H)** hypersensitivity reactions, including life-threatening or fatal reactions, have occurred; discontinuation of therapy may occur (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- I)** multiorgan failure, acute, including fatal and irreversible cases, has occurred (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- J)** status epilepticus, sudden and unexplained deaths, may occur (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009; Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- K)** suicidality, increased risk of; monitoring recommended (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009; US Food and Drug Administration, 2008)

### 3.3 Adverse Reactions

Cardiovascular Effects

Dermatologic Effects

Endocrine/Metabolic Effects

Gastrointestinal Effects

Hematologic Effects

Hepatic Effects

Immunologic Effects

Musculoskeletal Effects

Neurologic Effects

Ophthalmic Effects

Psychiatric Effects

Renal Effects

Reproductive Effects

Respiratory Effects

Other

#### 3.3.1 Cardiovascular Effects

Chest pain

EKG finding

Hypotension

##### 3.3.1.A Chest pain

- 1) Incidence: 3% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, chest pain was treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 1% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod

2009).

**3.3.1.B EKG finding**

- 1) Premarketing studies have shown a minor incidence of increased PR interval, which were not clinically significant (Matsuo et al, 1993a). One case of a patient who had first-degree heart block was also reported (Betts et al, 2009).
- 2) Literature Reports
  - a) First-degree heart block was reported in one patient receiving lamotrigine therapy; however, this was an athlete, continued to run marathons while continuing lamotrigine treatment. Another patient had inverted electrocardiogram (EKG) performed 2 weeks after discontinuing lamotrigine was still abnormal, so this effect was not ruled out (1991).

**3.3.1.C Hypotension**

- 1) Two children had hypotensive episodes, with blood pressure 77/45 millimeters of mercury in one child, after starting lamotrigine. Both children subsequently suffered multiorgan dysfunction, which reversed several days following discontinuation of lamotrigine. This represents lamotrigine-associated anticonvulsant hypersensitivity syndrome (Chattergoon et al, 1997b).

**3.3.2 Dermatologic Effects**

Alopecia

Erythema multiforme

Fixed drug eruption

Flushing

Rash

Stevens-Johnson syndrome

Summary

Toxic epidermal necrolysis

**3.3.2.A Alopecia**

- 1) Incidence: 2% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, alopecia was observed in 1% of patients treated with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 1% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

**3.3.2.B Erythema multiforme**

- 1) Summary
  - a) Multiforme erythema has been rarely reported during clinical trials of pediatric and adult patients receiving lamotrigine extended-release tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 2) Incidence: rare (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006)

**3.3.2.C Fixed drug eruption**

- 1) Case Report
  - a) Lamotrigine was associated with an extensive fixed drug eruption developed in a 54-year-old man. The eruption was rapidly improved with systemic corticosteroids (Hsiao et al, 2001).
- 2) Literature Reports
  - a) A 54-year-old man developed an extensive fixed drug eruption caused by lamotrigine. His medical history included spinocerebellar degeneration; his medications were haloperidol 1 to 5 milligrams (mg) as required, baclofen 10 mg daily, and bisacodyl 10 mg at bedtime. For the previous month and one-half, the patient had been taking valproate. Due to poor control of his seizures, lamotrigine 50 mg twice daily was added to the valproate. He developed a rash, described as red to violaceous, round patches and plaques with central erosions over the periorbital area and subsequently spread to the trunk and extremities. Skin biopsy revealed extensive infiltration of lymphocytes, histiocytes, eosinophils, and melanophages. Fixed drug eruption due to lamotrigine was suspected, and lamotrigine was withdrawn, and Solu-Medrol 40 mg/day initiated. Rapid improvement occurred. Nine weeks later, patch testing with lamotrigine was the causal agent. When patch-test lamotrigine was applied to previously uninvolved areas, reactions appeared only on the previously involved areas (Hsiao et al, 2001).

**3.3.2.D Flushing**

- 1) Incidence: 3% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, hot flush was a treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 0% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod 2009).

**3.3.2.E Rash**

- 1) Incidence: 10% adult; 14% pediatric (immediate-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) Immediate Release
  - a) Maculopapular and erythematous rashes have been reported with therapeutic doses of lamotrigine (F dispersible oral tablets, 2006; Messenheimer et al, 1998; Matsuo et al, 1993a). Retrospective evaluation United Kingdom epilepsy clinics identified 12 cases of serious skin rash (1.1%). Nonserious rashes occurred determined the following significant (p less than 0.05) risk factors: higher starting dose, concomitant sodium Reports from clinical use have suggested (although not proven) that, besides age below 16 years, the factors for developing a severe potentially life-threatening rash (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006). Concomitant use of valproic acid or antibiotics known to cause skin rashes; 2) Administration of lamotrigine manufacturer; 3) Escalating the lamotrigine dose at a faster rate than recommended by the manufacturer
- 3) Literature Reports
  - a) Retrospective evaluation of 1050 records of lamotrigine recipients from five United Kingdom epilepsy clinics. The relative risk of lamotrigine-related rash in females compared to males was 1.83 (95% confidence interval 1.1-3.0). Serious rash included concomitant sodium valproate (n=12), female gender (n=10), and starting daily dose. The risk of serious rash decreased following the manufacturer-recommended initial dose reduction in 1994, the overall risk after this time point (Wong et al, 1999).
  - b) PEDIATRIC REVIEW - A comprehensive review of manufacturer data encompassing 13 clinical trials in the pediatric population. As add-on therapy, the mean lamotrigine dose and duration were 5.5 mg/kg/day and 22 weeks respectively. As monotherapy, the mean dose and duration were 2.9 mg/kg/day and 22 weeks, respectively. The most common effect was rash. (Messenheimer et al, 2000). One such add-on study, involving 1983 pediatric patients, rashes occurred with oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006). In all monotherapy trials, the corresponding event rate for rash was 12.6%, leading to discontinuation in 4.7% of children (Messenheimer et al, 2000).
  - c) In a series of 68 consecutive children treated with lamotrigine at a pediatric medical center, five (7%) required hospitalization, one with Stevens-Johnson syndrome. The authors conclude that lamotrigine should be discontinued within two to eight weeks of initiation of therapy; if rechallenge is considered, it should be done with a very low dose. In a study of 14 children, lamotrigine was withdrawn due to rash (two cases) and hirsutism (one case) (Barnes et al, 2000).
  - d) A 25-year-old man who had developed rash with lamotrigine was rechallenged and developed the rash again. He previously started on lamotrigine 25 milligrams/day titrated by 25 mg every 3 days for 2 weeks, and then increased to a daily dose of 300 mg/day. A slower titration was attempted and again after reaching 300 mg (after 7 weeks) made to decrease the dose to 150 mg and begin prednisone 20 mg, however, the rash persisted and lamotrigine was discontinued.
- 4) Management
  - a) Among 44 patients rechallenged with lamotrigine following lamotrigine-induced rash, 39 were successfully rechallenged. A systematic review including 2 case series, 2 case reports, and 1 retrospective record review of adults with bipolar disorder. The authors concluded that very slow titration is essential in the management of lamotrigine-induced rash. The following table outlines the number of successful lamotrigine rash rechallenges and the titration schedule.

Patients/study design	Total patients rechallenged or continued	Successful rechallenge/ continuation	
Children epilepsy case series (age 5 to 19 years)	7	7	Re-initiated after a washout period of 1 week; week 1: 0.1 mg/day; week 2: 0.1 mg/day; week 3: 0.1 mg/day; week 4: 0.1 mg/day; week 5: 1 mg/day; week 6: 1 mg/day; week 7: 1 mg/day; week 8: 1 mg/day; week 9: 1 mg/day; week 10: 6.25 mg/day; week 11: 6.25 mg/day; week 12: 6.25 mg/day; week 13: 6.25 mg/day; week 14: 6.25 mg/day; week 15: 6.25 mg/day; week 16: 6.25 mg/day; week 17: 6.25 mg/day; week 18: 6.25 mg/day; week 19: 6.25 mg/day; week 20: 6.25 mg/day; week 21: 6.25 mg/day; week 22: 6.25 mg/day; week 23: 6.25 mg/day; week 24: 6.25 mg/day; week 25: 6.25 mg/day; week 26: 6.25 mg/day; week 27: 6.25 mg/day; week 28: 6.25 mg/day; week 29: 6.25 mg/day; week 30: 6.25 mg/day; week 31: 6.25 mg/day; week 32: 6.25 mg/day; week 33: 6.25 mg/day; week 34: 6.25 mg/day; week 35: 6.25 mg/day; week 36: 6.25 mg/day; week 37: 6.25 mg/day; week 38: 6.25 mg/day; week 39: 6.25 mg/day; week 40: 6.25 mg/day; week 41: 6.25 mg/day; week 42: 6.25 mg/day; week 43: 6.25 mg/day; 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report			wks, 50 mg/day for 2
	Total	44	39

(Lorberg et al, 2009)

**5) Extended Release**

**a)** In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, rash was a treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 1% who received placebo (n=121). extended-release is not expected to be different from the immediate-release formulation (Prod Info LAMI

**3.3.2.F Stevens-Johnson syndrome**

- 1) Incidence: 0.08% to 0.8% (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) Severe and potentially life-threatening rashes, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, have been reported and 0.8% of pediatric epilepsy patients. Serious rashes were also reported in clinical trials of adult patients w lamotrigine as initial monotherapy and 0.13% for adjunctive therapy. Most cases have presented within 2 to 8 occurred after long-term treatment (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006)
- 3) A Stevens-Johnson-like syndrome appeared in one of 16 patients during the first year of lamotrigine treat discontinuation (Cocito et al, 1994).
- 4) Literature Reports
  - a) A case of Stevens-Johnson-Syndrome associated with lamotrigine therapy in a 30-year-old male was initiation of lamotrigine, which was added to valproic acid therapy (2500 milligrams/day) and was diagno: to the drug. The patient developed a skin eruption and had complaints of influenza-like symptoms (Sach

**3.3.2.G Summary**

1) Lamotrigine should be discontinued at the first sign of a rash, unless the rash is clearly not drug related. P also been noted. The risk of severe rash may be increased by the coadministration of lamotrigine with valproic acid. However, cases have bee manufacturer recommends that lamotrigine not be restarted in patients who have previously discontinued lam drug clearly outweigh the risks. If a patient has discontinued lamotrigine for greater than 5 half-lives, the initia LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

**3.3.2.H Toxic epidermal necrolysis**

- 1) Incidence: 0.08% to 0.8% (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) Severe and potentially life-threatening rashes, including toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), have been repc adult and 0.8% of pediatric epilepsy patients. Serious rashes were also reported in clinical trials of adult patie receiving lamotrigine as initial monotherapy and 0.13% for adjunctive therapy. Most cases have presented wi but some occurred after long-term treatment (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006)
- 3) Literature Reports
  - a) A 54-year-old man developed fatal toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) 4 weeks after beginning lamotrigine therapy for glioblastoma multiforme brain tumor. The patient was also receiving allopurinol, captopril, and valproic acid. The dose of lamotrigine started and was then increased to 50 mg twice daily within 1 week. He died 17 days after the onset of TEN.
  - b) A 74-year-old man developed toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) 14 days after beginning lamotrigine therapy for bipolar disorder. The rash, which progressed in 4 days to TEN. After 5 days the lamotrigine was discontinued and the patient recovered (Vukelic & Davis, 1997).
  - c) A 22-month-old child developed toxic epidermal necrolysis 14 days after the addition of lamotrigine to valproic acid. A maculopapular rash developed and worsened involving the conjunctivae, oral cavity and trachea. Lamotrigine was discontinued after 2 weeks (Vukelic et al, 1997).
  - d) Three cases of toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), verified by skin biopsies, were reported, which developed in patients who were treated in burn units of hospitals. The authors speculated immune sensitization occurred; however, incidence of rash with lamotrigine is especially high when combined with valproic acid, but it is unknown (Vukelic et al, 1996).

**3.3.3 Endocrine/Metabolic Effects**

Hyponatremia

Weight gain

**3.3.3.A Hyponatremia**

1) Hyponatremia occurred in 2 young girls (12 and 15 years of age) with cranial diabetes insipidus who were had primary panhypopituitarism, and the second patient developed panhypopituitarism secondary to removal of desmopressin therapy at the time lamotrigine was introduced. The first patient was given lamotrigine 50 milligrams daily. The second patient had lamotrigine dose increases of 7 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg) (initial dose not specified). In both cases, the requirements as lamotrigine doses increased. The authors suggested that the effect of lamotrigine on fluid balance was not dose-related (2000).

### 3.3.3.B Weight gain

- 1) Incidence: 2% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, weight gain was treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 1% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod 2009).
- 3) Lamotrigine is not associated with clinically significant weight gain. Based on a retrospective review of male the average weight change was only 0.5 kilogram at a mean lamotrigine daily dose and duration of 259 milligrams age- or gender-related differences in body weight changes (Devinsky et al, 2000).

### 3.3.4 Gastrointestinal Effects

Abdominal pain

Constipation

Diarrhea

Indigestion

Loss of appetite

Nausea

Vomiting

Xerostomia

#### 3.3.4.A Abdominal pain

- 1) Incidence: 10% (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) Abdominal pain has been reported in 10% of pediatric epilepsy patients receiving lamotrigine compared with 10% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Incidence: 6% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 4) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, abdominal pain was treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 4% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod 2009).

#### 3.3.4.B Constipation

- 1) Incidence: 3% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, constipation was treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 1% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod 2009).

#### 3.3.4.C Diarrhea

- 1) Incidence: 8% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, diarrhea was treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 5% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod 2009).

#### 3.3.4.D Indigestion

- 1) Incidence: 7% (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In a monotherapy trial for adults with partial seizures, 7% of patients receiving lamotrigine reported dyspepsia or indigestion (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

#### 3.3.4.E Loss of appetite

- 1) Incidence: 3% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, decreased appetite was treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 2% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod 2009).

#### 3.3.4.F Nausea

- 1) Incidence: 7% to 25% (immediate-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)
- 2) Immediate Release

- a) Nausea has been reported in 7% of adult partial seizure patients treated with lamotrigine compared w epilepsy patients receiving lamotrigine compared with 10% of placebo patients, and in 10% of pediatric e 2% of placebo patients. A randomized trial of adult epilepsy patients found that incidence of nausea was with 500 mg, compared with 11% with placebo (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersib
- 3) Extended Release
  - a) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, nausea wa treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 2% who received placebo (n=121) ( 2009)

**3.3.4.G Vomiting**

- 1) Incidence: 9%( immediate-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets
- 2) Immediate Release
  - a) Vomiting has been reported in 9% of adult epilepsy patients receiving lamotrigine compared with 4% seizure patients treated with lamotrigine compared with none of the patients treated with low-dose valprc that incidence of vomiting was dose-related, increasing from 11% with 300 mg to 18% with 500 mg, com oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Extended Release
  - a) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, vomiting w treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 2% who received placebo (n=121) ( 2009).

**3.3.4.H Xerostomia**

- 1) Incidence: 3% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, dry mouth was treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 2% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod 2009).

**3.3.5 Hematologic Effects**

Anemia

Disseminated intravascular coagulation

Eosinophil count raised

Leukopenia

Neutropenia

Pure red cell aplasia

Thrombocytopenia

Thrombocytosis

**3.3.5.A Anemia**

- 1) Anemia has been reported as an uncommon adverse effect of lamotrigine. Anemias (aplastic anemia, her reversible after discontinuation of lamotrigine. Patients with anemias were also taking other anticonvulsants, LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006; Pulik et al, 2000; Esfahani & Dasheiff, 19
- 2) Literature Reports
  - a) Complete erythroblastopenia occurred several weeks after initiation of lamotrigine (50 milligrams (mg for uncontrolled epilepsy in a 29- year-old woman who had been diagnosed at age 4 months with Diamc aplasia). Treatment with folic acid 25 mg/day returned hemoglobin levels to normal within 2 months, ar et al, 2000).
  - b) In one patient, lamotrigine treatment was stopped after 23 months due to macrocytic anemia (Cocito

**3.3.5.B Disseminated intravascular coagulation**

- 1) Two children (3.5- and 11-years-old) suffered multiorgan dysfunction and disseminated intravascular coag current valproic acid therapy. Symptoms began 9 days after starting lamotrigine therapy and included a syndi urticarial/maculopapular rash, hepatic, and renal dysfunction, hypoalbuminemia, and changes in alertness. D were also reported, along with evidence of rhabdomyolysis in one patient. No seizures were noted during this lamotrigine. This probably represents lamotrigine- associated anticonvulsant hypersensitivity syndrome (Chai
- 2) Disseminated intravascular coagulation has been reported in a 45-year-old female after 2 weeks of upwar

previously been maintained on carbamazepine and clonazepam for seizures with poor control prior to lamotrigine. Partial thromboplastin times were significantly prolonged, fibrinogen was decreased, and fibrin degradation product was elevated.

### 3.3.5.C Eosinophil count raised

1) Eosinophilia has been infrequently reported with lamotrigine use (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.3.5.D Leukopenia

- 1) Although uncommon, leukopenia has resulted from therapeutic dosages of lamotrigine. Neutropenia, particularly in postmarketing experiences, causality has not been established (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 2) Leukopenia progressing to agranulocytosis occurred within days of discontinuing lamotrigine due to rash in a patient on lamotrigine 50 milligrams/day two weeks prior to this event. No concomitant medications were taken. The absolute neutrophil count of  $3.1 \times 10^9$ /liter (92% lymphocytes and 8% monocytes) and accompanied by slight transaminase elevation. The count improved to  $6.5 \times 10^9$ /liter with 50% neutrophils (Kraus de Camargo & Bode, 1999).
- 3) A 35-year-old woman presented with leukopenia, which progressed to sepsis following 10 days of therapy with valproate sodium and propranolol. On admission to the hospital she was hypoxic, hypotensive and febrile. With supportive therapy, her condition stabilized and she fully recovered (Nicholson et al, 1995).

### 3.3.5.E Neutropenia

- 1) Neutropenia induced by lamotrigine was experienced by a 50-year-old woman with schizoaffective disorder. The patient presented with mood swings, alopecia, and weight gain. Lamotrigine was administered at 12.5 mg twice daily and then by 50 mg/day every 2 weeks until a total of 150 mg twice daily was reached. Sodium valproate was added for mood symptoms. Her WBC count and absolute neutrophil count was  $4.9 \times 10^9$  and  $2.8 \times 10^9$ /L, respectively. Months later, her WBC count was  $3.8 \times 10^9$ /L and absolute neutrophil count was  $2.2 \times 10^9$ /L. Due to declining counts, lamotrigine was discontinued and replaced by 50 mg/day. Briefly her counts returned to baseline only to continue downward. Consequently, lamotrigine was restarted on therapy for approximately 10 months. Her WBC count and neutrophil count at discontinuation was  $2.8 \times 10^9$ /L. Counts returned to baseline without any recurrence of neutropenia. A year and a half later, the patient was rechallenged with lamotrigine. Counts decreased once again after 2 months of lamotrigine therapy. Following discontinuation, her counts returned to baseline (Lam et al, 2007).

### 3.3.5.F Pure red cell aplasia

- 1) Incidence: rare (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) Pure red cell aplasia, possibly related to hypersensitivity syndrome, has been noted as an adverse reaction in patients on lamotrigine (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.3.5.G Thrombocytopenia

- 1) A 15-year-old female with therapy-resistant Lennox-Gastaut syndrome experienced severe thrombocytopenia and mucosal edema two weeks after initiation of add-on lamotrigine therapy (25 milligrams every other day). The patient was also on valproate sodium 2400 milligrams/day. After discontinuation of lamotrigine and introduction of prednisone 10 mg/day, the edema cleared and the thrombocyte level returned to the normal range. The authors assume that the thrombocytopenia has a close time relationship involved, although other possible causes (hypersensitivity reaction, bone marrow aplasia) cannot be excluded (Laengler & Meusers, 1995).

### 3.3.5.H Thrombocytosis

- 1) Two cases of decreased hematocrit with thrombocytosis were reported approximately 2 months after beginning lamotrigine therapy. Both reversed after discontinuation of lamotrigine.

## 3.3.6 Hepatic Effects

Hepatitis

Hyperbilirubinemia

Increased liver enzymes

Liver failure

### 3.3.6.A Hepatitis

- 1) Acute hepatitis occurred in a 28-year-old woman after lamotrigine (25 milligrams every other day) was added to her therapy. She had used for 12 years to treat a generalized seizure disorder (Sauve et al, 2000).
- 2) Twelve days after initiation of lamotrigine, a 28-year-old patient developed headache, fever, and diplopia. The lamotrigine had been added to her current dose of valproate 14 milligrams/kg/day. Clinical symptoms improved with amoxicillin therapy, and the patient was admitted. An atypical headache, hyperthermia, drowsiness, and major results showed a 10-fold increase in aspartate aminotransferase and alanine aminotransferase, plus a low prothrombin time indicating coagulopathy. All medications were immediately withdrawn. To prevent seizures, gabapentin (400 mg) was added to her therapy.

by clonazepam (1 milligram/day continuous intravenous infusion). Two days after admission, the patient began to peak on day 3, then declined and became normal within 2 weeks, when she was discharged. A liver biopsy showed lymphocytes and eosinophils; focal acidophil hepatocellular necrosis was also noted (Sauve et al, 2000).

### 3.3.6.B Hyperbilirubinemia

1) Slight elevations in plasma bilirubin have been reported with lamotrigine (Cohen et al, 1987b); however, the

### 3.3.6.C Increased liver enzymes

1) A case report described acute liver failure with significant elevations in liver enzymes in a 21-year-old male at time of admission to the inpatient psychiatry unit for paranoid delusions, home medications included aripiprazole. Nonadherence to aripiprazole was reported by the patient's family. Although the overall duration and titration of aripiprazole was 200 mg/day for 2 months prior to admission. While acute findings were not present on physical examination, based on aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) serum levels of 960 units/L were normal, and the patient was afebrile with no signs of infection. Liver function tests 2 months prior to admission, serology and autoimmune tests ruled out other etiologies of hepatic failure, lamotrigine was determined to be the cause. Instead, the patient was restarted on aripiprazole, titrating up to 25 mg/day. Five days after stopping lamotrigine (102 units/L). The Naranjo Probability Scale indicated a probable causative relationship of lamotrigine and acute liver failure.

2) Elevated aspartate transaminase (AST) (1,066 units/liter (L)), alanine aminotransferase (ALT) (279 units/L), and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) (145 units/L) serum levels were reported in an 11-year-old female on aripiprazole therapy. Multiorgan dysfunction developed, with rhabdomyolysis and no seizures. After discontinuation of her aripiprazole, she returned to normal over 10 days (Chattergoon et al, 1997b). This probably represents lamotrigine-associated liver failure.

### 3.3.6.D Liver failure

1) A case report described acute liver failure with significant elevations in liver enzymes in a 21-year-old male at time of admission to the inpatient psychiatry unit for paranoid delusions, home medications included aripiprazole. Nonadherence to aripiprazole was reported by the patient's family. Although the overall duration and titration of aripiprazole was 200 mg/day for 2 months prior to admission. While acute findings were not present on physical examination, based on aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) serum levels of 960 units/L were normal, and the patient was afebrile with no signs of infection. Liver function tests 2 months prior to admission, serology and autoimmune tests ruled out other etiologies of hepatic failure, lamotrigine was determined to be the cause. Instead, the patient was restarted on aripiprazole, titrating up to 25 mg/day. Five days after stopping lamotrigine (102 units/L). The Naranjo Probability Scale indicated a probable causative relationship of lamotrigine and acute liver failure.

2) A 35-year-old woman, with a history of bipolar disorder and poly substance abuse, developed a fatal liver failure. Thirty-nine days after starting lamotrigine 400 milligrams/day, she had a four-day history of fevers, in addition to lamotrigine she was also receiving Tylenol 3, chloral hydrate, olanzapine, topiramate, and trazodone. Papular rash, fever (104 degrees Fahrenheit) and elevated liver function tests were noted. On day 48 lamotrigine, chloral hydrate, olanzapine, and trazodone were discontinued. On day 55, a liver biopsy showed centrilobular hepatocellular necrosis. Despite treatment, the liver necrosis progressed over the next 3 weeks and the patient died. An extensive, well-developed, bile duct proliferation which was suggestive of a protracted and subacute course. Because of the damage, the authors suspected that lamotrigine was the cause of the hepatic necrosis due to the rash preceding the liver failure (2002).

