

GREETINGS FROM OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



What do lamotrigine, meditation, and fireworks have in common? They're all featured in this month's newsletter! Check out these items and more below, and stay tuned for a ringside seat to two epilepsy conferences that we will be bringing you soon!

We welcome your suggestions and comments on making this site as helpful and informative as possible.

Have a great July!

Steven C. Schachter, MD
Editor-in-Chief



LATEST RESEARCH NEWS

NEW DATA FROM PREGNANCY REGISTRY LINKS LAMICTAL® TO INCREASED RISK OF NON-SYNDROMIC CLEFT PALATE DEFORMITY IN INFANTS

Emerging data from a pregnancy registry suggest an association between LAMICTAL® (lamotrigine) and an increased risk of non-syndromic oral clefts. Specifically, the ongoing North American Antiepileptic Drug (NAAED) Pregnancy Registry detected an elevated prevalence of isolated, non-syndromic cleft palate deformity occurring in infants exposed to lamotrigine monotherapy during the first trimester of pregnancy compared to the reference population used in this registry.¹ Recently published data from the registry report 3 cases of isolated, non-syndromic cleft palate and two cases of isolated, nonsyndromic cleft lip without cleft palate in infants from 564 first trimester lamotrigine monotherapy exposures, giving a rate of 8.9 per 1000.² This compares with a prevalence rate of 0.37 per 1000 seen in the general population of the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) Surveillance Program (relative risk in lamotrigine-treated patients vs BWH general population of 24; 95% CI 10.0-57.4). For reference, the overall rate of major malformations reported by the NAAED registry was 15/564 (2.7%, 27 per 1000).

To read more go to: http://professionals.epilepsy.com/pdfs/GSK_Notice_LAMICTAL.pdf

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Upcoming epilepsy-related conferences, symposia and events include:

July 13-July 16, 2006

Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance National Conference

Bloomington, IL

July 26-July 29, 2006

International Neuropsychological Society Mid-Year Meeting

Zurich, Switzerland

July 27-July 30, 2006

6th Asian & Oceanian Epilepsy Congress

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

July 28-August 08, 2006

5th International Course on Epilepsy: Surgically Remediable Epilepsies

Venice International University, San Servolo, Venice, Italy

MEDITATION & EPILEPSY: THE SILENT DEBATE WAGES ON

Proponents of meditation tout its ability to reduce seizures in people with epilepsy, while those more skeptical contend that regular practice of meditation could in fact induce epileptic seizures. So, how much of this debate is based on real clinical data and how much on opinion? To answer this question, Epilepsy.com writer, Jenna Martin, interviewed Erik K. St. Louis, M.D., Assistant Professor of Neurology Co-Director, Iowa Comprehensive Epilepsy Program and co-author of the recently published article, "Meditation and epilepsy: A still hung jury" ¹ and another forthcoming review on the subject ².

To read more go to: http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar_1152280835.html

FEATURE ARTICLES

FIREWORKS AND EPILEPSY: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. GUISEPPE ERBA

Can fireworks potentially trigger seizures? Epilepsy.com talked to a leading expert on photosensitivity, Guiseppe Erba, Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at the University of Rochester, NY.

To read more go to: http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar_1152280995.html

August 10-August 13, 2006

Channeling In: Hope for Intractable
Genetic Febrile Epilepsies

St. Paul, MN USA

September 06-September 09, 2006

4th Latin America Epilepsy Congress
Guatemala

September 10-September 14, 2006

8th Eilat Conference on New Antiepileptic
Drugs (Eilat VIII)
Sitges, Spain



Grant Opportunities

Request for Translational
Research Proposals
Deadline: September 1,

2006

ABOUT THE EPILEPSY THERAPY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



The **Epilepsy Therapy Development Project** is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation. The organization was founded by parents of young children with epilepsy, along with their children's doctor, a leading researcher

and clinician in the field of epilepsy. Our mission is to advance