3) An 8-year-old boy developed acute hepatic failure 2 weeks after beginning lamotrigine therapy. The patient was on 50 milligrams, 3 times daily (6 milligrams/kilogram/day) with 3 days of overlapping drugs. Two weeks later, he developed coagulopathy. His lamotrigine level was 30.2 micrograms/milliliter (mcg/mL) (normal 1 to 3 mcg/mL). He required intensive and supportive care (Arnon, 1998).

## 3.3.7 Immunologic Effects

### 3.3.7.A Immune hypersensitivity reaction

1) Some fatal or life-threatening hypersensitivity reactions have occurred which included clinical features of vasculitis, lupus-like syndrome, flu-like symptoms and/or disseminated intravascular coagulation. Even though hypersensitivity reactions are present, such as fever, or lymphadenopathy, the patient should be evaluated immediately (dispersible oral tablets, 2006; Schlienger et al, 1998).

#### 2) Literature Reports

- a) Anticonvulsant hypersensitivity syndrome (AHS) - consisting of fever, skin eruption or lymphadenopathy associated with lamotrigine therapy in 26 reported cases. Effects appear similar to AHS induced by other anticonvulsants (100%), exanthematous rashes (77%), eosinophilia (19%) and lymphadenopathy (12%). Four patients had disseminated intravascular coagulation. The most commonly reported internal organ toxicities were hematologic and followed by renal (23%) and musculoskeletal (8%). Concomitant anticonvulsant drugs were used in all 26 cases.
- b) Acute granulomatous interstitial nephritis, along with colitis and ileitis, occurred in a 17-year-old woman. Two weeks after the start of lamotrigine, she developed a pruritic rash; lamotrigine was withdrawn. A week later she developed a fever and progressing flu-like symptoms (sore throat, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, and urinary frequency). Lymphadenopathy was found to be present, and liver enzymes were abnormal. Occult blood was found in her urine. Renal function deteriorated, with development of oliguria requiring her steroid treatment. The authors concluded that this was a case of anticonvulsant hypersensitivity syndrome.
- c) A 6-year-old boy being treated with lamotrigine and valproic acid for generalized tonic-clonic seizures. On lamotrigine, he developed a pruritic eruption (predominantly trunk and extremities), facial swelling, and leukocytosis. His white blood cell count had increased to 9500 cells/cubic millimeter, liver enzymes were elevated, and ch

Lamotrigine was discontinued but the symptoms persisted until valproic acid was discontinued 2 days later laboratory abnormalities (Brown et al, 1999).

**d)** A 27-year-old female developed multisystem hypersensitivity reaction, with disseminated intravascular dysfunction, 11 days after starting lamotrigine therapy. Adjunctive therapy included phenobarbital. After spontaneously with no interventions other than steroid therapy (Sarris & Wong, 1999).

**e)** A 47-year-old man developed a hypersensitivity syndrome to lamotrigine that included neuralgic amy valproate and had lamotrigine titrated to 50 milligrams/day over 1 month. He developed a rash, fever, an was discontinued but 3 days later he developed left shoulder pain and numbness. Neuralgic amyotrophy followed by focal neurologic symptoms restricted to that limb. It resolved over 8 months (Hennessy et al,

**f)** A 35-year-old man developed pseudolymphoma (which may develop as a hypersensitivity reaction to patient was receiving lamotrigine 225 milligrams along with valproic acid, carbamazepine, and clobazam. The frozen section diagnosis was consistent with lymphoma. With further testing a pathologic diagnosis of lymphoid hyperplasia was established. Lymphadenopathy resolved 1 month after lamotrigine was disc

**3.3.8 Musculoskeletal Effects**

Asthenia

Myalgia

Rhabdomyolysis

**3.3.8.A Asthenia**

**1) Summary**

**a)** In premarketing clinical trials of monotherapy for epilepsy, asthenia has been reported in at least 5% (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

**b)** Asthenia led to discontinuation of therapy in 2.4% of adult patients (n=420)(Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) c

**2) Incidence: 5% or greater (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006)**

**3.3.8.B Myalgia**

**1) Incidence: 3% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)**

**2)** In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, muscle pain was treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 0% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod 2009).

**3.3.8.C Rhabdomyolysis**

**1)** Rhabdomyolysis has been reported in hypersensitive patients during postmarketing surveillance (Prod Inf tablets, 2006).

**2)** Rhabdomyolysis in the absence of seizures is reported in an 11-year-old female 9 days after the addition dose was halved). Serum creatine kinase level was reported to be 40,952 units/liter (normal less than 255 un creatine kinase levels returned to normal. This probably represents lamotrigine-associated anticonvulsant hyp

**3)** A case of myopathy with elevated creatine kinase levels (7770 International Units/liter) and myoglobin lev absence of generalized seizures following a 2 week period of lamotrigine initialization and increasing therape

**3.3.9 Neurologic Effects**

Amnesia

Aphasia

Aseptic meningitis

Ataxia

Aura, Loss

Blepharospasm

Coordination problem

Dizziness

Drug withdrawal seizure

Encephalopathy

Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome

Headache

Insomnia

Myoclonus

Nystagmus

Somnolence

Status epilepticus

Tremor

Unsteady gait

Vertigo

### 3.3.9.A Amnesia

- 1) Incidence: greater than 1% to less than 5% (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, or
- 2) Amnesia has been reported in greater than 2% and less than 5% of adult patients with epilepsy who received placebo (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009).
- 3) Amnesia has also been reported in greater than 1% and less than 5% of adult patients with bipolar disorder more frequently than in those who received placebo (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible

### 3.3.9.B Aphasia

- 1) An 11-year-old girl with atypical, benign partial epilepsy showed a loss of previously acquired communication skills for a recurrence of absence seizures. An increase in the dose of lamotrigine to 2.5 mg/kg/day at age 5, she had been treated successfully for absence seizures with valproate and phenobarbital. At the onset of the seizure, she was in the normal range. The girl at age 6 had shown mild learning difficulties, and tests showed low normal intelligence. The seizure was accompanied by marked electroencephalographic (EEG) activation, especially during sleep, when a pattern of EEG activation was seen. After weaning from lamotrigine, EEG patterns and language function returned to pre-lamotrigine levels (Battaglia et al, 2009).

### 3.3.9.C Aseptic meningitis

- 1) A 25-year-old woman developed aseptic meningitis 8 days after starting lamotrigine 25 mg/day for epilepsy. The symptoms resolved; however, the symptoms returned upon rechallenge with lamotrigine. The patient presented with elevated gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase (GGT), C-reactive protein (CRP), erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leukocytes, and leukocytes were elevated; however, CSF cultures for bacteria, fungi, and viruses were negative. Empiric ceftriaxone 2 g twice daily was initiated. The patient had mild leukopenia and thrombocytopenia were consistent with viral meningitis. One hour after lamotrigine was re-initiated on day 19, the patient experienced a severe head ache, dysesthesia, tachycardia, and a fever of 39.9 degrees C. Lab findings showed leukopenia, an elevated GGT. Again, the CSF cultures for bacteria, fungi, and viruses were negative. Subsequently, lamotrigine was discontinued until CSF results were negative. Symptoms improved; however, a mild right abducens nerve palsy was noted. The patient had a good recovery with the exception of incomplete resolution of the abducens palsy. Upon questioning, the patient had a history of Sjogren's syndrome, which was diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome that was confirmed by a positive antinuclear antibody test. The patient was treated with a stabilized erythrocyte sedimentation rate. (Boot, 2009).
- 2) Lamotrigine-induced aseptic meningitis was reported in a 50-year-old female after the first dose of lamotrigine 25 mg. She had a mixed episode of bipolar disorder with suicidal thoughts. Within a few hours of the first dose of lamotrigine 25 mg, she had a fever of 40.1 degrees C, difficult breathing, tachycardia, headache, photophobia, neck stiffness and increasing muscle pain. However, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) Gram-stains and bacterial cultures found no evidence of an infection. She was subsequently discontinued and the symptoms improved over the next few days. It was then discovered that she was started on lamotrigine 25 mg daily 7 months prior to the current incident. Lamotrigine was also discontinued and she was subsequently discharged with a presumptive diagnosis of aseptic meningitis. The time between the administration of lamotrigine and the onset of meningitis, which completely resolved upon discontinuation, as well as recurrence of symptoms upon rechallenge with lamotrigine, is consistent with aseptic meningitis in this patient. Aseptic meningitis is a rare side effect of lamotrigine with only 4 cases previously reported.

**3.3.9.D Ataxia**

- 1) Incidence: adults, greater than 2% to 28%; children, 11% (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible c
- 2) In premarketing clinical trials of adjunctive epilepsy therapy, ataxia was reported in 22% of adult patients r those receiving placebo (n=419) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009)
- 3) In a randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel study, ataxia was one of the more common dose-related adv adult patients with epilepsy treated with lamotrigine 300 mg/day (n=71), lamotrigine 500 mg/day (n=72), and | chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009).
- 4) In a controlled, monotherapy trial, ataxia was reported in greater than 2% and less than 5% of adult patier (n=43) following discontinuation of carbamazepine or phenytoin and was reported at a greater frequency thar (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009).
- 5) In placebo-controlled, adjunctive trials, ataxia was reported in 11% of pediatric patients with epilepsy recee 750 mg/day (n=168) compared to 3% of patients receiving placebo (n=171) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewat

**3.3.9.E Aura, Loss**

- 1) Three patients experienced loss of aura after switching from conventional antiepileptic therapy to lamotrig had been refractory to conventional therapy. Two of the patients sustained injuries due to loss of aura (Deleu

**3.3.9.F Blepharospasm**

- 1) Blepharospasm was attributed to lamotrigine monotherapy in a 51-year-old male with secondarily general blepharospasm appeared 4 months after lamotrigine initiation, his current dose and serum level were 500 mg remitted after a 4-week gradual taper and withdrawal of lamotrigine. The authors discuss possible mechanis inhibitory effect on glutamate release, which may indirectly affect basal ganglia function (Verma et al, 1999).

**3.3.9.G Coordination problem**

- 1) Incidence: 5% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, cerebellar coon who received adjunctive treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 0% who receive extended-release tablets, 2009).

**3.3.9.H Dizziness**

- 1) Incidence: adults, 7% to 54%; children, 14% (immediate-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable disp release)
- 2) Immediate Release
  - a) In premarketing clinical trials of adjunctive epilepsy therapy, dizziness was reported in 38% of adult p 13% of those receiving placebo (n=419) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral
  - b) In a randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel study, dizziness was one of the more common dose-rel; and 27% of adult patients with epilepsy treated with lamotrigine 300 mg/day (n=71), lamotrigine 500 mg/ LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009).
  - c) In a controlled, monotherapy trial, dizziness was reported in 7% of adult patients with epilepsy who re discontinuation of carbamazepine or phenytoin compared to 0% of those who received valproate monoth dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009).
  - d) In placebo-controlled, adjunctive trials, dizziness was reported in 14% of pediatric patients with epilep; maximum of 750 mg/day (n=168) compared to 4% of patients receiving placebo (n=171) (Prod Info LAM 2009).
- 3) Extended Release
  - a) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, dizziness v treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 5% who received placebo (n=121) ( 2009).

**3.3.9.I Drug withdrawal seizure**

- 1) Drug withdrawal seizure has been reported in patients with bipolar disorder in clinical trials (Prod Info LAM tablets, 2009; Guerrini et al, 1999).

**3.3.9.J Encephalopathy**

- 1) Reversible encephalopathy associated with high lamotrigine blood levels (19 mg/L), with a concurrent urir Concomitant medication included valproic acid, which remained at therapeutic blood levels. Symptoms includ incontinence and primitive reflexes. Symptoms improved concurrent with a fall in lamotrigine levels after her l mg/day (Hennessy & Wiles, 1996).

**3.3.9.K Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome**

- 1) Lamotrigine caused dose-related symptoms of Tourette syndrome in 3 children (Lombroso, 1999).
- 2) A 7-year-old girl with partial motor seizures with secondary generalization was treated with valproic acid a developed tic-like movements and vocalizations. Lamotrigine was discontinued and all symptoms abated. Se up to 250 mg daily. Vocalizations were worse but abated after lamotrigine was reduced to 175 mg daily. A 12 lamotrigine 450 mg added to carbamazepine. He began tic-like movements, vocalizations, and rituals consist Lamotrigine was discontinued and the ticks resolved within 2 weeks and the OCD symptoms resolved over s; and the symptoms have not returned. An 8-year-old boy with complex partial seizures received lamotrigine 2' repetitive head shaking, hand rubbing, throat clearing, and facial grimaces. His tics abated within a few days



remained under control with lamotrigine 200 mg daily (Lombroso, 1999).

### 3.3.9.L Headache

- 1) Incidence: 29% (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a premarketing clinical trial, headache was reported in 29% of adult epilepsy patients receiving lamotrigine, and resulted in drug discontinuation in 3.1% of lamotrigine patients (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009).

### 3.3.9.M Insomnia

- 1) Incidence: 5% to 10% (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009)
- 2) In premarketing clinical trials of adjunctive epilepsy therapy, insomnia was reported in 6% of adult patients those receiving placebo (n=419) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009)
- 3) In a controlled, monotherapy trial, insomnia was reported in 5% of adult patients with epilepsy who received discontinuation of carbamazepine or phenytoin compared to 2% of those who received valproate monotherapy (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009).
- 4) In two placebo-controlled trials, insomnia was reported in 10% of adults with bipolar I disorder receiving lamotrigine after being converted from add-on therapy with other psychotropic medications compared to 6% of those receiving placebo (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009).

### 3.3.9.N Myoclonus

- 1) Three case reports describe lamotrigine-associated myoclonus. Two cases involved young adult males (ages 20 and 22) with epilepsies since early childhood. After 2 to 3 years of lamotrigine-valproic acid therapy resulting in a seizure-free state, myoclonic jerking. In both cases, the lamotrigine serum level was higher than usual (16.5 and 17.7 mg/L). Myoclonus greatly diminished after lamotrigine was stopped or its dose reduced (Janszky et al, 2000).

### 3.3.9.O Nystagmus

- 1) Incidence: 3% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure nystagmus was reported in 3% of patients receiving lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 1% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

### 3.3.9.P Somnolence

- 1) Incidence: adults, 9% to 14%; children, 17% (immediate-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)
- 2) Immediate Release
  - a) In premarketing clinical trials of adjunctive epilepsy therapy, somnolence was reported in 14% of adult patients receiving placebo (n=419) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009)
  - b) In placebo-controlled, adjunctive trials, somnolence was reported in 17% of pediatric patients with epilepsy receiving a maximum of 750 mg/day (n=168) compared to 15% of patients receiving placebo (n=171) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009)
  - c) In two placebo-controlled trials, somnolence was reported in 9% of adults with bipolar I disorder receiving lamotrigine monotherapy after being converted from add-on therapy with other psychotropic medications compared to 6% of those receiving placebo (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009).
  - d) Somnolence and ataxia were also reported in a 45-year-old female following a 2-week upward titration of lamotrigine. Her neurological status improved over the next 2 weeks following discontinuation of lamotrigine.
- 3) Extended Release
  - a) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, somnolence was reported in 3% of patients receiving lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 5% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)

### 3.3.9.Q Status epilepticus

- 1) Status epilepticus has been reported in a minimum of 7 of 2,343 adult patients receiving lamotrigine (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009; Guerrini et al, 1999).
- 2) An 8-year-old female diagnosed 4 years previously with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome developed myoclonic clobazam/vigabatrin regimen. Lamotrigine had been initiated at 2 mg/kg, then gradually increased to 20 mg/kg. The parents reported increasingly frequent episodes of irregular multifocal jerks. Long-term electroencephalogram showed myoclonus, which resolved shortly upon lamotrigine discontinuation (Guerrini et al, 1999).

### 3.3.9.R Tremor

- 1) Incidence: adults, 4%; children, 10% (immediate-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)
- 2) Immediate Release
  - a) In premarketing clinical trials of adjunctive epilepsy therapy, tremor was reported in 4% of adult patients those receiving placebo (n=419) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009)
  - b) In placebo-controlled, adjunctive trials, tremor was reported in 10% of pediatric patients with epilepsy receiving a maximum of 750 mg/day (n=168) compared to 1% of patients receiving placebo (n=171) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, 2009)
  - c) Disabling tremors with dysarthria and mild truncal ataxia have also been reported in 3 patients following discontinuation of lamotrigine. Tremor resolved with reduction in dose of lamotrigine or valproate sodium (Reutens et al, 2000).
- 3) Extended Release
  - a) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, tremor was reported in 3% of patients receiving lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 5% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)

treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 2% who received placebo (n=121) (2009).

**3.3.9.S Unsteady gait**

- 1) Incidence: 2% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, gait disturbance treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 0% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod 2009).

**3.3.9.T Vertigo**

- 1) Incidence: 4% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, vertigo was evi treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 0% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod 2009).

**3.3.10 Ophthalmic Effects**

Blurred vision

Diplopia

**3.3.10.A Blurred vision**

- 1) Incidence: 11% to 25% (immediate-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible o LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) Immediate Release
  - a) In an adjunctive trial, blurred vision was reported in 16% of adult epilepsy patients receiving lamotrigi trial of adult epilepsy patients found that incidence of blurred vision was dose-related, increasing from 11 10% with placebo (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Extended Release
  - a) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, blurred visi adjunctive treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 2% who received placeb release tablets, 2009).

**3.3.10.B Diplopia**

- 1) Incidence: 24% to 49% (immediate-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible o LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) Immediate Release
  - a) In an adjunctive trial, diplopia was reported in 28% of adult epilepsy patients receiving lamotrigine cor of adult epilepsy patients found that incidence of diplopia was dose-related, increasing from 24% with 30 placebo (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) A comprehensive review of manufacturer data encompassing 13 clinical trials (n=1096) characterize lamo population. As add-on therapy, the mean lamotrigine dose and duration were 5.5 milligrams/kilogram/day (mg the mean dose and duration were 2.9 mg/kg/day and 22 weeks, respectively. In placebo-controlled studies, a frequency among lamotrigine recipients included diplopia at 5.4% (Messenheimer et al, 2000).
  - a) Extended Release
    - 1) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, diplop adjunctive treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 0% who received plc release tablets, 2009).

**3.3.12 Psychiatric Effects**

Anxiety

Depression

Dyssomnia

Suicidal thoughts

Visual hallucinations

**3.3.12.A Anxiety**

- 1) Incidence: 5% (immediate release)(Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) Immediate Release
  - a) In a monotherapy trial of adult partial seizure patients, anxiety was reported in 5% of patients treated with low-dose valproate (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009).
- 3) Extended Release
  - a) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, anxiety was reported in 5% of patients treated with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 0% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

**3.3.12.B Depression**

- 1) Incidence: 4% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, depression was reported in 4% of patients treated with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 1% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

**3.3.12.C Dyssomnia**

- 1) A 42-year-old healthy woman experienced dose-related visual hallucinations as well as sleep disturbance while taking citalopram 40 mg/day for 6 months for depression. She was then diagnosed with bipolar affective disorder and subsequent dose increase to 50 mg/day, then 100 mg/day in 2 week intervals. Initial symptoms after dose increase included waking and vivid dream-like experiences without being completely asleep. Five days later she experienced headaches and hypersensitivity to noise. The hallucinations resolved over 2 to 3 days after reducing the lamotrigine to 75 mg/day. Disturbances and nightmares returned within 1 week of a dose increase to 75 mg/day. Three months later, the disturbed sleep and nightmares returned. She continued on 100 mg/day, which resulted in visual hallucinations described that she perceived as real. The events occurred at times of clear consciousness during both daytime and nighttime in hallucinations resolving over 3 days. Hallucinations and nightmares have not recurred despite continued treatment at 100 mg/day. She had no past history of hallucinations (Uher & Jones, 2006).

**3.3.12.D Suicidal thoughts**

- 1) Data reviewed by the US Food and Drug Administration suggest an increased risk of suicidal behavior or ideation with antiepileptic drugs (AEDs). The analysis included 199 placebo-controlled clinical studies covering 11 different types of epilepsy, selected psychiatric illnesses, and other conditions, including migraine and neuropathic pain syndromes. There were 4 cases of suicidal behavior or ideation in patients receiving AEDs and 16,029 patients who received placebo, and patients were aged 5 years and older. There were 4 cases of suicidal behavior or ideation in patients receiving AEDs versus (vs) none in the placebo groups. Suicidal behavior or ideation occurred in 0.43% of patients in patients in the placebo groups. This corresponded to an estimated 2.1 per 1000 (95% confidence interval, 0.7 to 5.5) having suicidal behavior or ideation than the placebo groups. The increased risk of suicidality was noted at 1 to 4 weeks. When compared to placebo, results were generally consistent among the drugs and were seen in all types of psychiatric disorders, or other conditions were all at an increased risk for suicidality compared to placebo. Clinical signs or worsening of depression, suicidality and other unusual changes in behavior, which may include symptoms of hypomania (US Food and Drug Administration, 2008).

**3.3.12.E Visual hallucinations**

- 1) A 42-year-old healthy woman experienced dose-related visual hallucinations as well as sleep disturbance while taking citalopram 40 mg/day for 6 months for depression. She was then diagnosed with bipolar affective disorder and subsequent dose increase to 50 mg/day, then 100 mg/day in 2 week intervals. Initial symptoms after dose increase included waking and vivid dream-like experiences without being completely asleep. Five days later she experienced headaches and hypersensitivity to noise. The hallucinations resolved over 2 to 3 days after reducing the lamotrigine to 75 mg/day. Disturbances and nightmares returned within 1 week of a dose increase to 75 mg/day. Three months later, the disturbed sleep and nightmares returned. She continued on 100 mg/day, which resulted in visual hallucinations described that she perceived as real. The events occurred at times of clear consciousness during both daytime and nighttime in hallucinations resolving over 3 days. Hallucinations and nightmares have not recurred despite continued treatment at 100 mg/day. She had no past history of hallucinations (Uher & Jones, 2006).

**3.3.13 Renal Effects**

Hematuria

Renal failure

**3.3.13.A Hematuria**

- 1) Hematuria was reported in 5% of patients receiving lamotrigine in one clinical trial (Jawad et al, 1989d); however, in overall clinical experience with the drug, hematuria infrequently occurred (1% or less) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2006).

**3.3.13.B Renal failure**

1) Acute renal failure, in the absence of predisposing factors, occurred in a 45-year-old female after 14 days for complex partial seizures. Carbamazepine and clonazepam had been used previously by this patient. Serum Rhabdomyolysis developed and may have contributed to the renal failure. Generalized seizures were not reported.

### 3.3.14 Reproductive Effects

#### 3.3.14.A Dysmenorrhea

- 1) Incidence: 5% (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In a monotherapy trial for adults with partial seizures, 5% of female patients receiving lamotrigine reported low-dose valproate (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.3.15 Respiratory Effects

Apnea

Congestion of nasal sinus

Epistaxis

Influenza

Pain in throat

Rhinitis

Sinusitis

#### 3.3.15.A Apnea

- 1) Summary
  - a) Apnea has been reported in postmarketing surveys, but causality has not been established (Prod Info tablets, 2006).

#### 3.3.15.B Congestion of nasal sinus

- 1) Incidence: 3% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, sinus congestive adjunctive treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 0% respectively who received extended-release tablets, 2009).

#### 3.3.15.C Epistaxis

- 1) Incidence: 2% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, epistaxis was a treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 1% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod 2009).

#### 3.3.15.D Influenza

- 1) Incidence: 3% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, influenza or influenza received adjunctive lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 2% who received placebo (n=121) 2009).

#### 3.3.15.E Pain in throat

- 1) Incidence: 3% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, pharyngolaryngeal adjunctive treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 2% who received placebo (n=121) tablets, 2009).

#### 3.3.15.F Rhinitis

- 1) Incidence: 7% (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) In a monotherapy trial of adult partial seizure patients, rhinitis was reported in 7% of patients treated with low-dose valproate (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

#### 3.3.15.G Sinusitis

- 1) Incidence: 3% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)

2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, sinusitis was treated with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 1% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod 2009).

### 3.3.16 Other

Angioedema

Asthenia

Drug withdrawal

Fever

Multiorgan failure, acute

Pain

#### 3.3.16.A Angioedema

- 1) Incidence: rare (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006)
- 2) Angioedema has been rarely reported with lamotrigine therapy (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chev

#### 3.3.16.B Asthenia

- 1) Incidence: 9% (extended-release) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, asthenia condition adjunctive treatment with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 5% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

#### 3.3.16.C Drug withdrawal

- 1) A 26-year-old man developed anhedonia, visual hallucinations, tremor, slight tachycardia, and hyperhidrosis after discontinuation of his antiepileptic medications (valproic acid 1220 milligrams (mg) per day, lamotrigine 200 mg/day for the first 7 days and 2000 mg/day thereafter) in combination with valproic acid was prescribed to relieve his psychomotor symptoms had begun before he took the first dose of levetiracetam. Therefore, the authors attribute the symptoms resolved within a few days (Gelisse et al, 2002).

#### 3.3.16.D Fever

- 1) Increased temperature related to leukopenia and sepsis has been reported in a patient following 10 days of treatment with lamotrigine. The patient was also treated with valproate sodium and propranolol (Nicholson et al, 1995). Another case was reported of a 45-year-old patient with disseminated intravascular coagulation, and acute renal failure 14 days after beginning lamotrigine therapy. (Carr et al, 1994).

#### 3.3.16.E Multiorgan failure, acute

- 1) Acute multiorgan failure, which has sometimes been fatal or irreversible, has been reported in patients taking lamotrigine. It is associated with multiorgan failure and hepatic failure in 2 of 3,796 adult patients and 4 of 2,435 pediatric patients. Other serious medical complications (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)
- 2) Two children (3.5- and 11-years-old) suffered multiorgan dysfunction and disseminated intravascular coagulation while on current valproic acid therapy. Symptoms began 9 days after starting lamotrigine therapy and included a syndrome consisting of urticarial/maculopapular rash, hepatic, and renal dysfunction, hypoalbuminemia, and changes in alertness. Drowsiness was also reported, along with evidence of rhabdomyolysis in one patient. No seizures were noted during this treatment with lamotrigine. This probably represents lamotrigine-associated anticonvulsant hypersensitivity syndrome (Chai et al, 2002).

#### 3.3.16.F Pain

- 1) Incidence: 5% (immediate-release)(Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)
- 2) Immediate Release
  - a) In a monotherapy trial of adult partial seizure patients, nonspecific body pain was reported in 5% of patients treated with low-dose valproate (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2009)
- 3) Extended Release
  - a) In a 19-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of patients with partial onset seizure, pain was treated with lamotrigine extended-release (n=118) compared with 1% who received placebo (n=121) (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

## 3.4 Teratogenicity/Effects in Pregnancy/Breastfeeding

### A) Teratogenicity/Effects in Pregnancy

- 1) U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Pregnancy Category: Category C (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, c
  - a) Either studies in animals have revealed adverse effects on the fetus (teratogenic or embryocidal or other) in women and animals are not available. Drugs should be given only if the potential benefit justifies the poten
- 2) Australian Drug Evaluation Committee's (ADEC) Category: B3(Australian Drug Evaluation Committee, 1999)
  - a) Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human fetus having been observed. Studies in animals have damage, the significance of which is considered uncertain in humans.

See Drug Consult reference: PREGNANCY RISK CATEGORIES

- 3) Crosses Placenta: Yes

- 4) Clinical Management

a) A major risk for congenital malformations or fetal loss after first trimester exposure to lamotrigine is not ev  
 Inherently epileptic women have a greater risk of delivering a malformed infant than those without epilepsy, b  
 with maternal seizures or with the treatment drug (Hvas et al, 2000; Morrell, 1996). Based on preliminary data  
 Pregnancy, a possible link may exist between exposure to lamotrigine monotherapy during the first trimester  
 and Drug Administration, 2006). A, large, case-controlled study showed a nonsignificant difference in risk of c  
 compared with non-exposed infants(Dolk et al, 2008). In animal studies, lamotrigine decreases folate concen  
 further data are available, lamotrigine should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit to the mo  
 manufacturer maintains a Lamotrigine Pregnancy Registry to monitor outcomes of exposure to lamotrigine du  
 encouraged to report such prenatal exposure, before fetal outcome (eg, ultrasound, amniocentesis results, bi  
 1-800-336-2176. Patients or prescribers may also enroll in the NAAED by calling (888) 233-2334 (Prod Info L  
 tablets, 2007).

- 5) Literature Reports

a) There was not an increased risk of isolated orofacial cleft (OC) relative to other malformations in neonates  
 with those who were not exposed to any antiepileptic drugs in a population-based, case-control study (n=85,4  
 5511 orofacial cleft (OC) cases and 80,052 non-OC controls. For isolated OC in lamotrigine-exposed neonate  
 malformations (odds ratio adjusted for maternal age (adjOR) equal to 0.8, 95% confidence interval (CI), 0.11  
 other malformations for any of the other 3 OC categories: isolated and multiply malformed OC (adjOR equal 1  
 (adjOR equal to 1.01, 95% CI, 0.03 to 5.57), and isolated and multiply malformed CP (adjOR equal to 0.79, 9  
 exposure. There were 72 lamotrigine mono- or polytherapy-exposed registrations, 40 of which were lamotrigi  
 total cases corresponded to a prevalence of 0.47 cases of OC per 1000 registrations (Dolk et al, 2008).

b) As of September 2006, preliminary data collected by the North American Antiepileptic Drug (NAAED) preg  
 prevalence of isolated, non-syndromic, cleft palate and/or cleft lip in infants of women exposed to lamotrigine  
 Five cases of oral cleft (2 isolated cleft lip, 3 isolated cleft palate) occurred among 564 women who received l  
 resulting in a total prevalence of 8.9 per 1000. However, other pregnancy registries have not reported a simil  
 until further data are available (US Food and Drug Administration, 2006).

c) A July 2005 report from the Lamotrigine Pregnancy Registry, established by the manufacturer to collect d  
 648 instances of mothers treated with lamotrigine monotherapy during the first trimester of pregnancy. Sixtee  
 abnormalities were noted in this group. In mothers treated with lamotrigine plus one or more other anticonvul  
 presented with anomalies. However, there was no consistent pattern of anomalies among the birth defects re

d) A series of observational cohort studies suggested that lamotrigine does not cause an increased rate of o  
 68 pregnant women who took the drug, three discontinued the drug before the last menstrual period; 59 were  
 second or third trimester. Of the 59 exposed during the first trimester, there were 39 births (31 without conge  
 abortion, and nine pregnancies intentionally terminated. Three infants were delivered full term with congenita  
 (mother also exposed to phenytoin), palatal cleft, hypospadias, and undescended testes (mother also expose  
 ventricular septal defect (mother also exposed to phenobarbitone and valproic acid). One infant was delivere  
 abdominal intestinal obstruction. The mother had been exposed to labetalol and had experienced pre-eclamps

e) Lamotrigine clearance increased by more than 50% in some women at the onset of pregnancy with a sign  
 reversed soon after delivery. Increased doses of lamotrigine may be required to maintain therapeutic levels d  
 following pregnancy (Tran et al, 2002).

- B) Breastfeeding

- 1) Thomson Lactation Rating: Infant risk cannot be ruled out.

a) Available evidence and/or expert consensus is inconclusive or is inadequate for determining infant risk w  
 benefits of drug treatment against potential risks before prescribing this drug during breastfeeding.

- 2) Clinical Management

a) Lamotrigine milk to plasma (M/P) ratio was 41.3% (range, 5.7% to 147.1%) and infant/maternal ratio of to  
 prospective, observational study of 30 nursing mothers treated with lamotrigine and their infants (Newport et  
 exposed to lamotrigine from the mother's breast milk are not known, breast-feeding is not recommended in w  
 oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2007).

- 3) Literature Reports

a) Lamotrigine milk to plasma (M/P) ratio was 41.3% (95% confidence interval (CI), 33% to 49.6%) and infan  
 18.3% (95% CI, 9.5% to 27%) in a prospective, observational study of 30 nursing mothers treated with lamoti  
 M/P ratio, calculated using each participant's mean breast milk concentration, ranged from 5.7% to 147.1%. l  
 concentrations for each participant, M/P ratios were 26.5% (95% CI, 20.2% to 32.9%) and 63.1% (95% CI, 4  
 free lamotrigine concentration was 30.9% (95% CI, 13.4% to 48.3%), 1.7 times higher than the total. Infants f  
 lamotrigine compared with their mothers (53.5% vs 29.5%, paired t=2.91, p less than 0.02). Theoretical infan  
 mg/kg/d (95% CI, 0.37 to 0.65 mg/kg/d) and 9.2% (95% CI, 7.4% to 10.9%), respectively. Univariate Pearson  
 p values less than 0.0001) positive correlations of lamotrigine concentration in breast milk with maternal daily  
 plasma (r=0.37), and free lamotrigine in maternal plasma (r=0.51). Maternal dose (F(1147)=25.62) and free l

=17.31) were significant predictors of lamotrigine breast milk concentration (p values less than 0.0001) in a regression model. The final regression model accounted for 45% of the variance in breast milk concentrations (F(3,147)=41.11; p less than 0.0001) (Newport et al, 2008).

**b)** Evaluation of six infants who were breast fed by mothers treated with lamotrigine (mean doses of 400 mg/day) showed that the mean infant plasma concentration was 18% (Page-Sharp et al, 2006).

**c)** Lamotrigine levels were measured on day 10 of life in 4 full-term nursing infants born to epileptic mothers. The levels ranged from less than 1 to 2 mcg/mL, and were an average of 30% (range 20 to 43%) of maternal lamotrigine levels with repeated levels at 2 months. Both infants were nursing with supplemental formula 2 to 3 times a day. The levels in the neonate were a result of immature enzyme systems in the infants, specifically hepatic glucuronic acid transferase (Liporace et al, 2004).

**d)** Serum lamotrigine levels in three women and their nursed infants were measured and the infants' intake of breast milk was recorded. None of the infants experienced adverse effects (Ohman & Vitols, 2000).

**4) Drug Levels in Breastmilk**

**a) Parent Drug**

**1) Percent Adult Dose in Breastmilk**

**a)** 9% (2-20%) (Ohman & Vitols, 2000)

**2) Milk to Maternal Plasma Ratio**

**a)** 0.61 (0.5-0.77) (Ohman & Vitols, 2000)

**3.5 Drug Interactions**

**3.5.1 Drug-Drug Combinations**

Acetaminophen

Carbamazepine

Desogestrel

Escitalopram

Estradiol Cypionate

Ethinyl Estradiol

Ethinodiol Diacetate

Etonogestrel

Evening Primrose

Fosphenytoin

Ginkgo

Levonorgestrel

Lopinavir

Mestranol

Methsuximide

Norethindrone

Norgestimate

Norgestrel

Oxcarbazepine

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin

Primidone

Rifampin

Risperidone

Ritonavir

Rufinamide

Sertraline

Valproic Acid

### 3.5.1.A Acetaminophen

- 1) Interaction Effect: decreased lamotrigine effectiveness
- 2) Summary: In a randomized study, the effect of acetaminophen on the pharmacokinetics of lamotrigine was area under the plasma concentration-time curve of lamotrigine decreased by 15% and 20% respectively. (Rer al, 1990a).
- 3) Severity: minor
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: Monitor the clinical effectiveness of lamotrigine therapy. Routine increases in lamot failure occurs. An occasional dose of acetaminophen is unlikely to significantly decrease lamotrigine concentration.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: increased renal clearance
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) Acetaminophen enhances the urinary elimination of lamotrigine after single doses of the anticonvulsant. A 100 mg dose of lamotrigine followed by acetaminophen 900 mg 3 times a day resulted in a decrease in AUC compared to administration of lamotrigine with placebo. No differences in peak plasma concentration or lamotrigine recovered in the urine was also higher when administered with acetaminophen. It was suggested that acetaminophen decreases lamotrigine from the circulation (Depot et al, 1990).

### 3.5.1.B Carbamazepine

- 1) Interaction Effect: reduced lamotrigine efficacy, loss of seizure control, and a potential risk of neurotoxicity
- 2) Summary: The clearance of lamotrigine may double during concomitant therapy with carbamazepine (Gordon et al, 1991a; Mikati et al, 1989a; Jawad et al, 1987a). In addition, increased serum concentrations of carbamazepine (carbamazepine) and neurotoxicity have been reported during concomitant administration of carbamazepine and lamotrigine. Investigators have found that lamotrigine had no effect on either carbamazepine or its metabolite (Schapel et al, 1990). While lamotrigine has no appreciable effect on the steady-state carbamazepine concentration, carbamazepine increases lamotrigine clearance (Prod Info Lamictal(R), 2003e).
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: Monitor seizure control and follow patients for signs of neurotoxicity (nausea, vertigo, ataxia). Increase lamotrigine doses and/or reduce carbamazepine doses. It may be advantageous to monitor the serum concentration of the lamotrigine metabolite, carbamazepine-10,11-epoxide. Increased side effects have been associated with carbamazepine therapy. When given in combination with an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic agent, the manufacturer recommends an increase in lamotrigine dose over two weeks for adult patients, followed by 50 mg twice daily for the third and fourth weeks, advancing by 100 mg to 500 mg administered in two divided doses.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: hepatic induction by carbamazepine of lamotrigine metabolism; possible alteration of lamotrigine pharmacokinetics
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) While lamotrigine alone has a steady-state elimination half-life of between 25 to 37 hours, coadministration with carbamazepine decreases the half-life of lamotrigine to approximately 14 or 15 hours (Binnie et al, 1986; Jawad et al, 1987; Peck, 1991d). Lamotrigine clearance (mL/min/kg) in healthy volunteers given lamotrigine alone (Cohen et al, 1987; Posner et al, 1989; Posner et al, 1989) ranged from 0.044 to 0.084 L/h/kg (0.73 to 1.4 mL/min/kg) (Jawad et al, 1987; Mikati et al, 1989). The half-life of lamotrigine decreased incrementally the half-life of lamotrigine by 1.7 hours for every 100 mg of carbamazepine with



1987).

**b)** If phenytoin or carbamazepine (or any prodrugs) is used in pregnant women, there is a substantially increased risk of other anticonvulsants. The teratogenicity of these drugs is largely or wholly related to the levels of the drugs (Dyke et al, 1991b; Finnell et al, 1992b). The epoxide/parent drug ratio is generally increased when phenytoin or any other drugs that induce cytochrome P450 enzymes (3A4, 2C9, 2C19), or drugs which inhibit epoxide hydrolase (Bianchetti et al, 1987b; Ramsay et al, 1990b; Spina et al, 1996b). Such combinations increase lamotrigine concentrations about 10-fold over background rates.

**c)** No pharmacokinetic interaction between carbamazepine and lamotrigine was found in children. Three generalized epilepsy who had been treated with carbamazepine for longer than one year started lamotrigine. The lamotrigine dose was increased by 1 mg/kg/day every other week until clinical response or side effects or change significantly from baseline when lamotrigine was coadministered (29.9 mmol/L vs. 28.8 mmol/L). The plasma concentration of the metabolite of carbamazepine, carbamazepine-10,11-epoxide, significantly decreased from 6.4 mmol/L to 3.0 mmol/L (Boreus, 1997).

**d)** Carbamazepine reduces the plasma levels of lamotrigine. A 65-year-old male suffering from complex partial seizures on carbamazepine (400 mg three times daily) and lamotrigine (200 mg three times daily). Seizures occurred and a beta-agonist was used for an obstructive lung disease. A current pneumonia was being treated with levofloxacin (500 mg twice daily) within 4 weeks. After 4 weeks of levofloxacin therapy the patient's carbamazepine plasma levels were 1.7 mcg/mL and a trough carbamazepine was 11 mcg/mL. The patient continued to suffer from seizures. After 4 weeks of lamotrigine therapy the patient's carbamazepine plasma levels were 12.1 mcg/mL. Lamotrigine levels increased rapidly after reductions in carbamazepine. The combination was well tolerated and seizures stopped completely after 4 weeks. A drug interaction should be considered in ineffective antiepileptic therapy (Koch et al, 2003).

### 3.5.1.C Desogestrel

**1)** Interaction Effect: decreased plasma lamotrigine concentrations

**2)** Summary: The concomitant use of combined hormonal contraceptives and lamotrigine has resulted in significant decreases in lamotrigine plasma concentrations (Prod Info ORTHO EVRA(R) transdermal system patch, 2008). A sudden change in a patient's clinical condition and the use or changes in the use of oral contraceptives (Christensen et al, 2007; Sabers et al, 2003; Sabers et al, 2001) have been reported following introduction of oral contraceptives and reports of increased lamotrigine concentrations in women taking lamotrigine. Dosage adjustments may be necessary when starting or discontinuing oral contraceptives in women taking lamotrigine. Maintain clinical response (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

**3)** Severity: moderate

**4)** Onset: delayed

**5)** Substantiation: established

**6)** Clinical Management: Estrogen-containing oral contraceptives have been shown to significantly decrease lamotrigine plasma concentrations. Carefully monitor and adjust lamotrigine doses in women who choose estrogen-containing hormonal contraceptive system patch, 2008; Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

**7)** Probable Mechanism: induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by combination contraceptive

**8)** Literature Reports

**a)** Evidence from a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial involving 7 women with epilepsy suggests that lamotrigine plasma concentrations are decreased when taken with oral contraceptives. All patients were treated with lamotrigine monotherapy and taking combination oral contraceptives in a crossover fashion to receive either placebo or contraceptive (35 mcg ethinyl estradiol/250 mcg norgestrel) for a 7-day pause. Steady-state blood samples were collected as trough levels (just prior to the next dose) and morning doses. Mean lamotrigine plasma concentrations increased by 84% (95% CI, 45% to 134%) during contraceptive treatment for 21 days. Urine excretion of lamotrigine metabolites, measured as the N-2-glucuronide, decreased by 20% to 61% when placebo was taken instead of oral contraceptive. Seizures occurred in 3 patients during placebo therapy. The mechanism of the interaction is likely the induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by ethinyl estradiol (Christensen et al, 2007).

**b)** Several cases in which oral contraceptives changed the plasma levels of lamotrigine as well as the seizure control in patients who were seizure-free (one with epilepsy, two with complex partial seizures, and two with absence seizures) after oral contraceptives were initiated. Two other patients, one with simple partial seizure and one with complex partial seizure, had increased plasma levels of lamotrigine in these two patients had increased plasma levels of lamotrigine 41% to 64% (mean 49%). As a result, seizure control deteriorated when oral contraceptives were discontinued. These effects were independent of whether the oral contraceptive contained norethindrone. The author concludes that there is a need for careful monitoring and adjustment of the lamotrigine dose when oral contraceptives are used (Sabers et al, 2001).

**c)** Lamotrigine plasma levels are reduced by greater than 50% during oral contraceptive co-medication. In a study of 30 women, 15 used oral contraceptives, and 15 who did not. The mean lamotrigine dose was 349 mg/day among women who used oral contraceptives and 300 mg/day among those who did not. Mean plasma level of lamotrigine was 13 mcg/mL in patients on oral contraceptives and 27 mcg/mL in patients not on oral contraceptives (p less than 0.0001). Oral contraceptives markedly decrease plasma concentrations of lamotrigine (Sabers et al, 2001).

**d)** In a study of 16 female volunteers, estrogen-containing oral contraceptive (30 mcg ethinyl estradiol/1.5 mg norethindrone) decreased the clearance of 300 mg/day lamotrigine by approximately 2-fold with a mean decrease in AUC of 52% and a mean increase in peak concentration of 2-fold. Lamotrigine concentrations gradually increased and were approximately 2-fold higher at the end of the week of inactive phase of the hormone cycle. This increase occurred in women taking lamotrigine (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, primidone, or rifampin). Dosage adjustment of lamotrigine is necessary when oral contraceptives are used (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.5.1.D Escitalopram

**1)** Interaction Effect: an increased risk of myoclonus

- 2) Summary: Myoclonus occurred in 2 patients receiving escitalopram and lamotrigine concomitantly, where escitalopram in 1 patient. There was no evidence of a metabolic enzyme interaction with lamotrigine, and the additive/synergistic effect of lamotrigine and escitalopram on the 5-HT<sub>1A</sub> receptors, or by an additive inhibitory (Rosenhagen et al, 2006). Exercise caution when using both drugs concurrently and monitor for signs and symptoms and jerking.
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: Use caution if escitalopram and lamotrigine are used concurrently as this resulted in resolved after escitalopram was withdrawn (Rosenhagen et al, 2006). Monitor for signs and symptoms of myoclonus.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: additive inhibition of voltage-gated calcium channels; additive or synergistic effects
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) Myoclonus occurred in 2 patients following concomitant treatment with escitalopram and lamotrigine. Escitalopram 30 mg/day for depression, developed daytime and nighttime myoclonus after 8 weeks of re-treatment of bipolar type II disorder. Serum levels of both drugs, measured after the onset of myoclonus, escitalopram levels remained stable compared to a baseline level drawn prior to starting lamotrigine therapy. Further analysis revealed that CYP2C19, and CYP2D6 enzymes. The second patient, a 28-year-old woman taking lamotrigine 300 mg, nighttime myoclonus after 2 weeks of receiving escitalopram (titrated to 20 mg/day) for generalized anxiety disorder. The frequency of myoclonus was the same on both therapies; however, the myoclonus resolved 2 weeks after escitalopram was discontinued. Although escitalopram is metabolized by CYP2D6, there was no evidence of a metabolic enzyme interaction with lamotrigine. It was postulated that the additive or synergistic effect of lamotrigine and escitalopram on the 5-HT<sub>1A</sub> receptors, or by an additive inhibition (Rosenhagen et al, 2006).

### 3.5.1.E Estradiol Cypionate

- 1) Interaction Effect: decreased plasma lamotrigine concentrations
- 2) Summary: The concomitant use of combined hormonal contraceptives and lamotrigine has resulted in significant decreases in lamotrigine concentrations (Prod Info ORTHO EVRA(R) transdermal system patch, 2008). A sudden change in a patient's clinical condition and the use or changes in the use of oral contraceptives (Christensen et al, 2007; Sabers et al, 2003; Sabers et al, 2001) have been reported in women taking lamotrigine. Dosage adjustments may be necessary when starting or discontinuing oral contraceptives in women taking lamotrigine. (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: established
- 6) Clinical Management: Estrogen-containing oral contraceptives have been shown to significantly decrease plasma lamotrigine concentrations. Carefully monitor and adjust lamotrigine doses in women who choose estrogen-containing hormonal contraceptive system patch, 2008; Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by combination contraceptive
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) Evidence from a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial involving 7 women with epilepsy suggests that the concomitant use of lamotrigine and oral contraceptives results in decreased plasma lamotrigine concentrations. All patients were treated with lamotrigine monotherapy and taking combination oral contraceptive in a crossover fashion to receive either placebo or contraceptive (35 mcg ethinyl estradiol/250 mcg norgestrel) for 7 days. Steady-state blood samples were collected as trough levels (just prior to the next dose) and morning doses. Mean lamotrigine plasma concentrations increased by 84% (95% CI, 45% to 134%) during contraceptive treatment for 21 days. Urine excretion of lamotrigine metabolites, measured as the N-2-glucuronide, increased by 84% (95% CI, -20% to 61%) when placebo was taken instead of oral contraceptive. Seizures occurred in 3 patients during placebo therapy. The mechanism of the interaction is likely the induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by ethinyl estradiol (Christensen et al, 2007).
  - b) Several cases in which oral contraceptives changed the plasma levels of lamotrigine as well as the plasma levels of lamotrigine in patients who were seizure-free (one with epilepsy, two with complex partial seizures, and two with absence seizures) after oral contraceptives were initiated. Two other patients, one with simple partial seizure discontinued their oral contraceptives. Plasma levels of lamotrigine in these two patients had increased to 41% to 64% (mean 49%). As a result, seizure control deteriorated when oral contraceptives were discontinued. These effects were independent of whether the oral contraceptive was a combination or progestin-only. The author concludes that there is a need for careful monitoring and adjustment of the lamotrigine dose when oral contraceptives are initiated or discontinued (Sabers et al, 2001).
  - c) Lamotrigine plasma levels are reduced by greater than 50% during oral contraceptive co-medication. In a study of 16 female volunteers, estrogen-containing oral contraceptive (30 mcg ethinyl estradiol/1 mg norgestrel) decreased lamotrigine plasma concentrations by approximately 2-fold with a mean decrease in AUC of 52% and in C<sub>max</sub> of 41%. Lamotrigine plasma concentrations gradually increased and were approximately 2-fold higher at the end of the week of inactive hormone than at the end of the active hormone cycle. This increase occurred in women not taking oral contraceptives (Sabers et al, 2001).
  - d) In a study of 16 female volunteers, estrogen-containing oral contraceptive (30 mcg ethinyl estradiol/1 mg norgestrel) decreased lamotrigine plasma concentrations by approximately 2-fold with a mean decrease in AUC of 52% and in C<sub>max</sub> of 41%. Lamotrigine plasma concentrations gradually increased and were approximately 2-fold higher at the end of the week of inactive hormone than at the end of the active hormone cycle. This increase occurred in women not taking oral contraceptives (Sabers et al, 2001).

**3.5.1.F Ethinyl Estradiol**

- 1) Interaction Effect: decreased plasma lamotrigine concentrations
- 2) Summary: The concomitant use of combined hormonal contraceptives and lamotrigine has resulted in significant changes in the use or changes in the use of oral contraceptives (Christensen et al, 2007; Sabers et al, 2003; Sabers et al, 2008). A sudden change in a patient's clinical condition and reports of increased lamotrigine concentrations following introduction of oral contraceptives and reports of increased lamotrigine concentrations in women taking lamotrigine. Dosage adjustments may be necessary when starting or discontinuing oral contraceptives to maintain clinical response (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: established
- 6) Clinical Management: Estrogen-containing oral contraceptives have been shown to significantly decrease lamotrigine plasma concentrations. Carefully monitor and adjust lamotrigine doses in women who choose estrogen-containing hormonal contraceptive system patch, 2008; Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by combination contraceptive
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) Evidence from a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial involving 7 women with epilepsy suggests that lamotrigine. All patients were treated with lamotrigine monotherapy and taking combination oral contraceptive treatment for 21 days. Urine excretion of lamotrigine metabolites, measured as the N-2-glucuronide (95% CI, -20% to 61%) when placebo was taken instead of oral contraceptive. Seizures occurred in 3 patients during placebo therapy. The mechanism of the interaction is likely the induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by ethinyl estradiol (Christensen et al, 2007).
  - b) Several cases in which oral contraceptives changed the plasma levels of lamotrigine as well as the plasma levels of lamotrigine 41% to 64% (mean 49%). As a result, seizure control deteriorated when oral contraceptives were discontinued. These effects were independent of whether the oral contraceptive was continued or discontinued. The author concludes that there is a need for careful monitoring and adjustment of the lamotrigine dose when oral contraceptives are initiated or discontinued (Sabers et al, 2001).
  - c) Lamotrigine plasma levels are reduced by greater than 50% during oral contraceptive co-medication. In a study of 16 female volunteers, estrogen-containing oral contraceptive (30 mcg ethinyl estradiol/1 mg norgestrel) decreased lamotrigine plasma concentrations by approximately 2-fold with a mean decrease in AUC of 52% and lamotrigine plasma concentrations gradually increased and were approximately 2-fold higher at the end of the week of inactive hormone cycle. This increase occurred in women taking lamotrigine (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, primidone, or rifampin). Dosage adjustment of lamotrigine is necessary when oral contraceptives are initiated or discontinued (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

**3.5.1.G Ethynodiol Diacetate**

- 1) Interaction Effect: decreased plasma lamotrigine concentrations
- 2) Summary: The concomitant use of combined hormonal contraceptives and lamotrigine has resulted in significant changes in the use or changes in the use of oral contraceptives (Christensen et al, 2007; Sabers et al, 2003; Sabers et al, 2008). A sudden change in a patient's clinical condition and reports of increased lamotrigine concentrations following introduction of oral contraceptives and reports of increased lamotrigine concentrations in women taking lamotrigine. Dosage adjustments may be necessary when starting or discontinuing oral contraceptives to maintain clinical response (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: established
- 6) Clinical Management: Estrogen-containing oral contraceptives have been shown to significantly decrease lamotrigine plasma concentrations. Carefully monitor and adjust lamotrigine doses in women who choose estrogen-containing hormonal contraceptive system patch, 2008; Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by combination contraceptive
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) Evidence from a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial involving 7 women with epilepsy suggests that lamotrigine. All patients were treated with lamotrigine monotherapy and taking combination oral contraceptive treatment for 21 days. Urine excretion of lamotrigine metabolites, measured as the N-2-glucuronide (95% CI, -20% to 61%) when placebo was taken instead of oral contraceptive. Seizures occurred in 3 patients during placebo therapy. The mechanism of the interaction is likely the induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by ethinyl estradiol (Christensen et al, 2007).

seizures occurred during placebo therapy. The mechanism of the interaction is likely the induction of glucuronidation of lamotrigine and ethinyl estradiol (Christensen et al, 2007).

**b)** Several cases in which oral contraceptives changed the plasma levels of lamotrigine as well as the plasma levels of lamotrigine in patients who were seizure-free (one with epilepsy, two with complex partial seizures, and two with absence seizures) after oral contraceptives were initiated. Two other patients, one with simple partial seizure and one with complex partial seizure, discontinued their oral contraceptives. Plasma levels of lamotrigine in these two patients had increased 41% to 64% (mean 49%). As a result, seizure control deteriorated when oral contraceptives were discontinued. These effects were independent of whether the oral contraceptive was norethindrone. The author concludes that there is a need for careful monitoring and adjustment of the lamotrigine dose when combination contraceptives (Sabers et al, 2001).

**c)** Lamotrigine plasma levels are reduced by greater than 50% during oral contraceptive co-medication. In a study of 30 women who used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. The mean lamotrigine dose was 349 mg/day among women who used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. The mean lamotrigine dose was 349 mg/day among women who used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. Mean plasma level of lamotrigine was 13 mcmol/L in patients on oral contraceptives and 26 mcmol/L in patients who did not (p less than 0.0001). Oral contraceptives markedly decrease plasma concentrations of lamotrigine (Sabers et al, 2001).

**d)** In a study of 16 female volunteers, estrogen-containing oral contraceptive (30 mcg ethinyl estradiol/1 mg norethindrone) decreased the clearance of 300 mg/day lamotrigine by approximately 2-fold with a mean decrease in AUC of 52% and peak plasma concentrations gradually increased and were approximately 2-fold higher at the end of the week of inactive hormone cycle. This increase occurred in women taking lamotrigine (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, primidone, or rifampin). Dosage adjustment of lamotrigine is necessary when combination oral contraceptives (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.5.1.H Etonogestrel

1) Interaction Effect: decreased plasma lamotrigine concentrations

2) Summary: The concomitant use of combined hormonal contraceptives and lamotrigine has resulted in significant decreases in lamotrigine plasma concentrations (Prod Info ORTHO EVRA(R) transdermal system patch, 2008). A sudden change in a patient's clinical condition and/or seizure activity may occur when the use or changes in the use of oral contraceptives (Christensen et al, 2007; Sabers et al, 2003; Sabers et al, 2003) are initiated. Lamotrigine plasma concentrations following introduction of oral contraceptives and reports of increased lamotrigine plasma concentrations in women taking lamotrigine. Dosage adjustments may be necessary when starting or discontinuing oral contraceptives to maintain clinical response (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

3) Severity: moderate

4) Onset: delayed

5) Substantiation: established

6) Clinical Management: Estrogen-containing oral contraceptives have been shown to significantly decrease lamotrigine plasma concentrations. Carefully monitor and adjust lamotrigine doses in women who choose estrogen-containing hormonal contraceptives (Prod Info ORTHO EVRA(R) transdermal system patch, 2008; Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

7) Probable Mechanism: induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by combination contraceptive

8) Literature Reports

**a)** Evidence from a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial involving 7 women with epilepsy suggests that lamotrigine plasma concentrations are decreased when combination oral contraceptives are used. All patients were treated with lamotrigine monotherapy and taking combination oral contraceptives in a crossover fashion to receive either placebo or contraceptive (35 mcg ethinyl estradiol/250 mcg norgestrel) for 7 days with a 7-day pause. Steady-state blood samples were collected as trough levels (just prior to the next dose) and morning doses. Mean lamotrigine plasma concentrations increased by 84% (95% CI, 45% to 134%) when lamotrigine was administered with contraceptive treatment for 21 days. Urine excretion of lamotrigine metabolites, measured as the N-2-glucuronide, increased by 84% (95% CI, -20% to 61%) when placebo was taken instead of oral contraceptive. Seizures occurred in 3 patients during placebo therapy. The mechanism of the interaction is likely the induction of glucuronidation of lamotrigine and ethinyl estradiol (Christensen et al, 2007).

**b)** Several cases in which oral contraceptives changed the plasma levels of lamotrigine as well as the plasma levels of lamotrigine in patients who were seizure-free (one with epilepsy, two with complex partial seizures, and two with absence seizures) after oral contraceptives were initiated. Two other patients, one with simple partial seizure and one with complex partial seizure, discontinued their oral contraceptives. Plasma levels of lamotrigine in these two patients had increased 41% to 64% (mean 49%). As a result, seizure control deteriorated when oral contraceptives were discontinued. These effects were independent of whether the oral contraceptive was norethindrone. The author concludes that there is a need for careful monitoring and adjustment of the lamotrigine dose when combination contraceptives (Sabers et al, 2001).

**c)** Lamotrigine plasma levels are reduced by greater than 50% during oral contraceptive co-medication. In a study of 30 women who used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. The mean lamotrigine dose was 349 mg/day among women who used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. The mean lamotrigine dose was 349 mg/day among women who used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. Mean plasma level of lamotrigine was 13 mcmol/L in patients on oral contraceptives and 26 mcmol/L in patients who did not (p less than 0.0001). Oral contraceptives markedly decrease plasma concentrations of lamotrigine (Sabers et al, 2001).

**d)** In a study of 16 female volunteers, estrogen-containing oral contraceptive (30 mcg ethinyl estradiol/1 mg norethindrone) decreased the clearance of 300 mg/day lamotrigine by approximately 2-fold with a mean decrease in AUC of 52% and peak plasma concentrations gradually increased and were approximately 2-fold higher at the end of the week of inactive hormone cycle. This increase occurred in women taking lamotrigine (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, primidone, or rifampin). Dosage adjustment of lamotrigine is necessary when combination oral contraceptives (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.5.1.I Evening Primrose

1) Interaction Effect: reduced anticonvulsant effectiveness

2) Summary: Theoretically, evening primrose oil may reduce the effectiveness of anticonvulsants by lowering

contraindicated in patients with epilepsy (Barber, 1998; Newall et al, 1996).

- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: Avoid concomitant use of evening primrose oil with anticonvulsants.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: evening primrose oil may reduce the seizure threshold

### 3.5.1.J Fosphenytoin

- 1) Interaction Effect: reduced lamotrigine efficacy
- 2) Summary: Fosphenytoin is a prodrug of phenytoin and the same interactions that occur with phenytoin are seen with fosphenytoin (Cerebyx(R), 1999). Potent hepatic enzyme-inducing drugs including phenytoin enhance the metabolic clearance and steady-state elimination half-life of approximately 24 to 30 hours, coadministration of phenytoin reduces the half-life of lamotrigine (Jawad et al, 1989; Peck, 1991).
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: Higher doses of lamotrigine are needed when given concurrently with enzyme-inducing antiepileptic agents. When given in combination with an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic agent, the manufacturer recommends an initial dose of 100 mg twice daily for the first two weeks for adult patients, followed by 50 mg twice daily for the third and fourth weeks, advancing by 100 mg twice daily to 500 mg administered in two divided doses.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: increased lamotrigine metabolism
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) If phenytoin or carbamazepine (or any prodrugs) is used in pregnant women, there is a substantially increased risk of other anticonvulsants. The teratogenicity of these drugs is largely or wholly related to the levels of the drug in the fetus (Dyke et al, 1991; Finnell et al, 1992). The epoxide/parent drug ratio is generally increased when phenytoin is used with other drugs that induce cytochrome P450 enzymes (3A4, 2C9, 2C19), or drugs which inhibit epoxide hydrolase (Bianchetti et al, 1987; Ramsay et al, 1990; Spina et al, 1996). Such combinations increase the risk of seizures in monotherapy and about 10-fold over background rates.

### 3.5.1.K Ginkgo

- 1) Interaction Effect: decreased anticonvulsant effectiveness
- 2) Summary: In a case report, 2 patients with epilepsy previously well controlled by valproate sodium developed seizures after ginkgo extract was withdrawn (Granger, 2001a). An infant developed seizures from ingestion of ginkgo seeds (Yagi et al, 1993a). The compound 4'-O-methylpyridoxine, a neurotoxin, is found in ginkgo leaves, the ginkgo component from which commercially available extracts are derived (Arenz et al, 1996a). Sufficient amounts of 4'-O-methylpyridoxine to cause seizures. However, ginkgo products are not commonly tested for 4'-O-methylpyridoxine. Of concern are those instances where, depending on the harvest season, sufficient amounts of 4'-O-methylpyridoxine may be present in sufficient amounts to be problematic in vulnerable populations (eg, infant).
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: Avoid concomitant use of ginkgo and anticonvulsants in patients with epilepsy. If seizures previously controlled by anticonvulsant medication, inquire about the use of ginkgo seed or leaf extract. If possible, discontinue ginkgo product to ascertain if 4'-O-methylpyridoxine is present.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: neurotoxin 4'-O-methylpyridoxine (found in leaves and seeds of ginkgo biloba) may decrease anticonvulsant effectiveness
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) The serum of a 21-month-old patient with ginkgo food poisoning was assayed for 4'-O-methylpyridoxine content. The concentration was 8.5 micrograms/milliliter (mcg/mL) at 8.5 hours after ingesting ginkgo seeds, decreasing to 0.05 mcg/mL at 12 hours. The 4'-O-methylpyridoxine content was responsible for the tonic/clonic convulsions and loss of consciousness observed particularly in vulnerable populations (Yagi et al, 1993).
  - b) Four to six milligrams of the neurotoxin 4'-O-methylpyridoxine have been isolated from 2 kilograms of commercially-available products. Highest amounts were found in seeds (85 micrograms (mcg)/seed) and leaves (105.15 mcg/gram dry weight) in July and beginning of August. The albumen of the seed can contain 105.15 mcg/gram dry weight, but this is destroyed when the seed is boiled. The unprocessed seed coats contain from 5.44-7.15 mcg/gram dry weight. The neurotoxin in ginkgo is not detectable in homeopathic preparations. Specifically, 8.13 mcg/mL of 4'-O-methylpyridoxine was found in Ginkgo Biloba Forte(R), and 7.18 mcg/mL in Gingium(R). Based on recommended daily intake, this is equivalent to 48.78 mcg, 58.62 mcg, 11.40 mcg, and 43.08 mcg for Tebonin Forte(R), Rokan(R), and Ginkgo biloba Urtinktur Hanosan(R) and Ginkgo biloba Urtinktur DHU(R) containing 4'-O-methylpyridoxine, respectively. However, the authors note that the amount contained in medicinal extracts is of no clinical significance. Concern remains with the variance in 4'-O-methylpyridoxine content depending on the season (Arenz et al, 1996).
  - c) Seizures recurred in 2 patients, both with epilepsy that was well controlled prior to ingesting ginkgo biloba. One 78-year-old man had been free of seizures for at least 18 months prior to beginning therapy with Gb 12. The other developed seizures within 2 weeks of beginning Gb therapy, and both remained seizure-free (without change in anticonvulsant therapy) (Granger, 2001).

### 3.5.1.L Levonorgestrel

- 1) Interaction Effect: decreased plasma lamotrigine concentrations





lamotrigine concentrations following introduction of oral contraceptives and reports of increased lamotrigine c contraceptives in women taking lamotrigine. Dosage adjustments may be necessary when starting or discont maintain clinical response (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: established
- 6) Clinical Management: Estrogen-containing oral contraceptives have been shown to significantly decrease use. Carefully monitor and adjust lamotrigine doses in women who choose estrogen-containing hormonal cor system patch, 2008; Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by combination contraceptive
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) Evidence from a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial involving 7 women with epilepsy suggests that lamotrigine. All patients were treated with lamotrigine monotherapy and taking combination oral contraceptives in a crossover fashion to receive either placebo or contraceptive (35 mcg ethinyl estradiol/250 mcg norgestrel a 7-day pause). Steady-state blood samples were collected as trough levels (just prior to the next dose) and morning doses. Mean lamotrigine plasma concentrations increased by 84% (95% CI, 45% to 134%) with contraceptive treatment for 21 days. Urine excretion of lamotrigine metabolites, measured as the N-2-glucuronide (95% CI, -20% to 61%) when placebo was taken instead of oral contraceptive. Seizures occurred in 3 patients; 2 seizures occurred during placebo therapy. The mechanism of the interaction is likely the induction of lamotrigine and ethinyl estradiol (Christensen et al, 2007).
  - b) Several cases in which oral contraceptives changed the plasma levels of lamotrigine as well as the plasma levels of lamotrigine in seizure-free patients who were seizure-free (one with epilepsy, two with complex partial seizures, and two with absence seizures) after oral contraceptives were initiated. Two other patients, one with simple partial seizure discontinued their oral contraceptives. Plasma levels of lamotrigine in these two patients had increased to 41% to 64% (mean 49%). As a result, seizure control deteriorated when oral contraceptives were discontinued. These effects were independent of whether the oral contraceptive was norethindrone. The author concludes that there is a need for careful monitoring and adjustment of lamotrigine during combination contraceptives (Sabers et al, 2001).
  - c) Lamotrigine plasma levels are reduced by greater than 50% during oral contraceptive co-medication. In a study of 16 female volunteers, 10 used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. The mean lamotrigine dose was 349 mg/day among women who used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. Mean plasma level of lamotrigine was 13 mcg/L in patients on oral contraceptives and 13 mcg/L in patients who did not (p less than 0.0001). Oral contraceptives markedly decrease plasma concentrations of lamotrigine (Sabers et al, 2003).
  - d) In a study of 16 female volunteers, estrogen-containing oral contraceptive (30 mcg ethinyl estradiol/150 mcg norethindrone) decreased the clearance of 300 mg/day lamotrigine by approximately 2-fold with a mean decrease in AUC of 52% and a mean decrease in peak concentrations of 41%. Lamotrigine concentrations gradually increased and were approximately 2-fold higher at the end of the week of inactive phase compared with the end of the active hormone cycle. This increase occurred in women taking lamotrigine (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, primidone, or rifampin). Dosage adjustment of lamotrigine during combination contraceptives (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.5.1.Q Norgestimate

- 1) Interaction Effect: decreased plasma lamotrigine concentrations
- 2) Summary: The concomitant use of combined hormonal contraceptives and lamotrigine has resulted in significant decreases in lamotrigine concentrations (Prod Info ORTHO EVRA(R) transdermal system patch, 2008). A sudden change in a patient's clinical condition and the use or changes in the use of oral contraceptives (Christensen et al, 2007; Sabers et al, 2003; Sabers et al, 2003) may result in decreased lamotrigine concentrations following introduction of oral contraceptives and reports of increased lamotrigine c contraceptives in women taking lamotrigine. Dosage adjustments may be necessary when starting or discont maintain clinical response (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: established
- 6) Clinical Management: Estrogen-containing oral contraceptives have been shown to significantly decrease use. Carefully monitor and adjust lamotrigine doses in women who choose estrogen-containing hormonal cor system patch, 2008; Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by combination contraceptive
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) Evidence from a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial involving 7 women with epilepsy suggests that lamotrigine. All patients were treated with lamotrigine monotherapy and taking combination oral contraceptives in a crossover fashion to receive either placebo or contraceptive (35 mcg ethinyl estradiol/250 mcg norgestrel a 7-day pause). Steady-state blood samples were collected as trough levels (just prior to the next dose) and morning doses. Mean lamotrigine plasma concentrations increased by 84% (95% CI, 45% to 134%) with contraceptive treatment for 21 days. Urine excretion of lamotrigine metabolites, measured as the N-2-glucuronide (95% CI, -20% to 61%) when placebo was taken instead of oral contraceptive. Seizures occurred in 3 patients; 2 seizures occurred during placebo therapy. The mechanism of the interaction is likely the induction of lamotrigine and ethinyl estradiol (Christensen et al, 2007).
  - b) Several cases in which oral contraceptives changed the plasma levels of lamotrigine as well as the plasma levels of lamotrigine in seizure-free patients who were seizure-free (one with epilepsy, two with complex partial seizures, and two with absence seizures) after oral contraceptives were initiated. Two other patients, one with simple partial seizure discontinued their oral contraceptives. Plasma levels of lamotrigine in these two patients had increased to 41% to 64% (mean 49%). As a result, seizure control deteriorated when oral contraceptives were discontinued. These effects were independent of whether the oral contraceptive was norethindrone. The author concludes that there is a need for careful monitoring and adjustment of lamotrigine during combination contraceptives (Sabers et al, 2001).



plasma levels of lamotrigine 41% to 64% (mean 49%). As a result, seizure control deteriorated when oral contraceptives were discontinued. These effects were independent of whether the oral contraceptive was norethindrone. The author concludes that there is a need for careful monitoring and adjustment of the lamotrigine dose when combination contraceptives (Sabers et al, 2001).

**c)** Lamotrigine plasma levels are reduced by greater than 50% during oral contraceptive co-medication. In a study of 30 women who used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. The mean lamotrigine dose was 349 mg/day among women who used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. The mean lamotrigine dose was 349 mg/day among women who used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. Mean plasma level of lamotrigine was 13 mcg/L in patients on oral contraceptives and 26 mcg/L in patients not on oral contraceptives (p less than 0.0001). Oral contraceptives markedly decrease plasma concentrations of lamotrigine (Sabers et al, 2001).

**d)** In a study of 16 female volunteers, estrogen-containing oral contraceptive (30 mcg ethinyl estradiol/1.5 mg norethindrone) decreased the clearance of 300 mg/day lamotrigine by approximately 2-fold with a mean decrease in AUC of 52% and peak plasma concentrations gradually increased and were approximately 2-fold higher at the end of the week of inactive hormone cycle. This increase occurred in women taking lamotrigine (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, primidone, or rifampin). Dosage adjustment of lamotrigine is necessary when starting or discontinuing oral contraceptives (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.5.1.R Norgestrel

1) Interaction Effect: decreased plasma lamotrigine concentrations

2) Summary: The concomitant use of combined hormonal contraceptives and lamotrigine has resulted in significant decreases in lamotrigine concentrations (Prod Info ORTHO EVRA(R) transdermal system patch, 2008). A sudden change in a patient's clinical condition after the use or changes in the use of oral contraceptives (Christensen et al, 2007; Sabers et al, 2003; Sabers et al, 2001) and reports of increased lamotrigine concentrations following introduction of oral contraceptives and reports of increased lamotrigine concentrations in women taking lamotrigine. Dosage adjustments may be necessary when starting or discontinuing oral contraceptives to maintain clinical response (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

3) Severity: moderate

4) Onset: delayed

5) Substantiation: established

6) Clinical Management: Estrogen-containing oral contraceptives have been shown to significantly decrease lamotrigine plasma concentrations. Carefully monitor and adjust lamotrigine doses in women who choose estrogen-containing hormonal contraceptive. (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

7) Probable Mechanism: induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by combination contraceptive

8) Literature Reports

**a)** Evidence from a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial involving 7 women with epilepsy suggests that lamotrigine plasma concentrations are decreased when combination oral contraceptives are used. All patients were treated with lamotrigine monotherapy and taking combination oral contraceptive in a crossover fashion to receive either placebo or contraceptive (35 mcg ethinyl estradiol/250 mcg norgestrel) for 7 days followed by a 7-day pause. Steady-state blood samples were collected as trough levels (just prior to the next dose) and morning doses. Mean lamotrigine plasma concentrations increased by 84% (95% CI, 45% to 134%) when placebo was taken instead of oral contraceptive. Urine excretion of lamotrigine metabolites, measured as the N-2-glucuronide, increased by 20% (95% CI, -20% to 61%) when placebo was taken instead of oral contraceptive. Seizures occurred in 3 patients during placebo therapy. The mechanism of the interaction is likely the induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation by combination oral contraceptive (Christensen et al, 2007).

**b)** Several cases in which oral contraceptives changed the plasma levels of lamotrigine as well as the seizure control in patients who were seizure-free (one with epilepsy, two with complex partial seizures, and two with absence seizures). Plasma levels of lamotrigine in these two patients had increased when oral contraceptives were initiated. Two other patients, one with simple partial seizure and one with absence seizure, discontinued their oral contraceptives. Plasma levels of lamotrigine in these two patients had increased when oral contraceptives were discontinued. As a result, seizure control deteriorated when oral contraceptives were discontinued. These effects were independent of whether the oral contraceptive was norethindrone. The author concludes that there is a need for careful monitoring and adjustment of the lamotrigine dose when combination contraceptives (Sabers et al, 2001).

**c)** Lamotrigine plasma levels are reduced by greater than 50% during oral contraceptive co-medication. In a study of 30 women who used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. The mean lamotrigine dose was 349 mg/day among women who used oral contraceptives, and 30 who did not. Mean plasma level of lamotrigine was 13 mcg/L in patients on oral contraceptives and 26 mcg/L in patients not on oral contraceptives (p less than 0.0001). Oral contraceptives markedly decrease plasma concentrations of lamotrigine (Sabers et al, 2001).

**d)** In a study of 16 female volunteers, estrogen-containing oral contraceptive (30 mcg ethinyl estradiol/1.5 mg norethindrone) decreased the clearance of 300 mg/day lamotrigine by approximately 2-fold with a mean decrease in AUC of 52% and peak plasma concentrations gradually increased and were approximately 2-fold higher at the end of the week of inactive hormone cycle. This increase occurred in women taking lamotrigine (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, primidone, or rifampin). Dosage adjustment of lamotrigine is necessary when starting or discontinuing oral contraceptives (Prod Info LAMICTAL(R) oral tablets, chewable dispersible oral tablets, 2006).

### 3.5.1.S Oxcarbazepine

1) Interaction Effect: reduced lamotrigine concentrations and possible loss of seizure control

2) Summary: Oxcarbazepine is structurally similar to carbamazepine but does not form an epoxide metabolite. When lamotrigine and oxcarbazepine were administered concurrently to 14 epileptic patients, lamotrigine plasma concentrations decreased 28.7% compared to lamotrigine monotherapy (May et al, 1999c). In two patients who had received oxcarbazepine, lamotrigine plasma concentrations decreased several weeks after oxcarbazepine discontinuation or dose reduction. Induction of lamotrigine metabolism by oxcarbazepine is the mechanism, such oxcarbazepine discontinuation or a dose reduction may have resulted in a slow increase in lamotrigine plasma concentrations (O'Neill & deLeon, 2007). Concomitant use of lamotrigine and oxcarbazepine may require monitoring the patient's lamotrigine dose as necessary. Conversely, in patients receiving these agents concurrently, if oxcarbazepine

doses may need to be reduced. Additionally, the patient may need to be monitored over several weeks for signs and symptoms of toxicity.

- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: Monitor seizure control and anticipate a possible need to increase lamotrigine dose if oxcabazepine is withdrawn from therapy or if dosage is reduced, lamotrigine doses may need to be reduced over several weeks for symptoms of lamotrigine toxicity.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: hepatic induction by oxcabazepine of lamotrigine metabolism
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) Two patients, receiving lamotrigine and oxcabazepine concurrently, experienced oral ulcers several weeks after oxcabazepine dose reduction. In the first case, a 35-year-old woman being treated for bipolar II disorder (BD II), hypothyroidism, and experiencing one week of worsening depression and two days of suicidal thoughts and treated with oxcabazepine, aripiprazole, quetiapine, lithium, naproxen, pantoprazole, amoxicillin, and levothyroxine. On day 2, lamotrigine was initiated at 50 mg/day by day 6. Oxcabazepine dose was decreased and stopped by day 5, and she was discharged on day 6. Oxcabazepine, aripiprazole, escitalopram, naproxen, pantoprazole, levothyroxine, and hydroxyzine. On day 42 (41 days after oxcabazepine), she developed painful tongue ulcers. Subsequently, lamotrigine was stopped and the patient was discharged on day 14 with lamotrigine 100 mg and oxcabazepine 1200 mg (along with other medication) on day 14 after discharge. On day 44 (22 days after oxcabazepine dose decrease), she developed several oral ulcers. Lamotrigine and oxcabazepine were discontinued and the ulcers resolved completely (O'Neill & deLeon, 2003).
  - b) Lamotrigine serum concentrations from 222 patients receiving lamotrigine monotherapy (n = 64) or in combination with oxcabazepine (n = 158) were evaluated. Fourteen patients were being treated with lamotrigine and oxcabazepine. In the lamotrigine monotherapy group, the mean lamotrigine level was 7.14 mcg/mL while the mean dose was 7.27 mg/dose/kg. The lamotrigine level-to-dose ratio (LDR) in this group was 0.71 mcg/mL/mg/kg. In the subjects receiving oxcabazepine in addition to lamotrigine, the plasma concentration was 4.73 mcg/mL and the lamotrigine LDR in this group was 0.71 mcg/mL/mg/kg, demonstrating the inducing properties of oxcabazepine on lamotrigine metabolism.

### 3.5.1.T Phenobarbital

- 1) Interaction Effect: reduced lamotrigine efficacy, loss of seizure control
- 2) Summary: Potent hepatic enzyme-inducing drugs including phenobarbital enhance the metabolic clearance and reduce the elimination half-life of approximately 24 to 30 hours, coadministration of phenobarbital reduces the half-life of lamotrigine (Jawad et al, 1989a; Peck, 1991a) and decreases the lamotrigine steady-state concentration by approximately 40% (Pharmacokinetics of lamotrigine in combination with phenobarbital, valproic acid, and an enzyme inducer on lamotrigine metabolism does not appear to be affected).
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: Higher doses of lamotrigine are needed when given concurrently with enzyme-inducing agents. When given in combination with an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic agent, the manufacturer recommends an initial lamotrigine dose of 50 mg twice daily for the first and second weeks, followed by 100 mg twice daily for the third and fourth weeks, advancing by 100 mg twice daily for the fifth and sixth weeks, and 500 mg administered in two divided doses.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: hepatic induction by phenobarbital of lamotrigine metabolism
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) In 13 patients treated with either carbamazepine or phenobarbital with lamotrigine, the half-life of lamotrigine in children over the age of 2 years and young adults with epilepsy that was not controlled with a single agent was significantly shorter than in subjects taking lamotrigine alone has been 25.4 hours with repeated dosing (Prod Info Lamictal(R), 2003).

### 3.5.1.U Phenytoin

- 1) Interaction Effect: reduced lamotrigine efficacy
- 2) Summary: Potent hepatic enzyme-inducing drugs including phenytoin enhance the metabolic clearance and reduce the elimination half-life of approximately 24 to 30 hours, coadministration of phenytoin reduces the half-life of lamotrigine (Jawad et al, 1989b; Peck, 1991b). The addition of phenytoin decreases the lamotrigine steady-state concentration by approximately 40%. Lamotrigine has no significant effect on steady-state phenytoin concentrations (Prod Info Lamictal(R), 2003).
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: theoretical
- 6) Clinical Management: Higher doses of lamotrigine are needed when given concurrently with enzyme-inducing agents. When given in combination with an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic agent, the manufacturer recommends an initial lamotrigine dose of 50 mg twice daily for the first and second weeks, followed by 100 mg twice daily for the third and fourth weeks, and 500 mg administered in two divided doses.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: increased lamotrigine metabolism
- 8) Literature Reports
  - a) If phenytoin or carbamazepine (or any prodrugs) is used in pregnant women, there is a substantially increased risk of fetal malformations. The teratogenicity of these drugs is largely or wholly related to the levels of the drugs in the fetus (Dyke et al, 1991a; Finnell et al, 1992a). The epoxide/parent drug ratio is generally increased when phenytoin is given with any other drugs that induce cytochrome P450 enzymes (3A4, 2C9, 2C19), or drugs which inhibit epoxide hydrolase (Bianchetti et al, 1987a; Ramsay et al, 1990a; Spina et al, 1996a). Such combinations increase the risk of fetal malformations about 10-fold over background rates.



0.54). Consequently, the lamotrigine dose was increased to 200 mg twice daily from day 23 to day 31 in bioequivalent to that on day 10, with a GMR (day 31/day 10) of 0.91 (90% CI, 0.82 to 1.02). The median metabolite to lamotrigine on day 20 was almost double to that on day 10 (0.57 on day 10 versus 1.12 on induction of glucuronidation of lamotrigine by ritonavir, and possibly also due to lopinavir. The pharmacol altered (vanderLee et al, 2006).

### 3.5.1.Z Rufinamide

- 1) Interaction Effect: decreased lamotrigine plasma concentrations
- 2) Summary: Concomitant administration of lamotrigine and rufinamide may result in lamotrigine concentration dependent on the concentration of rufinamide, so maximum changes will most likely occur in children and other rufinamide (Prod Info BANZEL(TM) oral tablets, 2008).
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: unspecified
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: Caution is advised if lamotrigine and rufinamide are coadministered as this may result in increased risk. Risk is increased in children and in other patients who achieve significantly higher levels of rufinamide (Prod Info BANZEL(TM) oral tablets, 2008).
- 7) Probable Mechanism: unknown

### 3.5.1.AA Sertraline

- 1) Interaction Effect: an increased risk of lamotrigine toxicity (fatigue, sedation, confusion, decreased cognition)
- 2) Summary: Two case reports describe epileptic patients who experienced lamotrigine toxicity when sertraline was administered primarily via glucuronidation, while sertraline relies on N-demethylation, hydroxylation, oxidative deamination. Sertraline decreases lamotrigine metabolism through competitive inhibition of glucuronidation (Kaufman & Gerner, 1998).
- 3) Severity: moderate
- 4) Onset: delayed
- 5) Substantiation: probable
- 6) Clinical Management: Caution should be exercised when combining sertraline and lamotrigine therapy. Lamotrigine dosages adjusted accordingly.
- 7) Probable Mechanism: inhibition of lamotrigine glucuronidation
- 8) Literature Reports

a) A 39-year-old female with epilepsy was maintained on lamotrigine 200 mg daily with a baseline lamotrigine level of 10.5 mcg/mL. She had intermittent explosive disorder, sertraline 25 mg daily was initiated. Six weeks later, the lamotrigine level decreased to 9.8 mcg/mL, with confusion and cognitive impairment. Sertraline was increased to 50 mg daily while lamotrigine was decreased to 100 mg daily. Sertraline eliminated the patient's confusion and impaired cognition, and the blood level of lamotrigine stabilized at 9.8 mcg/mL.

b) Lamotrigine 450 mg daily was not controlling seizures in a 17-year-old female with mixed epileptic disorder. Lamotrigine was increased to 600 mg daily, and titrated to 75 mg daily without any side effects. Lamotrigine was also increased to 600 mg daily, and fatigue, and decreased cognition. The lamotrigine blood level was 19.3 mcg/mL at this time. The sertraline was discontinued. The lamotrigine level was increased to 800 mg daily, resulting in a new steady-state lamotrigine level of 9.8 mcg/mL. Sertraline decreased to approximately 50% with a 33% decrease in the sertraline daily dose, even though the lamotrigine level was stable (Gerner, 1998).

### 3.5.1.AB Valproic Acid

- 1) Interaction Effect: increased elimination half-life of lamotrigine leading to lamotrigine toxicity (fatigue, drowsiness, rash)
  - 2) Summary: Valproic acid interferes with the metabolic clearance of lamotrigine. The normal elimination half-life of lamotrigine is approximately 35 hours. When receiving concomitant valproic acid therapy, the half-life increases to approximately 40 to 60 hours. The combination of the two drugs for hepatic metabolism (Binnie et al, 1986b; Peck, 1991c; Eriksson et al, 1996a; Sallustio & Mooney, 1998). Disseminated intravascular coagulation, and fatal toxic necrolysis have been reported with this combination in children (Page II et al, 1998a). Given the increased risk of rash in pediatric patients, careful monitoring of lamotrigine is recommended in younger than 16 years of age, for whom the indication for lamotrigine is restricted to those who have been diagnosed with Stevens-Johnson syndrome. The dose of lamotrigine should be reduced when coadministered with valproate (Prod Info Depak ER, 2006).
  - 3) Severity: major
  - 4) Onset: delayed
  - 5) Substantiation: established
  - 6) Clinical Management: Dosage reductions of lamotrigine are necessary with concurrent valproic acid therapy. The manufacturer recommends a lamotrigine dose of 25 mg every other day for the first two weeks, advancing to a maintenance dose of 100 mg to 400 mg daily in increments of 25 mg to 50 mg daily. If the patient is on any other antiepileptic medication, the usual maintenance dose of lamotrigine is 100 to 200 mg daily. Discontinuation of the rash is clearly not drug related (Prod Info lamotrigine oral tablets, 2006).
  - 7) Probable Mechanism: decreased lamotrigine metabolism
  - 8) Literature Reports
- a) A 23-year-old woman presented to the emergency room with generalized rash, redness and swelling of the face, neck, and chest. She had been on lamotrigine 50 mg twice daily for 3 weeks. Her initial regimen consisted of lamotrigine 50 mg twice daily and valproic acid 500 mg twice daily was added 2 months and lamotrigine 50 mg twice daily was added 3 weeks prior to the rash. Her erythrocyte sedimentation rate and C-reactive protein were elevated. However, serum carbamazepine and valproic acid concentrations were not measured. She was diagnosed with lamotrigine-induced Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Her Reactions Probability Scale score of 6 (probably drug induced). Lamotrigine was discontinued and treatment initiated with prednisone 1 mg/kg daily.

day 18 on oral carbamazepine 400 mg twice daily and oral valproic acid 1500 mg/day. At the one month oromucosal and skin lesions, with areas of hyperpigmentation. The patient's increased risk of developing combination of lamotrigine and valproic acid leading to decreased metabolism of lamotrigine, or due to ir manufacturer's recommended starting dose of 25 mg per day (Kocak et al, 2007).

**b)** Fever, rash, multiorgan dysfunction, and disseminated intravascular coagulation were reported in two Both children were receiving valproic acid for treatment of seizures. Lamotrigine was added because of starting lamotrigine, but did not abate after lamotrigine was discontinued (Chattergoon et al, 1997).

**c)** A 54-year-old male presented to the hospital with a five-day history of facial swelling, intermittent feve extremities, neck, and back. He had been taking allopurinol 100 mg daily and captopril 50 mg daily for fo multiforme brain tumor, valproic acid and lamotrigine therapy was begun and the doses were titrated to v 50 mg twice daily approximately four weeks prior to his hospital admission. By hospital day 7, the patient his back, face, and trunk, accounting for more than 60% of his total body surface area. He continued to c hospital day 12. His death was attributed to toxic epidermal necrolysis probably due to lamotrigine therap 1998).

**d)** A study including 28 patients with intractable epilepsy was conducted to determine whether the dose acid were inversely related to lamotrigine clearance. Valproic acid was initiated at 500 mg/day for 3 days tolerance and response. The valproic acid dose was increased 125 to 250 mg every 3 weeks, until patier Upon initiation of valproic acid, the dose of lamotrigine was decreased by 50%, so as to maintain lamotri monotherapy. A 50% reduction in lamotrigine clearance was reported in these patients. The dose of lam valproic acid therapy to maintain comparable lamotrigine Css. However, additional increases in valproic lamotrigine to maintain stable lamotrigine Css. Seizure-free periods were significantly longer during treat lamotrigine monotherapy, an indication that therapeutic synergism exists between lamotrigine and valprc

**e)** A study involving eight patients with epilepsy found a significant increase in lamotrigine area under th with concomitant valproic acid administration. Dosages of valproic acid of up to 1,000 mg/day resulted in fold. Even low doses of valproic acid (200 mg/day) resulted in significant increases in lamotrigine AUC (r concentrations by inhibiting lamotrigine metabolism and increased half-life has been achieved with the u al, 2000).

**f)** Lamotrigine decreased valproic acid steady-state concentrations by 25% in 18 healthy volunteers ove lamotrigine to the existing therapy did not cause a change in plasma valproate concentrations in adult or addition of valproate increased lamotrigine steady-state concentrations in normal volunteers by more tha

**g)** In a black box warning from the manufacturer, the incidence of severe rash may be higher in patients Info Lamictal(R), 2003d).

**4.0 Clinical Applications**

Monitoring Parameters

Patient Instructions

Place In Therapy

Mechanism of Action / Pharmacology

Therapeutic Uses

Comparative Efficacy / Evaluation With Other Therapies

**4.1 Monitoring Parameters**

**A) Therapeutic**

**1) Laboratory Parameters**

**a)** A therapeutic plasma concentration range has not been established for lamotrigine. Dosing of lamotrigine plasma concentration. Monitoring of plasma levels of lamotrigine and concomitant antiepileptic drugs may be Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

**b)** Due to the possibility of increased clearance during pregnancy lamotrigine serum levels should be monito Battino, 2007; Tran et al, 2002a). Although, therapeutic concentrations have not been established, prepregna provide a reference concentration for comparison to concentrations during pregnancy, when concentrations c characteristics of lamotrigine (Tomson & Battino, 2007).

**2) Physical Findings**

**a)** Patients receiving lamotrigine for the treatment of epilepsy should be monitored for a therapeutic respons of seizures(Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2

**b)** Patients receiving lamotrigine for the treatment of bipolar 1 disorder should be assessed for a therapeutic episodes (eg, depression, mania, hypomania, mixed episodes) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible o 2009).

**B) Toxic**

- 1) Laboratory Parameters
  - a) Although, lamotrigine has no significant effects on the plasma levels of other antiepileptic drugs, serum levels especially during dosage adjustments (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, or
- 2) Physical Findings
  - a) Observe patient for signs of rash or skin reaction (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets,
    - 1) Discontinue lamotrigine therapy at the first sign of a rash. If the cause of rash has been clearly identified to be discontinued (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
  - b) Evaluate patient for signs of hypersensitivity reaction, such as fever and lymphadenopathy. Hypersensitivity multiorgan failure/dysfunction. Lamotrigine should be discontinued if other causes of the symptoms are not identified (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).
  - c) Assess patient for worsening of depressive symptoms and/or development of suicidality at the initiation of therapy. Patients requiring the closest monitoring for suicide risk are those with a history or presence of suicidal behavior or the use of lamotrigine with other antiepileptic drugs (AEDs). Data reviewed by the US Food and Drug Administration suggest an increased risk of suicidal behavior or suicidality with lamotrigine. The increased risk of suicidality was noted at 1 week after starting an AED and occurred in patients with epilepsy, psychiatric disorders, or other conditions. The increased risk of suicidality compared to placebo was observed in patients with a history of depression, emergence or worsening of depression, suicidality, and other unusual changes in behavior, which may include suicidal thoughts, actions, or suicidal ideation (US Food and Drug Administration, 2008).

**4.2 Patient Instructions**

**A) Lamotrigine (By mouth)**  
Lamotrigine

Treats certain types of seizures and mood disorders. Often used along with other medicines.

**When This Medicine Should Not Be Used:**

You should not use this medicine if you have had an allergic reaction to lamotrigine.

**How to Use This Medicine:**

**Tablet, Chewable Tablet, Dissolving Tablet, Long Acting Tablet**

Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine to use and how often. Your dose may need to be changed if you do not have a seizure for a long time. Do not use more medicine or use it more often than your doctor tells you to.

You may take this medicine with or without food.

It is best to swallow the regular tablet whole. You may break or crush the tablet if your doctor tells you to, but do not crush or chew the tablet. The chewable tablet may be swallowed whole, or chewed and taken with a small amount of water or diluted fruit juice. Swallow the mixture after 1 minute.

If you are using the disintegrating tablet, make sure your hands are dry before you handle the tablet. Do not crush or chew the tablet. Remove the tablet from the blister pack by peeling back the foil, then taking the tablet out of your mouth. It should melt quickly. After the tablet has melted, swallow or take a drink of water.

Swallow the extended-release tablet whole. Do not crush, break, or chew it.

Use only the brand of this medicine that your doctor prescribed. Different brands may not work the same way.

This medicine can be used with other seizure medicines. Keep using all of your seizure medicines unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

This medicine should come with a Medication Guide. Read and follow these instructions carefully. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for the Medication Guide if you do not have one. Your doctor might ask you to sign some forms to let us know you have read the Medication Guide.

This medicine comes with patient instructions. Read and follow these instructions carefully. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for the patient instructions if you do not have one.

**If a Dose is Missed:**

If you miss a dose or forget to use your medicine, use it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

**How to Store and Dispose of This Medicine:**

Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.

Ask your pharmacist, doctor, or health caregiver about the best way to dispose of any leftover medicine after the expiration date has passed.

Keep all medicine away from children and never share your medicine with anyone.

**Drugs and Foods to Avoid:**

Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products.

Make sure your doctor knows if you are using any other medicine to control seizures (such as carbamazepine, primidone, valproic acid, valproate, Depakene®, Depakote®, Dilantin®, Mysoline®, or Tegretol®). Make sure your doctor knows if you are also using birth control pills, or if you are also using hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

Ask your doctor before you start or stop using any medicines, including birth control pills and hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

Make sure your doctor knows if you are receiving methotrexate (Rheumatrex®, Trexall®) or pemetrexed (Alimta®).

**Warnings While Using This Medicine:**

Make sure your doctor knows if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or if you have kidney problems, liver problems, or depression.

It is important to tell your doctor if you become pregnant while using this medicine. Your doctor may want you to have more frequent blood tests.

seizure medicine.

This medicine may make you dizzy or drowsy. Avoid driving, using machines, or doing anything else that could require alertness. Do not stop using this medicine suddenly without asking your doctor. You may need to slowly decrease your dose. If you have a skin rash while using this medicine, call your doctor right away. Sometimes a rash is a sign of an allergic reaction. This medicine may cause serious allergic reactions affecting multiple body organs (e.g., liver or kidney). Check for symptoms: fever, dark urine, headache, hives, muscle pain or stiffness, stomach pain, unusual tiredness, or yellowing of the skin. For some children, teenagers, and young adults, this medicine can increase thoughts of suicide. Tell your doctor if you start to feel more depressed and have thoughts about hurting yourself. Report any unusual thoughts or feelings. Do not become reckless. Also tell the doctor if you or your child have sudden or strong feelings, such as feeling nervous, angry, or sad. If you, your child, or anyone in your family has bipolar disorder (manic-depressive) or has tried to commit suicide, tell the doctor. This medicine lowers the number of some types of blood cells in your body. Because of this, you may bleed more easily. Avoid problems, avoid being near people who are sick or have infections. Wash your hands often. Stay away from cuts, scrapes, bruised, cut, or injured. Brush and floss your teeth gently. Be careful when using sharp objects, including razors. If your symptoms do not improve or if they get worse, call your doctor. Your doctor will need to check your progress at regular visits while you are using this medicine. Be sure to keep all appointments.

#### Possible Side Effects While Using This Medicine:

Call your doctor right away if you notice any of these side effects:

- Allergic reaction: Itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest pain, or skin rash.
- Blistering, peeling, or red skin rash.
- Bloody stools.
- Blurred or double vision.
- Changes in your menstrual cycle (period).
- Chest pain.
- Extreme weakness, dizziness, or fainting.
- Feeling unusually sleepy, sad, grouchy, moody, or nervous.
- Fever, chills, cough, sore throat, and body aches.
- Nosebleed.
- Pain, soreness, or itching in your vagina.
- Painful sores in your mouth or around your eyes.
- Painful urination or a change in how much or how often you urinate.
- Problems with balance or walking.
- Swelling in your face, hands, ankles, or feet.
- Swollen, painful, or tender lymph glands in your neck, armpit, or groin.
- Thoughts of killing yourself.
- Tremors.
- Unusual bleeding, bruising, or weakness.
- Wheezing or troubled breathing.
- Yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes.

If you notice these less serious side effects, talk with your doctor:

- Dry mouth.
- Eye twitching or eye movements you cannot control.
- Headache, neck pain, back pain, or joint pain.
- Increased sexual desire.
- Loss of appetite, or weight loss.
- Mild rash.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach upset or pain, or passing gas.
- Runny or stuffy nose, or nose irritation.
- Unable to concentrate or remember things.
- Unable to sleep, or sleeping too much.

If you notice other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, tell your doctor.

### 4.3 Place In Therapy

#### A) Bipolar I Disorder

1) Lamotrigine is indicated as maintenance treatment of Bipolar I Disorder to delay the time to occurrence of mood episodes (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets).

#### B) Seizure

1) Extended-release lamotrigine is indicated as adjunctive therapy for partial onset seizures with or without secondarily generalized tonic-clonic seizures, the generalized seizures of Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, and primary tonic-clonic seizures in adults and adolescents 16 years of age and older who are being converted from valproic acid as the single antiepileptic agent (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, efficacy in controlling partial and tonic-clonic seizures, primarily generalized seizures (absence and myoclonic), juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (Trevathan et al, 2006)).

2) Lamotrigine is an anticonvulsant with excellent potential in the management of various types of seizures. Its effectiveness is supported by clinical studies in patients with various types of seizures.

carbamazepine; however, it is associated with less sedative effects and other neurotoxicity than many existing antiepileptics. Lamotrigine, including its rapid and complete oral absorption, long elimination half-life, relatively low protein binding, lack of active or toxic metabolites, makes it desirable as an anticonvulsant.

3) The major drawback to the use of lamotrigine is that Stevens-Johnson syndrome occurs in approximately 1/10,000 patients.

4) Initiating lamotrigine at conservative doses and titrating lamotrigine slowly when added to concomitant valproic acid (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

#### 4.4 Mechanism of Action / Pharmacology

##### A) MECHANISM OF ACTION

1) The exact mechanism of action of lamotrigine has not been fully elucidated. It is thought to act by inhibiting reuptake of voltage-sensitive sodium channels (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablet 1987a; Meldrum, 1991; O'Donohoe, 1991; Porter, 1989; Reynolds, 1993; Perucca, 1993). In animals, plasma concentrations (mcg/mL) are of similar protective efficacy as therapeutic concentrations of phenytoin and carbamazepine in the tests. It also reduces or abolishes the afterdischarge induced by focal stimulation of the cortex or hippocampus in kindling, it does not block or reduce the rate of development of kindling, it does decrease the number of kindled responses and the Lamotrigine is not effective in threshold tests (Jawad et al, 1989c; Leach et al, 1991; Peck, 1991e).

2) Further evidence that lamotrigine inhibits glutamate release is exhibited in the rat model, in which kainic acid neurotoxicity, whereas quinolinic acid and ibotenic acid neurotoxicity, mediated by N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptors is inhibited.

3) The pharmacological profile of lamotrigine is similar to that of phenytoin. In vitro animal studies have shown it to inhibit glutamate release in brain tissue, with no effect on potassium-induced amino acid release. This suggests that the drug acts on neuronal membranes and inhibit neurotransmitter release, namely glutamate (Leach et al, 1986).

4) Single doses of lamotrigine cause an acute reduction in or abolition of photosensitivity in patients with epilepsy. The drug also abolishes hallmarks of epileptic activity (Binnie et al, 1986d; Jawad et al, 1986).

#### 4.5 Therapeutic Uses

Absence seizure; Adjunct

Bipolar disorder, depressed phase

Bipolar I disorder

Brain injury

Cancer pain

Convulsions in the newborn, Intractable

Dementia of frontal lobe type

Depersonalization disorder

Depression, Treatment-resistant; Adjunct

Epilepsy, Refractory

Epileptic psychosis

Infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis

Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy

Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; Adjunct

Migraine

Mood swings

Neuropathic pain



Obesity

Pain

Palatal myoclonus

Parkinson's disease, Idiopathic

Paroxysmal choreoathetosis, Paroxysmal

Partial seizure, Adjunct or monotherapy

Reflex epilepsy

Rett's disorder

Schizophrenia, Refractory

Sexual dysfunction

Shortlasting, unilateral, neuralgiform pain with conjunctival injection and tearing syndrome

Status epilepticus

Tinnitus

Tonic-clonic seizure, Primary generalized; Adjunct

Trigeminal neuralgia

West syndrome

**4.5.A Absence seizure; Adjunct**

- 1) Overview
  - FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no
  - Efficacy: Pediatric, Evidence favors efficacy
  - Recommendation: Pediatric, Class IIb
  - Strength of Evidence: Pediatric, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS
- 2) Summary:
  - Preliminary results for add-on therapy in resistant cases and for initial monotherapy are encouraging (Bu
- 3) Pediatric:
  - a) In a pediatric case series, patients meeting strict diagnostic criteria for isolated typical absence epilepsy in age: 7 years) whose absence seizures were refractory to standard therapy received add-on lamotrigine and a dosage of 2.9 milligrams/kilogram/day (mg/kg/day) for a median follow-up of 3.1 years. Five of eight children months (median) and remain seizure-free on lamotrigine alone, with only one relapse necessitating resumptive treatment with lamotrigine monotherapy after initial diagnosis also attained complete seizure control at a median years. One child had to discontinue lamotrigine due to rash. Electroencephalographic abnormalities resolved

**4.5.B Bipolar disorder, depressed phase**

- 1) Overview
  - FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no
  - Efficacy: Pediatric, Evidence favors efficacy
  - Recommendation: Pediatric, Class IIb
  - Strength of Evidence: Pediatric, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS
- 2) Summary:
  - In an 8-week open-label study (n=20) of lamotrigine in adolescents ages 12 to 17 years (mean age 15.8; depressive episode, lamotrigine was effective, whether as adjunctive or monotherapy, in decreasing dep
- 3) Pediatric:

**a)** In an 8-week open-label study (n=20) of lamotrigine in adolescents ages 12 to 17 years (mean age 15.8; depressive episode, lamotrigine was effective, whether as adjunctive or monotherapy, in decreasing lamotrigine with a mean final dose of 132 +/- 31 milligrams (mg)/day. Seven patients had the diagnosis of bipolar disorder not otherwise specified. The primary measure for response was a "1" or "2" on a secondary measure for response was at least a 50% decrease in the Children's Depression Rating Scale-Revised. Of 19 evaluable patients with 16 (84%) considered responders by primary criteria and 12 (63%) considered responders by secondary criteria. A CGI Severity scale (CGI-S) score of 1 or 2 was attained by 11 of 19 (58%) patients. Patients with a baseline YMRS score of 20 or greater were less likely to be responders by secondary criteria (p=0.04), but YMRS scores did decrease significantly on adjunctive medication (n=7) showed no significant differences in CADRES scores compared with those on monotherapy (p=0.35). Patients on adjunctive medication did not have a better response than those on monotherapy. Modified also improved from baseline to week 8 with decreases in total aggression (48.9 +/- 50.2 to 16.7 +/- 21.5; p less than 0.001), and suicide (1.56 +/- 2.1 to 0.26 +/- 0.65; p=0.02). There was no significant weight change (kg); p=0.34. Adverse events reported were headache (84%), fatigue (58%), nausea (53%), sweating (47%) reported rash, but on further investigation, it was concluded that they experienced skin irritations, not true rash events, and no patients had any significant laboratory abnormalities during the study (Chang et al, 2006).

#### 4.5.C Bipolar I disorder

##### FDA Labeled Indication

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, yes; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIa  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

Indicated for the maintenance therapy of bipolar I disorder to delay the time to occurrence of mood episode on standard therapy (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets). Effective in refractory bipolar disorder in case reports and open studies (Robillard & Conn, 2002; Calabrese et al, 2000). Some patients with rapid-cycling bipolar disorder succeeded on lamotrigine maintenance monotherapy (

##### 3) Adult:

**a)** The results of a small, open label study indicate that adjunctive lamotrigine therapy may be effective in the treatment of bipolar disorder. In this uncontrolled study, five hospitalized, geriatric patients (ages 65 to 85 years) with bipolar disorder in the depressive phase were treated with lamotrigine (150 mg) at bedtime, titrated weekly in 12.5 mg/day increments to a total dose of 75 or 100 mg) in addition to lithium and valproate therapy for at least 4 months prior to beginning the study and were nonresponsive to lithium, valproate, a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor or a tricyclic antidepressant. Following six weeks of treatment, at least a 50% decrease in Hamilton Depression Rating Scale scores of 3 patients. All three patients had rapid-cycling bipolar disorder. Nonresponsive patients with bipolar disorder. Lamotrigine was well tolerated, however one patient developed coarse hand tremor that improved with propranolol. Randomized studies are needed to confirm these findings (Robillard & Conn, 2002).

**b)** Oral lamotrigine as maintenance monotherapy was effective prophylactic treatment for some patients with bipolar I disorder in a placebo-controlled trial (n=180). Prior to the double-blind phase of the study, patients entered an open-label phase for 8 weeks to a target of 200 milligrams (mg)/day (weeks 1 and 2: 25 mg/day; weeks 3 and 4: 50 mg/day; weeks 5 and 6: 100 mg/day; weeks 7 and 8: 200 mg/day); after 4 to 8 weeks of lamotrigine, all other psychotropic medications were tapered off. The lamotrigine dose was varied to vary; after the preliminary phase, mean daily dose was 287.9 mg/day. Randomization placed patients on placebo or lamotrigine without requiring added pharmacotherapy. The difference was not significant (p=0.177). Median survival time without added treatment was 18 weeks and 24 weeks, respectively. The percentage of patients able to complete 6 months of the randomized phase without added treatment was 41% versus 26%, p=0.03, and especially among those with bipolar II subtype. Most adverse events were mild. The most common side effects (Calabrese et al, 2000).

**c)** Data from a 48-week open-label trial lend support to lamotrigine's effectiveness as add-on (n=60) or monotherapy for bipolar I or II disorder. Of 40 evaluable subjects with depressive symptoms, 48% and 20% responded to lamotrigine, respectively, with a mean 42% decrease in Hamilton Depression Scale scores. Of 31 evaluable subjects with manic and moderate improvement, respectively, with a mean 74% decrease in Mania Rating Scale scores. Adverse effects included dizziness (29%), tremor (23%), somnolence (21%), headache (19%), nausea (15%), and weight gain (15%). Controlled trials are in progress (Calabrese et al, 1999).

**d)** Lamotrigine appeared to have some mood-stabilizing and antidepressant effects in 5 rapid-cycling bipolar patients treated with lamotrigine at an average dose of 185 milligrams/day. Three scales were used to measure improvement with lamotrigine after therapy as compared to before therapy (p less than 0.006). The other scales did not show significant improvement (p less than 0.289) and Young Mania Rating Scale (p less than 0.552). Further randomized studies are needed.

**e)** In an open trial of lamotrigine therapy in 7 patients with treatment-refractory mood disorder, mixed results were obtained. Two patients showing marked improvement, 2 had a moderate response, 2 had no response and 1 died (Sternbach, 1997).

**f)** In a 41-year-old female with longstanding bipolar disorder, add-on lamotrigine effectively substituted for lithium in the treatment of bipolar disorder. Prednisone was necessary to treat lithium-induced interstitial nephritis. Lamotrigine was increased to 200 mg every 12 hours within 9 days. Despite escalating prednisone doses to 120 mg/day, her manic symptoms improved. Concurrent medications included perphenazine, temazepam, clonazepam, and nifedipine (Preda et al, 1999).

**g)** A 48-year-old man with treatment-refractory bipolar disorder had a good response to lamotrigine titrated to 200 mg/day. He responded to a combination of lamotrigine, paroxetine and levothyroxine.

**4.5.D Brain injury****1) Overview**

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
 Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy  
 Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
 Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

**2) Summary:**

Provided improvement in a series of patients with severe brain injury (Chatham Showalter & Kimmel, 200

**3) Adult:**

**a)** Lamotrigine therapy in a case series of 13 patients with severe brain injury brought better than expected retrospective chart review. Use of lamotrigine was triggered by significant unexpected improvement in 1 case and an allergic reaction to phenytoin. The patient was on day 268 after a subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH); s oriented and animated, his short-term memory improved, his conversation became coherent, and his ability to discharged to his home. On the Rancho Los Amigos Cognitive Scale, he improved from level III to level VIII. In the cohort of 13 patients, all were severely impaired (due to SAH (5), motor vehicle accidents (4), falls from 1 resection (1)); the Rancho level was II to III for all; 3 had a Glasgow Coma Scale score of 3. Mean starting dose been on an anticonvulsant prior to lamotrigine. Mean lamotrigine final daily dose was 250 milligrams (range 1 showed more cognitive improvement than expected; 4 improved at an expected modest rate. After mean 72 (1 to a son's home, and 1 to a community residential program; after rehabilitation of mean 117 days, 3 were discharged (Kimmel, 2000).

**4.5.E Cancer pain**

See Drug Consult reference: MANAGEMENT OF CANCER-RELATED PAIN IN ADULT PATIENTS

**4.5.F Convulsions in the newborn, Intractable****1) Overview**

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
 Efficacy: Pediatric, Evidence favors efficacy  
 Recommendation: Pediatric, Class IIa  
 Strength of Evidence: Pediatric, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

**2) Summary:**

May be effective as adjunct therapy in decreasing the number of infantile spasms (Mikati et al, 2002)

**3) Pediatric:**

**a)** In part of an open-label, prospective study, adjunctive lamotrigine therapy decreased the daily number of seizures per day ( $p=0.028$ ) in patients diagnosed with intractable seizures. Enrolled infants had to have been the 13 patients were diagnosed with infantile spasms, 1 was diagnosed with both infantile spasms and partial partial seizures. In this study, one infant had no response and no infants became seizure free. Doses were based on neonates who were taking enzyme-inducing agents, doses up to 10 milligrams per kilogram per day (mg/kg/c months of age, who were taking enzyme-inducing agents, final doses ranged between 10 to 20 mg/kg/day. In valproate and enzyme inducers, were dosed between 5 to 10 mg/kg/day. In infants between 1 and 12 months final dose. One case of skin rash, which subsided after a day, and one case of elevated liver enzymes, which reported. Eleven of the 13 infants had no observed adverse effects (Mikati et al, 2002).

**4.5.G Dementia of frontal lobe type****1) Overview**

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
 Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy  
 Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
 Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

**2) Summary:**

Lamotrigine successfully treated severely aggressive behavior resulting from frontal lobe dementia in a s

**3) Adult:**

**a)** A 65-year-old female psychiatric inpatient with frontal lobe dementia (presenile condition) and resultant ag psychotropic medications greatly benefited from add-on lamotrigine. With dosing of 12.5 milligrams/day (mg/c showed "dramatic" improvement in all symptoms, with no further aggressive episodes through 6 months of fo

**4.5.H Depersonalization disorder****1) Overview**

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
 Efficacy: Adult, Ineffective  
 Recommendation: Adult, Class III  
 Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

**2) Summary:**

Lamotrigine did not show any benefit in the treatment of depersonalization disorder (Sierra et al, 2003)

3) Adult:

a) In a pilot, double-blinded, randomized, placebo- controlled, crossover study, lamotrigine did not show any benefit. Fourteen men and women were randomized to one arm of lamotrigine then placebo or another arm of placebo. Each month patients were assessed using the Present State Examination and the Cambridge Depersonalization Study due to nonadherence to the study protocol. One other patient dropped out due to developing neutropenia. These individuals were not included in the statistical analyses. Analysis of the administered scale scores revealed endpoint scores in both arms. Mild nausea, dizziness, and muscle aches were reported with lamotrigine use.

**4.5.1 Depression, Treatment-resistant; Adjunct**

1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

2) Summary:

Treatment with add-on oral lamotrigine led to similar efficacy results as lithium augmentation in patients with treatment-resistant, unipolar depression, randomized, prospective study (n=34) (Schindler & Angheliescu, 2007). Results of a retrospective chart review (n=37) showed that adjunctive lamotrigine was efficacious and well tolerated in patients with treatment-resistant, unipolar depression in adults (Barbee & Jamhour, 2002).

3) Adult:

a) General Information

1) Treatment with oral lamotrigine used as an add-on to antidepressant therapy was safe and demonstrated efficacy in patients with treatment-resistant, unipolar depression (Schindler & Angheliescu, 2007; Barbee & Jamhour, 2002; Rocha & Hara, 2003). Two other retrospective chart reviews found similar improvement in patients with treatment-resistant depression (Schindler & Angheliescu, 2007). Notably, responses in both reviews were based on clinical ratings, which were culled retrospectively from chart notes. Patients included in the open-label study as well as the retrospective chart review had anxiety comorbidity and had received a variety of prior antidepressant and/or combination augmentation studies and there were no instances of skin rash or other dermatological toxicity.

b) Clinical Trials

1) In an open-label, randomized, prospective study (n=34), treatment with add-on oral lamotrigine was as efficacious as lithium augmentation in patients with treatment-resistant, unipolar depression. Patients who had experienced a major depressive episode according to the DSM-IV (Text Revised), with a minimum score of 17 points on the Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HRSD) study purposes, treatment-resistant depression was defined as non-response (less than 50% reduction in HRSD score) to at least 6 weeks. Patients were randomized to receive augmentation with lithium (n=17; mean age, 50.3 years) orally for 8 weeks. Lamotrigine was initiated at 25 milligrams (mg) (at week 3) and 50 mg (at weeks 5 and 6) to a target daily dosage of 150 mg. In cases of non-response or partial response, lithium was titrated over several days to a blood level of 0.6 to 0.8 millimoles/liter. Prior antidepressant and/or augmentation strategies were discontinued. Based on clinical need, concomitant use of benzodiazepines (n=27) were treated as inpatients during this study. Weekly assessments were conducted using the HRSD. Prior to study initiation, most patients had received treatment with a variety of augmentation or combination therapy (n=20), atypical antipsychotics (n=27), and right unilateral electroconvulsive therapy (n=5), and 4 patients had a diagnosis of axis I or II disorder. At baseline, the mean duration of current depressive episode (lamotrigine, 6.9 months; lithium, 6.9 months; p=0.84) was similar between the groups. An intention-to-treat analysis revealed no significant difference in HRSD scores in both groups. The mean +/- standard deviation (SD) HRSD score decreased from 22.7 in the lamotrigine group and from 21.5 +/- 3.8 at baseline to 13.3 +/- 5.7 in the lithium group (p=0.11 between groups at week 8). The mean +/- SD CGI scores decreased from 6.24 +/- 1.22 (moderately ill) in the lamotrigine group and from 6.24 +/- 0.66 (severely ill) at baseline to 4.12 +/- 1.22 (moderately ill) in the lamotrigine group and from 6.24 +/- 0.66 (severely ill) at baseline to 4.12 +/- 1.22 (moderately ill) in the lithium group. A significantly greater number of patients (ie, 50% or greater reduction in HRSD score) occurred in 23% (n=4) and 18% (n=3) of lamotrigine- and lithium-treated patients versus 41% (n=7) of lithium-treated patients responded (ie, 25%-49% reduction in HRSD score) occurred in 47% (n=8) and 35% (n=6) of lamotrigine- and lithium-treated patients. Side effects were dry mouth, blurred vision, headache, tremor, weight gain, vertigo, constipation, and dizziness (lamotrigine, n=2; lithium, n=5), frequencies for all effects were similar in both groups. Dermatological toxicity was not reported (Schindler & Angheliescu, 2007).

2) A retrospective chart review (n=37) revealed that add-on treatment with lamotrigine was efficacious and well tolerated in patients with treatment-resistant depression. Charts of patients (mean age 50.22 years; range, 18-75 years) with a diagnosis of major depressive disorder who had received lamotrigine augmentation following failure of at least two adequate trials (minimum of 6 weeks) were reviewed. Patients with current psychotic symptoms, or hypomania/mania were excluded. Patients were treated with lamotrigine 25 mg/day for 2 weeks and then increased to 50 mg/day for 2 weeks; further dosage increases were made as tolerated or the patient was no longer able to tolerate further dosage increases. Patients included in the study had been on treatment with their primary antidepressant or concomitant augmentation medications with those agents; one patient discontinued all antidepressant therapy prior to initiation of lamotrigine treatment. Diagnoses included generalized anxiety disorder (n=16), panic disorder (n=5), social or specific phobia (n=5, n=2), posttraumatic stress disorder (n=3), and anxiety not otherwise specified (n=1). With the exception of two patients, none of the patients had received a mean of 13.27 (range, 2-29) antidepressant trials.

medications during lamotrigine therapy. The mean duration of lamotrigine treatment was 35.41 weeks (range 1 to 102 weeks). GAF scores were recorded at the time of each visit. Prior to initiation of lamotrigine, the mean GAF score was 41.27 +/- 8.27. There was a statistically significant improvement in GAF scores following lamotrigine therapy (d = 10.1, p < 0.001). CGI scores were evaluated retrospectively based on extensive, detailed progress notes. In the intent-to-treat analysis, 15 (40.5%) patients were rated as much or very much improved, 45 (115%) were rated as unchanged, and 65 (162.5%) were rated as worse. The mean +/- SD lamotrigine dose among responders was 113.33 +/- 93.48 mg, which did not differ significantly from the mean dose of current depressive episode, number of prior antidepressant trials, stage of treatment resistance, and CGI rating scores in the intent-to-treat analysis. The most commonly reported treatment-emergent side effects were nausea (n=5), and tremor (n=4). There were no instances of skin rash during this study (Barbee & Jamh

#### 4.5.J Epilepsy, Refractory

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no

Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy; Pediatric, Evidence favors efficacy

Recommendation: Adult, Class IIa; Pediatric, Class IIa

Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B; Pediatric, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

Effective as add-on therapy in treatment-resistant focal and generalized epilepsy (Huber et al, 1998)

May be useful in the treatment of intractable childhood epilepsy (Lerman-Sagie & Lerman, 1998)

##### 3) Adult:

**a)** In an observational study, lamotrigine was useful as add-on therapy in a group of 125 multi-handicapped, epilepsy patients. Although most effects were only partial, 28.8% of patients had a reduction of 50% or more in seizure frequency, 26.7% with generalized epilepsies, and 22.4% with both. A mean lamotrigine dose of 391 milligram combination of valproic acid and lamotrigine was particularly effective (Huber et al, 1998).

**b)** Lamotrigine was reported to be useful in treating 10 adult patients (23 to 44 years old) with intractable absences started in childhood and persisted into adulthood. Lamotrigine was initially started at 0.2 milligrams/kilogram maximum of 5 mg/kg. All patients were receiving valproic acid. Except for valproic acid, all other antiepileptic drugs were given at optimal lamotrigine dose. Valproic acid doses ranged from 600 to 2000 mg/day and lamotrigine doses were 1 to 2 mg/kg. Seizure-free status was achieved in all patients; 7 patients achieved cessation of absence seizures with 3 patients (Sagie & Lerman, 1998).

##### 4) Pediatric:

**a)** In an open-label, long-term study (n=41), add-on lamotrigine therapy proved successful in 44% of study patients (mean age 12 years) with refractory severe partial epilepsy (mean seizure frequency 3.6/day). All patients were on one or more major antiepileptic drugs. Eighteen patients (44%) remained on lamotrigine after 12 to 48 months of follow-up. Seizure-free status occurred in 15 patients (34%) (p less than 0.00006), with 6 of these subjects remaining seizure-free. Three patients had marked improvement in behavior, although seizure frequency was unchanged. Higher response rates were observed in patients with symptomatic of cerebral malformation. Seizure worsening occurred in 9 patients; transient rash developed in 9 patients. Starting daily dose was 0.2 to 2.5 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg) titrated over 2 to 4 weeks to an initial maintenance dose. Subsequently adjusted based on clinical response up to a maximum of 1.8 to 15 mg/kg/day; mean dose was 4.8 mg/kg/day; for those on enzyme-inducing drugs except valproate, median dose was 4.8 mg/kg/day; for those on enzyme-inducing drugs except valproate, median dose was 4.8 mg/kg/day.

**b)** In an open trial, 16 out of 63 children had a complete response to lamotrigine add-on treatment for their refractory seizure types with a mean of 1.72 seizure types per child. Seizure types included infantile spasms, simple partial seizures, myoclonic seizures, typical absence seizures, and atypical absence seizures. A complete response was achieved in 50% to 90% decrease in seizures (Buoni et al, 1998).

**c)** In an open, prospective trial, 30 of 56 children with generalized epilepsies were improved with lamotrigine. Patients were 18 years old and suffered from Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (15), childhood absence (4), severe myoclonic symptomatic generalized (24) and other epilepsies (5). An improvement of greater than 50% was observed in 11 of 24 children with other symptomatic generalized epilepsy (p less than 0.09). Rash occurred in 4 patients and was discontinued and lamotrigine was restarted without recurrence of rash (Farrell et al, 1997).

**d)** In an open trial, lamotrigine was useful as add-on therapy in about one-third of patients (2 to 22 years old) with refractory epilepsy. Lamotrigine 5 to 15 milligrams/kilogram/day (lower doses for patients receiving concomitant valproic acid). After 3 months, seizure frequency of more than 50% and 8 of these patients became seizure-free. Lamotrigine was most effective for absence, and atonic seizures (Coppola & Pascotto, 1997).

**e)** Fourteen children suffering from refractory epilepsy received lamotrigine as add-on therapy. A decrease in seizure frequency was observed in 6 of the 7 patients who completed the study. The median total seizure frequency was 1.5 per month, seizure frequency had decreased by more than 50% in 2 patients, by more than 75% in 2 patients, and seizure frequency was unchanged (Battino et al, 1996)(Battino et al, 1995b).

**f)** In one series, 8 of 10 children with various seizure disorders had decreased total seizure count when lamotrigine was used in increasing doses up to 2 milligrams/kilogram/day (mg/kg/day) in patients taking valproic acid, and in patients taking phenytoin, phenobarbital, or carbamazepine. After 3 months, the dose was increased by 50%. The median total seizure count was 21 to 916) to 46/month (range 6 to 644) after 6 months. Patients with atypical absence and complex partial seizures, respectively, experiencing greater than 50% reduction in seizure frequency. Myoclonic seizures decreased significantly; however, 4 patients had an increased frequency of myoclonic seizures. Tonic-clonic seizures decreased significantly; however, 4 patients had an increased frequency of myoclonic seizures. Tonic-clonic seizures decreased significantly; however, 4 patients had an increased frequency of myoclonic seizures. Tonic-clonic seizures decreased significantly; however, 4 patients had an increased frequency of myoclonic seizures. Tonic-clonic seizures decreased significantly; however, 4 patients had an increased frequency of myoclonic seizures.

**g)** In 161 patients remaining on lamotrigine during a 2-year follow-up, 21 of the first 55 patients evaluated had a seizure-free status. Best response was in generalized epilepsy, particularly absence seizures. Rash was the most common adverse effect noted was drowsiness in 3 patients; however, this did not require dosage reduction (Yuen, 1992).

h) Twelve children with severe or life-threatening epilepsy received lamotrigine (250 to 900 milligrams/day) for 12 to 61 months with 4 on monotherapy. No patient was hospitalized for status epilepticus. No adverse effects were reported.

#### 4.5.K Epileptic psychosis

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

Effective in 2 case reports (DeLeon & Furmaga, 1999)

##### 3) Adult:

a) Two cases were presented describing patients with epilepsy-related psychosis that was resistant to antipsychotics. The first was a 39-year-old woman with seizures and psychosis that included thought broadcast, clonazepam, phenytoin and gabapentin without improvement in seizure control or decrease in psychotic symptoms. Her treatment consisted of clobazam, clonazepam, phenytoin, and gabapentin. Improvement in seizure control and relief from psychotic symptoms occurred with the addition of lamotrigine twice daily and the man was titrated to 450 mg daily. Also in both cases risperidone was tapered and discontinued. The need for antipsychotic therapy (DeLeon & Furmaga, 1999).

#### 4.5.L Infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Pediatric, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Pediatric, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Pediatric, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

In 1 study, lamotrigine was useful as adjunctive therapy for seizures associated with infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis.

##### 3) Pediatric:

a) Lamotrigine was useful in treating seizures associated with infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis. Lamotrigine was given to 16 children (2.5 to 12 years old) at a dose of 0.5 milligrams/kilogram and increased every 2 weeks as needed. In 10 patients seizure frequency decreased by more than 50%. In 4 children seizures decreased by 100%. Monotherapy was successful (Aberg et al, 1997).

#### 4.5.M Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Ineffective; Pediatric, Ineffective  
Recommendation: Adult, Class III; Pediatric, Class III  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category C; Pediatric, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

Exacerbation of myoclonus reported in juvenile myoclonic epileptic patients treated with lamotrigine (Biraben et al, 2000).

##### 3) Adult:

a) A group of 7 patients 16 to 32 years of age with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME) experienced immediate exacerbation of the cohort had previously used valproic acid. Three patients began lamotrigine as add-on therapy to valproic acid. In either instance, JME deteriorated, with worsening of myoclonus in all 7 patients and appearance of tonic-clonic seizures. The patients were switched back to valproic acid or to topiramate without further adverse sequelae. Dosing of lamotrigine was given as monotherapy and 150 to 200 mg/day when combined with valproate (Biraben et al, 2000).

##### 4) Pediatric:

a) A group of 7 patients 16 to 32 years of age with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME) experienced immediate exacerbation of the cohort had previously used valproic acid. Three patients began lamotrigine as add-on therapy to valproic acid. In either instance, JME deteriorated, with worsening of myoclonus in all 7 patients and appearance of tonic-clonic seizures. The patients were switched back to valproic acid or to topiramate without further adverse sequelae. Dosing of lamotrigine was given as monotherapy and 150 to 200 mg/day when combined with valproate (Biraben et al, 2000).

#### 4.5.N Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; Adjunct

FDA Labeled Indication

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, yes; Pediatric, yes (2 years and older)  
Efficacy: Adult, Effective; Pediatric, Effective  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIa; Pediatric, Class IIa  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B; Pediatric, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

Indicated as adjunctive therapy for the generalized seizures of Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (Prod Info LAMOTRIGINE, (2000), p. 10).



Ineffective for the treatment of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy in a randomized, placebo-controlled trial. Mixed results observed in neuropathic pain due to diabetes (Eisenberg et al, 2001) and HIV (Simpson et al, 2002) in randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials, although lamotrigine was promising for a small study (Finnerup et al, 2002)

No appreciable effect seen with lamotrigine for intractable neuropathic pain (McCleane, 1999) or neuropathic pain (Finnerup et al, 2002) in randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials, although lamotrigine was promising for a small study (Finnerup et al, 2002)

### 3) Adult:

**a)** Lamotrigine was not effective for relieving neuropathic pain symptoms in 125 patients with chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy in a randomized, placebo-controlled study. Patients with symptomatic CIPN with pain scores of either grade 2 or greater on the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) neuropathy scale (ENS), or greater than 3 on a 0 to 10 Numerical Rating Scale (NRS) were included. Higher numbers correspond to greater severity of symptoms. Participants were randomized to treatment with lamotrigine 350 mg/day over 10 weeks; n=63) or placebo (n=62). The primary efficacy measure, patient-reported "average" daily pain score, was assessed weekly. Secondary efficacy measures, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) disability scale, decreased tendon reflexes, 2 = severe paresthesias and/or mild weakness, 3 = intolerable paresthesias and/or numbness, were also evaluated. Changes in CIPN symptoms related to, but distinct from, pain. At the time of enrollment, the proportion of patients receiving chemotherapy was 38% and 45% (p=0.47) for the lamotrigine and placebo arms, respectively, with the remaining patients having completed chemotherapy. Demographic factors and chemotherapy drugs responsible for CIPN at baseline were similar between groups (p=0.22), and symptoms using ENS were 2 and 1.9 (p=0.31) for lamotrigine and placebo, respectively. Severity decreased in both groups without significant differences between them. According to the NRS, the mean pain score (by ENS) and symptom severity (by ENS) decreased by 0.4 and 0.3 units (p=0.36) in treatment and placebo groups, respectively. Mean least pain scores by NRS (-0.2 and 0.1), and by WHO pain scales (-0.2 and -0.1) were similar between treatment groups. Differences were noted between the 2 groups with regard to some of the secondary endpoints, these were not statistically significant. According to those patients still receiving chemotherapy and those who had completed chemotherapy, neither group differed significantly from placebo. Adverse events were similar for both groups, although patients receiving lamotrigine had more adverse events compared to placebo (33% vs 18% respectively, p=0.06). The most common toxicities (grade 1 or 2) were constipation (0% vs 2%), arthralgia (0% vs 2%), pruritis (2% vs 0%), fatigue (2% each), and headache (0% vs 4%) (Rao et al, 2008).

**b)** Lamotrigine effectively improved numerical pain scores in patients with diabetic neuropathy but failed to improve functional outcomes in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial conducted in Israel. Patients (n=53) with diabetic neuropathy of at least 6 months duration, and pain scores of at least 4 on a scale of 0 (no pain) to 10 (worst imaginable pain) were included. Patients received analgesics for 3 days prior to starting a diary during the baseline period. Patients were randomized to an 8-week treatment with lamotrigine 350 mg daily for 2 weeks, then 50 mg daily for 2 weeks, and then 100 mg, 200 mg, 300 mg, and 400 mg daily for one week each. The primary endpoint was a patient-recorded pain intensity score, using the same 0 to 10 numerical pain scale at baseline and during the study. Characteristics were similar between groups except patients in the lamotrigine group had a significantly longer duration of disease (9.6 +/- 1.1 years; p=0.04). Distal symmetric pain in the legs (stocking-like distribution) was the most common characteristic of peripheral neuropathy. Patients in the lamotrigine group experienced a mean decrease in pain intensity score of 6.4 +/- 0.1 to 4.2 +/- 0.1, while patients in the placebo group had an overall decline of 6.5 +/- 0.1 to 5.3 +/- 0.1. Pain intensity scores were observed at lamotrigine doses of 200, 300, and 400 mg compared to placebo. Duration of pain was seen in 12 patients receiving lamotrigine and 5 patients receiving placebo (p=0.05), while the overall incidence of pain was 20% in the lamotrigine arm compared to 20% in the placebo arm. Of 7 patients in the lamotrigine group who required rescue analgesics, their use during the last 4 weeks of treatment compared to no changes in analgesic requirements in the placebo group. No significant differences were found between groups in the McGill Pain Questionnaire, the Beck Depression Inventory, or the Beck Depression Assessment of efficacy and tolerability, which were completed at baseline and at week 8. Rash occurred in 2 patients in the lamotrigine group during the 7th week of treatment, although both cases resolved upon discontinuation of lamotrigine (Eisenberg et al, 2001).

**c)** Results from a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study demonstrated lamotrigine was well-tolerated and effective in patients receiving neurotoxic antiretroviral therapy (ART). Two groups of patients were randomized to placebo or lamotrigine. The study included a 7-week dose escalation phase followed by a 4-week maintenance phase. The primary endpoint was the change in the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) score. Patients known to induce metabolism of lamotrigine started at a dose of 25 mg daily. During the 4-week maintenance phase, patients not receiving enzyme-inducing drugs and 600 mg/day for patients receiving enzyme-inducing drugs. The VAS score did not differ between lamotrigine and placebo for either group at the end of the maintenance phase. The VAS score reflected greater improvement with lamotrigine than with placebo in the group receiving ART (p=0.004). Patients also showed greater improvement on the Visual Analogue Scale for Pain Intensity and the McGill Pain Assessment. The incidence of global impression of change in pain (p less than or equal to 0.02). The incidence of adverse events was similar between groups (2003).

**d)** In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled crossover trial, lamotrigine treatment had no effect on the pain of patients with spinal cord injury (SCI) but did reduce pain in a subset of the sample, which was characterized by incomplete SCI with or without motor function, preserved below the lesion level and including sacral segments S4-S5). Patients were given lamotrigine, beginning with 25 milligrams (mg) and increasing to a target dose of 400 mg/day, or placebo. The study was a crossover, crossed over to the other treatment for 9 weeks. The dose of lamotrigine was limited by individual tolerance. Patients with incomplete SCI had a mean pain score of 300 mg/day, and 5 had a final dose of 200 mg/day. Among the 12 patients with incomplete SCI lesion (an 11-point pain scale) to lamotrigine. Three patients also responded to placebo. The median difference in pain score between lamotrigine and placebo was 1.5 in the group with incomplete lesions. All patients who had evoked pain (brush allodynia or wind-up-like pain) responded to lamotrigine. Evoked pain was a responder (p less than 0.001), suggesting that the presence of evoked pain may be a predictor of response (Finnerup et al, 2002).

**e)** In a randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind trial of 100 adults with intractable neuropathic pain, lamotrigine was not effective for relieving neuropathic pain symptoms in 125 patients with chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy in a randomized, placebo-controlled study.



mg/day exhibited no appreciable analgesic efficacy. Subjects completed daily diaries with visual analog score into weekly scores. With mean scores from week 8 compared to week 1, there were no statistically significant analgesic consumption, overall pain, burning pain, numbness, "pins and needles," shooting pain, skin sensitivity points out that this study does not rule out lamotrigine's efficacy using a different dosing scheme or in other n

#### 4.5.R Obesity

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

In a single center, double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized study (n=40) of healthy adult volunteers greater or equal to 30 but less than 40), while there was no statistically significant mean change in body subjects who took placebo, lamotrigine showed a statistically significant difference in mean change in BMI (Merideth, 2006).

##### 3) Adult:

a) In a single center, double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized study (n=40) of healthy adult volunteers greater or equal to 30 but less than 40), while there was no statistically significant mean change in body weight subjects who took placebo, lamotrigine showed a statistically significant difference in mean change in BMI and were randomized to receive lamotrigine 200 milligrams (mg)/day (n=20) or placebo (n=20) for 26 weeks. Initial weeks until the maintenance dose of 150 to 200 mg/day was reached. All patients were titrated to lamotrigine mg/day and was discontinued early from the study. Of those subjects randomly assigned, 28 completed the 2 placebo). Subjects completed the Impact of Weight on Quality of Life (IWQOL) scale at baseline and endpoint difference in baseline body weight between the 2 groups (lamotrigine mean +/- standard deviation (SD) equal 225 +/- 32.7 lb; p=0.0588). The primary study outcome of change in body weight from baseline to end lamotrigine and placebo, respectively (p=0.0623). There was a statistically significant difference in mean change and -0.1 +/- 1.05 for lamotrigine and placebo, respectively (p=0.0421). A greater change in quality of life satisfaction lamotrigine group (p=0.0065). Other secondary outcomes showed no significant differences. No serious adverse in the placebo group discontinued treatment due to edema. No lamotrigine subjects discontinued treatment due the most frequently reported adverse event with a 15% incidence across the study group (Merideth, 2006).

#### 4.5.S Pain

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Evidence is inconclusive  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

Possibly effective for different pain syndromes (Eisenberg et al, 2003; Vestergaard et al, 2001; Cianchetti Lamotrigine provided moderate analgesia for central post-stroke pain (Vestergaard et al, 2001) Open-label data suggest possible benefit in treating resistant paroxysmal limb pain and painful tonic spasms 1999) Possibly effective in treating sciatica (Eisenberg et al, 2003)

##### 3) Adult:

###### a) Multiple Sclerosis-Related Pain

1) Open-label add-on lamotrigine 25 milligrams/day (mg/day) titrated slowly to a maximum dose of 400 mg/day Multiple sclerosis-related pain syndromes refractory to multiple other medications. Improvement in paroxysmal eight of 21 (38%) patients, with five of 21 (24%) experiencing improvement in painful tonic spasms. The improvement in some cases. These results require confirmation in a placebo-controlled trial (Cianchetti et al, 1999)

###### b) Postoperative Pain

1) Lamotrigine may be effective in reducing postoperative pain In a double-blind, placebo-controlled study either lamotrigine 200 milligrams or placebo 1 hour before receiving spinal anesthesia for transurethral prostatectomy were lower in the lamotrigine group than in the placebo group at 2 hours (p equal to 0.04), 4 hours (p less than 0.05) (Bonicalzi et al, 1997).

###### c) Post-stroke Pain

1) In a double-blind, randomized, crossover trial (n=30), patients with central post-stroke pain experienced a reduction in pain score over the last week of treatment from 7 to 5 (p=0.01 compared with placebo). Twelve of 27 subjects defined as a pain score 2 or more points lower than their score using placebo. No significant analgesia or secondary end points, including global physical pain score over last 4 weeks and pain stimulated by a cold water immersion lamotrigine (p=0.02 and p=0.01, respectively); the trend favored lamotrigine on other secondary end points. Mild rash was associated with lamotrigine use in 2 patients during the lamotrigine period due to mild rash, severe headache, and severe pain (Vestergaard et al, 2001)

###### d) Sciatica

1) An open-label, non-comparative study involving 14 patients suggests that lamotrigine may be effective for radiculopathy for 12 to 36 months. They underwent a 1 week washout period from previous analgesics and then lamotrigine was initiated at 25 milligrams (mg) once daily and was doubled weekly up to the maintenance dose of 400 mg daily for 4 weeks. Of the 14 patients, only 7 completed the full 11 weeks. Diarrhea, dizziness and persor discontinuation. In patients who received at least 1 week of lamotrigine and in whom drug plasma concentrations were measured, mean numerical pain scale scores for spontaneous pain decreased from 7.6 to 4.5 at the end of 11 weeks (p less than 0.05). A linear correlation was found between lamotrigine concentrations and the mean weekly analog measurements (both p=0.001). Due to high dropout rates and the open-label design of the study, (Eisenberg et al, 2003).

#### 4.5.T Palatal myoclonus

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

Eliminated ear clicks associated with palatal myoclonus in one case (Nasr & Brown, 2002)

##### 3) Adult:

a) Ear-clicking associated with palatal myoclonus (PM) was stopped by lamotrigine treatment in a 37-year-old admitted to psychiatric services because of an acute psychotic episode associated with excessive alcohol consumption. After alcohol detoxification and antipsychotic treatment (thioridazine 100 milligrams (mg) 3 times daily), the patient reported gradual improvement, with disappearance of ear-clicking and slowing of the frequency of palatal myoclonus. After discharge, the man began again to drink alcohol and stopped taking lamotrigine, re-examination (Brown, 2002).

#### 4.5.U Parkinson's disease, Idiopathic

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Ineffective  
Recommendation: Adult, Class III  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

No beneficial effect (Shinotoh et al, 1997)

##### 3) Adult:

a) Lamotrigine had no beneficial effects on patients with Parkinson's disease treated either during a single dose or long-term (n=12) (Shinotoh et al, 1997).

#### 4.5.V Paroxysmal choreoathetosis, Paroxysmal

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Pediatric, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Pediatric, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Pediatric, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

Effective in 3 children with paroxysmal kinesigenic choreoathetosis (Uberall & Wenzel, 2000)

##### 3) Pediatric:

a) Low-dose lamotrigine was safe and effective in 3 children with idiopathic paroxysmal kinesigenic choreoathetosis: a 7-year-old girl, and a 10-year-old boy. The first boy was started on lamotrigine 5 milligrams (mg)/day, with titration to 10 mg/kg; titration from 5 to 10 to 25 to 50 mg). On that dosage, his attacks were significantly decreased. The girl received increasing doses, starting from 5 mg/day ranging up to 100 mg/day (4.7 mg/kg/day), she was attack-free also. The second boy began taking lamotrigine 10 mg/day, with titration biweekly to 20 mg/day until his dystonic attacks ceased. In all cases, lamotrigine was well tolerated. Previous medications which had been used included carbamazepine, phenobarbital, and flunarizine. The patients had used lamotrigine for 16, 19, and 27 months,

#### 4.5.W Partial seizure, Adjunct or monotherapy

FDA Labeled Indication

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, yes; Pediatric, yes (13 years and older, extended-release only; 2 years and older, immediate-release only)  
Efficacy: Adult, Effective; Pediatric, Effective  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIa; Pediatric, Class IIa  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category A; Pediatric, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

**2) Summary:**

Extended-release formulation is indicated as adjunctive therapy for partial onset seizures with or without older (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009)

Indicated as adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial seizures in adults and pediatric patients with e tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)

Indicated for conversion to monotherapy in patients receiving treatment with a single enzyme-inducing a chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)

Beneficial in patients with seizures resistant to various combinations of carbamazepine, phenobarbital, p

**3) Adult:**

**a)** Extended-release formulation is indicated as adjunctive therapy for partial onset seizures with or without older (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

**b)** Of the 527 patients enrolled in a 6-year, open-label, continuation study examining the use of lamotrigine n partial seizures, the clinical status of 58% of patients were judged to have improved from baseline and the lor incidence of adverse effects. Patients were recruited from 5 primary clinical studies of adjunctive lamotrigine. milligrams per day (range 100 to 730 mg per day). Forty-three percent (n=229) of patients completed the stuc 37% of patients, miscellaneous reasons (7%), adverse events (5%) and administrative reasons (5%; eg, prot Overall clinical status was judged on a 7 point scale by the investigators. Mild, moderate, and marked improv the time of discontinuation when compared to pre-lamotrigine clinical status. No change was seen in 30% of j and marked deterioration) was seen in 12% of patients. Adverse events were noted in 98% of patients. The n diplopia, ataxia, headache, somnolence, nausea, amblyopia and accidental injury. Serious adverse events wa a serious adverse event by 0.4% of patients. No patients developed Stevens-Johnson syndrome (Faught et al

**c)** As an add-on treatment, lamotrigine (LTG) was effective in the treatment of epileptic drop attacks (EDA) ir patients being treated with antiepileptic drugs but still experiencing at least one EDA per month and at least 4 were observed for 3 months (baseline), given LTG over a 4-month period during which the dose was increase months while taking the maintenance dose. Prior medications were continued throughout the study. In patien milligrams/day (mg/day), which was increased incrementally every 2 weeks to a final dose of 150 mg/day. In was 25 mg/day, which was increased to 300 mg/day. In the last month of the titration period, if necessary, do tolerated dose. Of the 12 patients who completed the study, all had more than a 50% reduction in their total s 75% decrease in seizure frequency. EDA disappeared in 6 patients, improved by 80% in 3 patients and by 5( improvement in EDA frequency. The average maximum LTG dosages were 200 mg/day with valproic acid an al, 2001).

**d)** Monotherapy with lamotrigine was successful in most patients with partial seizures converted from adjunct double-blind trial, 156 patients who had experienced at least 4 seizures during each of 2 consecutive 4-week monotherapy were randomized to receive adjunct therapy with either valproate 1000 milligrams (mg)/day or l; week period with patients then converted to monotherapy with lamotrigine or valproate over the next 4 weeks had: doubling of average monthly seizure count, doubling of highest consecutive 2-day seizure frequency, en prolongation of generalized tonic-clonic seizures. Percentage of patients failing monotherapy in the lamotrigir was 69%. A low dose of valproate was used to demonstrate the efficacy of lamotrigine and provide some pro demonstrate lamotrigine superiority or equivalence.(Gilliam et al, 1998)

**e)** Double-blind, placebo-controlled add-on trials demonstrated that lamotrigine is efficacious in treating refra produced a 26% or greater reduction in seizure frequency in 48% of patients and 50% or greater reduction in (n=216), observed median reductions in seizures relative to baseline were 8%, 20%, and 36% in patients rec and lamotrigine 500 mg/d, respectively (Matsuo et al, 1993b). In addition, preliminary data indicate that lamot generalized seizures (Binnie et al, 1989); (Sander et al, 1990; Pers Comm, 1993). In one trial, 15 of 19 adult reduction in seizure frequency; some patients were able to withdraw one or more anticonvulsants while main 1992).

**f)** In a long-term study, 38% of 16 adult patients with refractory epilepsy had a reduction of seizure frequency year. Further follow-up indicates some decline in efficacy, since the percentage of improved patients droppe al, 1994a).

**g)** Ten of the 27 patients with refractory complex partial, secondarily generalized tonic clonic, atypical absen 12 months due to lack of efficacy . Patients were studied over a 2-year period with 11 of the remaining patien frequency. Only 3 patients with atypical absence and atonic seizures showed a significant response.

**h)** In 104 patients remaining in an 11-month, open-label study evaluating add-on lamotrigine for severe refra reduction in seizure frequency (Sander et al, 1990). Nineteen patients withdrew from the study due to advers drowsiness, and rash or due to an increase in seizure frequency (Pisani et al, 1991).

**i)** In a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of add-on lamotrigine therapy, 15 of 23 adult patients with refract experienced a 50% or greater reduction in seizure frequency. The blood levels of concomitantly administered adverse effects were noted (Loiseau et al, 1990).

**j)** Lamotrigine is useful in controlling simple and complex partial seizures and secondarily generalized tonic c crossover trial, 21 patients refractory to multiple anticonvulsants including phenobarbital, phenytoin, primidon 100 milligrams/day (dosage adjusted to produce trough plasma concentrations of 1.5 to 2 micrograms/millilite showed improvement with lamotrigine treatment; the mean reduction in seizure frequency was 59% (confider improvement in simple and complex partial seizures; 8 of 15 showed improvement in secondarily generalizec common adverse reactions included fatigue, diplopia, drowsiness, ataxia, and headache. These were not cor

**4) Pediatric:**

**a)** Extended-release formulation is indicated as adjunctive therapy for partial onset seizures with or without older (Prod Info LAMICTAL XR oral extended-release tablets, 2009).

**b)** In part of an open-label, prospective study, adjunctive lamotrigine therapy decreased the daily number of

per day ( $p=0.027$ ) in patients diagnosed with intractable seizures. Enrolled infants had to have been previous patients were diagnosed with partial seizures, 1 was diagnosed with both infantile spasms and partial seizure spasms. In this study, one infant had no response and no infants became seizure free. Doses were based up neonates who were taking enzyme-inducing agents, doses up to 10 milligrams per kilogram per day (mg/kg/c months of age, who were taking enzyme-inducing agents, final doses ranged between 10 to 20 mg/kg/day. In and enzyme inducers, were dosed between 5 to 10 mg/kg/day. In infants between 1 and 12 months of age, t One case of skin rash, which subsided after a day, and one case of elevated liver enzymes, which subsided i Eleven of the 15 infants had no observed adverse effects (Mikati et al, 2003).

**c)** In an open-label, long-term study ( $n=41$ ), add-on lamotrigine therapy proved successful in 44% of study si years of age; mean 12 years) with refractory severe partial epilepsy (mean seizure frequency 3.6/day). All en major antiepileptic drugs. Eighteen patients (44%) remained on lamotrigine after 12 to 48 months of follow-up occurred in 15 patients (34%) ( $p$  less than 0.00006), with 6 of these subjects remaining seizure-free. Three o marked improvement in behavior, although seizure frequency was unchanged. Higher response rates were o symptomatic of cerebral malformation. Seizure worsening occurred in 9 patients; transient rash developed in starting daily dose was 0.2 to 2.5 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg) titrated over 2 to 4 weeks to an initial maintena subsequently adjusted based on clinical response up to a maximum of 1.8 to 15 mg/kg/day; mean dose was valproate, median dose was 4.8 mg/kg/day; for those on enzyme-inducing drugs except valproate, median dc

**d)** The efficacy and safety of add-on lamotrigine for treatment of partial seizures in children were demonstrat entered an 8-week baseline phase to confirm the presence of intractable seizures with their current antiepilep dose escalation phase and a 12-week maintenance phase. The median reductions in seizure frequency durir were 36% and 6.7% in lamotrigine and placebo recipients, respectively ( $p=0.008$ ). Secondarily generalized s respectively ( $p=0.003$ ). A decline in seizure frequency of at least 50% occurred in 42% and 16% of the lamot 0.001). Dizziness, tremor, nausea and ataxia were significantly more common with lamotrigine than with plac

#### 4.5.X Reflex epilepsy

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

Pilot data from a small case series suggest possible efficacy in startle/noise-induced reflex epilepsy (Fau

##### 3) Adult:

**a)** Four adults with debilitating, refractory startle-induced seizure disorders gained relief from add-on lamotri eliminated "drop attacks" brought on by sudden noise, yet one patient had to discontinue lamotrigine after 10 drop attacks resumed. The other patients maintained excellent seizure control with no adverse effects noted

#### 4.5.Y Rett's disorder

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Pediatric, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Pediatric, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Pediatric, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

Lamotrigine controlled seizures and modulated symptoms of Rett syndrome in 2 case reports (Kumanda

##### 3) Pediatric:

**a)** Two young girls (4.5 and 2.5 years of age) diagnosed with Rett syndrome showed marked improvement o therapy. In the 4.5-year-old girl, myoclonic seizures were present, along with microcephaly, mental retardatio unsteadiness, hypertonia, hyperactive deep tendon reflexes, and stereotypical wringing hand movements. La lamotrigine 3 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg) daily. At 6 months, she was seizure-free. Hand movements and au respiratory function was improved. The younger girl exhibited tonic-clonic seizures, hypotonia, hyperactive de movements. Phenobarbital and valproic acid were given, but did not control the seizures. With lamotrigine 3 r the girl became seizure-free. Her abnormal hand movements, though continuing, were appreciably decrease pyruvate in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) were all normal. The authors suggested that the remedial effects of lam release (glutamate concentrations in CSF were reported to be elevated in Rett syndrome) (Kumandas et al, 2

#### 4.5.Z Schizophrenia, Refractory

##### 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Evidence is inconclusive  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

##### 2) Summary:

Adjunctive lamotrigine improved positive symptoms scores but did not improve total symptom scores in a schizophrenia (Tiihonen et al, 2003)

When added to clozapine treatment, improved psychiatric symptoms in 3 patients (Saba et al, 2002)

**3) Adult:**

**a)** In a randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled, crossover trial, adjunctive lamotrigine improved the total symptom scores in patients resistant to clozapine therapy. Patients (n=34) were diagnosed with schizophrenia with no epilepsy or current anticonvulsant or lithium therapy and who had an unsatisfactory response with clozapine. The treatment period lasted 14 weeks and started with a 1-week placebo lead-in. Lamotrigine was initiated at 25 milligrams/100 mg/d for 2 weeks, 150 mg/d for 2 weeks and then 200 mg/d for 4 weeks. Doses were then tapered to 100 mg/d for 2 weeks. Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) scores changed from 68.55 to 64.31 in the lamotrigine arm and from 69.55 to 65.14 in the placebo arm (analysis). PANSS negative symptom scores changed from 19.97 to 18.69 in the lamotrigine arm and 19.8 to 18.69 in the placebo arm. However, PANSS positive symptom scores improved from 17.24 to 16.24 in the lamotrigine arm compared to a placebo arm (intent to treat) and general psychopathological symptom scores changed from 31.34 to 29.38 in the lamotrigine arm (p=0.03, intent to treat) (Tiihonen et al, 2003).

**b)** In 3 patients who had responded poorly to 6 months of treatment with clozapine, addition of lamotrigine resulted in a 28% decrease in BPRS (Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale) scores). Patient 1: clozapine dosage 700 mg/day, 50 mg/day, 43 on day 56 (lamotrigine 100 mg/day), 30 on day 84 (lamotrigine 150 mg/day). His degree of hospitalization. Steady-state concentrations of clozapine, norclozapine, and lamotrigine in plasma were 235, 100, and 0.57 micrograms/mL (mcg/mL), respectively, on day 83. Patient 2: clozapine 500 mg/day. BPRS score 66 on day 0, 43 on day 56 with lamotrigine dose increasing to 75 mg/day. Steady state plasma concentrations for clozapine, norclozapine, and lamotrigine were 0.57, 100, and 0.57 mcg/mL, respectively, at day 56. Patient 3: clozapine dosage 700 mg/day. BPRS score 43 on day 0, 35 on day 56 (lamotrigine 75 mg/day), and 31 on day 84 (lamotrigine 200 mg/day). Steady-state concentrations of clozapine, norclozapine, and lamotrigine were 420, 100, and 1.28 mcg/mL, respectively, on day 85. No marked side effects, rash, or hematologic abnormalities were observed (Saba et al, 2002).

**4.5.AA Sexual dysfunction**

**1) Overview**

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

**2) Summary:**

In three case reports, substitution of lamotrigine for gabapentin resolved impotence in men with epilepsy

**3) Adult:**

**a)** Three men who developed impotence while being treated with multiple anticonvulsants for long-standing epilepsy were treated with lamotrigine. In each case, lamotrigine was initiated and escalated while gabapentin was tapered and withdrawn. Impotence resolved in these individuals (Husain et al, 2000).

**4.5.AB Shortlasting, unilateral, neuralgiform pain with conjunctival injection and tearing syndrome**

**1) Overview**

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

**2) Summary:**

Lamotrigine appeared to be curative in case reports of SUNCT syndrome (short-lasting unilateral neuralgiform pain with conjunctival injection and tearing syndrome) (Malik et al, 2002)

**3) Adult:**

**a)** Symptoms of SUNCT syndrome resolved following lamotrigine treatment in one female patient. An 80-year-old female with SUNCT syndrome occurring every 15 to 20 minutes failed to respond to treatment with carbamazepine, gabapentin, and hydrocodone/acetaminophen. Lamotrigine therapy was initiated at 25 milligrams (mg)/day for 1 week and titrated to 200 mg/day. The intensity of her attacks shrank by half within 1 week of beginning lamotrigine. Her episodes were completely resolved at 1 year of follow-up (Malik et al, 2002).

**b)** A 66-year-old female with SUNCT SYNDROME of 6 months duration with recent worsening (up to 15 attacks per day) was treated with lamotrigine. SUNCT syndrome was resistant to aspirin and other nonsteroidal agents and carbamazepine. After sudden exacerbation of attacks occurred, which then abated completely following lamotrigine dose escalation. She remained in remission on a 3-month course of therapy, with no further episodes through 15 months of follow-up (D'Andrea et al, 1999).

**4.5.AC Status epilepticus**

**1) Overview**

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Pediatric, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Pediatric, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Pediatric, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

**2) Summary:**

Successful control of status epilepticus has been reported in one case refractory to intravenous diazepam. More data are needed to ascertain the role of lamotrigine in the therapy of status epilepticus (Pisani et al, 1999).

## 3) Pediatric:

a) Lamotrigine may be an important adjunct to other drugs in the treatment of status epilepticus. In one case carbamazepine 1200 milligrams/day (mg) and phenobarbital 200 mg/day experienced an unexplained increase in generalized convulsive status epilepticus refractory to multiple boluses and continuous infusion of diazepam. followed by 200 mg twice a day, with prompt resolution of status epilepticus and a resulting decrease in seizure activity. The patient was discharged on lamotrigine, phenobarbital 100 mg twice a day, and carbamazepine 400 mg 3 times a day (Pis)

**4.5.AD Tinnitus**

## 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Evidence is inconclusive  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

## 2) Summary:

Lamotrigine's effects on chronic tinnitus were equivocal in a placebo-controlled, crossover trial (Simpson

## 3) Adult:

a) Lamotrigine did not clearly demonstrate efficacy in ameliorating chronic tinnitus in a randomized, double-blind trial. Patients who received lamotrigine in an escalating regimen (25 to 100 milligrams/day) and placebo in two different regimens. Patients assessed the loudness, annoyance and awareness of tinnitus on visual analog scales (VAS) at baseline and at the end of the study. There was no difference observed between lamotrigine and placebo in terms of VAS scores or audiometry. According to patient questionnaires, 35% and 6 (19%) patients while on lamotrigine and placebo, respectively. The majority reported "no change" in tinnitus. This result does not correlate with response to lamotrigine (Simpson et al, 1999).

**4.5.AE Tonic-clonic seizure, Primary generalized; Adjunct**

## FDA Labeled Indication

## 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, yes; Pediatric, yes (2 years and older)  
Efficacy: Adult, Effective; Pediatric, Effective  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIa; Pediatric, Class IIa  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B; Pediatric, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

## 2) Summary:

Indicated as adjunctive therapy for primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures in adults and pediatric patients. Indicated as adjunctive therapy for primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures in adults and pediatric patients (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)

The efficacy of lamotrigine as adjunctive therapy for primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures was demonstrated in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study involving 117 adult and pediatric patients (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)

## 3) Adult:

a) The efficacy of lamotrigine as adjunctive therapy for primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures was demonstrated in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study involving 117 adult and pediatric (at least 2 years of age) patients. The study included an 8-week baseline phase during which patients with primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures during the baseline phase were randomized to oral lamotrigine therapy (n=58) or their existing antiepileptic drug (AED) regimen of up to 2 drugs. The adult target dose of lamotrigine ranged from 25 to 100 mg/day. The efficacy of lamotrigine was compared to the efficacy of the concomitant antiepileptic therapy. Efficacy was based on the percent change from baseline in primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures in the intent-to-treat population, which included both adult and pediatric patients receiving lamotrigine and placebo, respectively (p=0.006) (Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009)

## 4) Pediatric:

a) The efficacy of lamotrigine as adjunctive therapy for primary generalized tonic-clonic (PGTC) seizures was demonstrated in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study involving a total of 117 adult and pediatric (aged 2 to 19 years; mean age, 11 years) patients with PGTC seizures. The study included an 8-week baseline phase after which patients who had at least 3 primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures during the baseline phase were randomized. The pediatric subgroup was randomized to oral lamotrigine therapy (n=21) or placebo. The efficacy of lamotrigine was compared to the efficacy of the concomitant antiepileptic therapy. The most common concomitant antiepileptic drug was valproate which was used in 67% of the lamotrigine group. The efficacy of lamotrigine was based on the percent change from baseline in PGTC seizures from baseline (primary efficacy measure) was 77% and 40% in patients receiving lamotrigine and placebo, respectively (p=0.006). The overall median percent decrease in PGTC seizures during the escalation phase was 72% and 30% in the lamotrigine and placebo groups, respectively (p=0.058). The overall median percent decrease in PGTC seizures during the maintenance phase was 83% and 42%, respectively (p=0.007). The overall median percent decrease in PGTC seizures during the study was 77% and 40% in the lamotrigine and placebo groups, respectively (p=0.007) (Trevathan et al, 2006; Prod Info LAMICTAL chewable dispersible oral tablets, oral tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, 2009).

**4.5.AF Trigeminal neuralgia**

## 1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy  
Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb  
Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

## 2) Summary:

Effective for essential and symptomatic trigeminal neuralgia (Zakrzewska et al, 1997; Lunardi et al, 1997)

3) Adult:

a) Lamotrigine demonstrated antineuralgic properties in 13 patients with trigeminal neuralgia. In a double-blind compared to placebo in patients receiving steady doses of carbamazepine or phenytoin. Each drug was given therapeutically. Lamotrigine was superior to placebo (p less than 0.011) on a composite efficacy index score which scores, and global evaluations. Interestingly, during the second phase of the trial, those receiving placebo after improvement observed during lamotrigine therapy. The authors speculated that lamotrigine may have produced drug, or this could have occurred randomly since there were relatively small patient numbers. More studies are (Zakrzewska et al, 1997).

b) In an open, prospective trial, lamotrigine showed impressive results in the treatment of 20 patients with trigeminal neuralgia (10 patients were 75 years old) with an "essential" form of trigeminal neuralgia while the second group consisted of 5 patients associated with multiple sclerosis. In the first group, 11 patients had a complete remission with 1 patient still having pain at the 400 mg/day and 2 patients requiring 400 mg/day. Four patients continued to have pain at the 400 mg/day group had full relief of pain with lamotrigine 150 to 200 mg/day. Patients with relief continued to be pain-free ;

**4.5.AG West syndrome**

1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no  
 Efficacy: Pediatric, Evidence favors efficacy  
 Recommendation: Pediatric, Class IIb  
 Strength of Evidence: Pediatric, Category C

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

2) Summary:

Spasms resolved in three infants following treatment with low-dose lamotrigine (Cianchetti et al, 2002).

3) Pediatric:

a) Symptoms of West syndrome in three infants resolved following treatment with low-dose lamotrigine. Spasms following the initiation of lamotrigine therapy (1.25 milligrams (mg) one to three times daily) after unsuccessful treatment with ACTH). The infants remained seizure-free at maintenance doses of lamotrigine 1.25 mg/day to 2.5 mg twice daily.

**4.6 Comparative Efficacy / Evaluation With Other Therapies**

Carbamazepine

Gabapentin

Lithium

Topiramate

**4.6.A Carbamazepine**

**4.6.A.1 Seizure**

a) Carbamazepine and lamotrigine are equally effective as monotherapy in patients with newly diagnosed epilepsy who were randomly assigned to a fixed dosage titration of either carbamazepine or lamotrigine. After four weeks, all patients were seizure-free for the last 6 months of the study were 39% and 38% for lamotrigine and carbamazepine, respectively. Lamotrigine was better tolerated, and more patients were able to complete the study period than patients treated with carbamazepine (22% versus 12%, respectively) (Brodie et al, 1995).

b) As initial monotherapy in elderly patients newly diagnosed with epilepsy, lamotrigine demonstrated a superior efficacy compared to carbamazepine. Subjects (n=150) were randomized in a double-blinded 2:1 ratio to lamotrigine 25 milligrams twice daily and 200 mg twice daily, respectively. The median doses of lamotrigine and carbamazepine in study completers were 100 mg/day and 400 mg/day, respectively. Somnolence (29% versus 12%) was more common in the carbamazepine versus lamotrigine groups, respectively. The corresponding withdrawal rates were 42% and 18% of discontinuations, respectively. The hazard ratio for withdrawal with carbamazepine compared to lamotrigine was 4.0. Efficacy measures were considered secondary endpoints in this trial. While no between-group differences were observed, significantly more lamotrigine recipients remained seizure-free over the last 16 weeks of the study (39% versus 22%) (Brodie et al, 1995).

**4.6.B Gabapentin**

**4.6.B.1 Mood disorder**

a) Preliminary results from a cross-over study (randomized, double-blinded) suggest that LAMOTRIGINE may be superior to gabapentin in the improvement of refractory mood disorders (n=31) (Frye et al, 2000). Study subjects included bipolar I (11%), bipolar II (11%), and unipolar depression (9%). All had tried other mood stabilizing agents previously. Percentages of those who had responded to treatment were 23% for lamotrigine, and 23% for placebo based on the Clinical Global Impression (CGI) scale modified for bipolar depression (Frye et al, 2000).

responders were defined as those who were much or very much improved on the CGI scale. Both agents developed a rash caused by lamotrigine; the rash progressed to toxic epidermal necrolysis, requiring treatment. The trend showed that subjects tended to lose weight on lamotrigine relative to the weight gained on gabapentin. Lamotrigine was given at an initial daily dose of 900 mg, titrated to 1500 mg by the end of week 1, 2700 mg by the end of week 2, and 4800 mg by week 5 to 6. Mean daily doses as of week 6 were 274 mg for lamotrigine and 3987 mg for gabapentin.

#### 4.6.B.2 Adverse Effects

a) In healthy volunteers, cognitive difficulties were associated with topiramate while gabapentin and lamotrigine were not. Healthy young adults (n=17) were randomized to receive topiramate 5.7 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg), lamotrigine 5.7 mg/kg, or gabapentin 5.7 mg/kg, titrated up over 4 weeks. Neurobehavioral performances were then compared at baseline, 2 weeks, and 4 weeks. During week 2, the topiramate group made significantly more errors during week 2 (p less than 0.02) and during week 4 (p less than 0.004) on the symbol digits modalities test, the topiramate group performed poorer than the lamotrigine and gabapentin at week 4 (p less than 0.04). On memory tests at week 2 the topiramate group was worse than the lamotrigine group at week 4 (p less than 0.04). On memory tests at week 2 the topiramate group was worse than the lamotrigine group was below that of the gabapentin group but above the topiramate group. At week 4 the group with more symptoms of depressed mood at week 4 compared to the lamotrigine and gabapentin groups (p less than 0.02). Further long-term drug effects should be evaluated.

### 4.6.C Lithium

#### 4.6.C.1 Bipolar disorder

a) In a double-blinded study (GW606), lamotrigine and lithium were both statistically superior to placebo in the treatment of mood episode in recently (within 60 days) MANIC or HYPOMANIC patients with bipolar I disorder. During an 8- to 16-week therapy while other psychotropic drugs were discontinued. Patients who tolerated the open-label lithium (n=46) or placebo (n=70) as the sole agent for maintenance therapy for 18 months. Lamotrigine doses were titrated to serum levels of 0.8 to 1.1 mEq/L. The median time to intervention due to a mood episode was 85 days in the lithium arm (p=0.46) and 85 days in the placebo arm (p=0.02). The difference in the median time to intervention due to a mood episode as well as between lithium and placebo (p=0.003). Of the mood events, 20 lamotrigine patients, 8 lithium patients, and 10 placebo patients developed depression. This difference was statistically significant between the lithium and placebo arms (p=0.006). Of the mood events, 20 lamotrigine patients, 8 lithium patients, and 10 placebo patients developed depression. This was statistically different between the lamotrigine and placebo arms (p=0.006). The number of patients who discontinued therapy early due to adverse events compared to placebo and lamotrigine (p=0.01 and 0.003, respectively). The number of patients enrolled was lower than projected and patients randomized into each study arm had no significant bias results (Bowden et al, 2003).

b) In a double-blinded study (GW605), both lamotrigine and lithium were statistically superior to placebo in the treatment of mood episode in recently (within 60 days) DEPRESSED PATIENTS with bipolar I disorder. During an 8- to 16-week therapy while other psychotropic drugs were discontinued. Patients who tolerated lamotrigine were then randomized to receive lithium (n=121) or placebo (n=121) as the sole agent for maintenance therapy for up to 18 months. Lamotrigine doses ranged from 200 to 400 mg daily (n=169). Lithium was titrated to serum levels of 0.6 to 1.2 mEq/L. The median time to intervention due to a mood episode was 200 days in the lamotrigine arm compared to 170 days in the lithium arm (p=0.029). The difference in the median time to intervention was significant between lamotrigine and placebo (p=0.029). Interventions for emerging depression occurred nearly 3 times more often than interventions for manic symptoms of mania after 1 year compared to 86% of lithium patients and 72% of placebo patients. This difference was statistically significant between the lamotrigine and placebo arms (p=0.026). Of the lamotrigine patients, 57% did not develop symptoms of depression after 1 year compared to 86% of lithium patients and 72% of placebo patients. This difference was statistically significant between the lamotrigine and placebo arms (p=0.047). Results should be evaluated between lamotrigine and lithium (p=0.125 and 0.434, respectively). Results should be evaluated between each study arm had responded to lamotrigine in the open-label phase which could bias results (Calabrese et al, 2003).

### 4.6.D Topiramate

#### 1) Adverse Effects

a) In healthy volunteers, cognitive difficulties were associated with topiramate while gabapentin and lamotrigine were not. Healthy young adults (n=17) were randomized to receive topiramate 5.7 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg), lamotrigine 5.7 mg/kg, or gabapentin 5.7 mg/kg, titrated up over 4 weeks. Neurobehavioral performances were then compared at baseline, 2 weeks, and 4 weeks. During week 2, the topiramate group made significantly more errors during week 2 (p less than 0.02) and during week 4 (p less than 0.004) on the symbol digits modalities test, the topiramate group performed poorer than the lamotrigine and gabapentin at week 4 (p less than 0.04). On memory tests at week 2 the topiramate group was worse than the lamotrigine group at week 4 (p less than 0.04). On memory tests at week 2 the topiramate group was worse than the lamotrigine group was below that of the gabapentin group but above the topiramate group. At week 4 the group with more symptoms of depressed mood at week 4 compared to the lamotrigine and gabapentin groups (p less than 0.02). Further long-term drug effects should be evaluated.

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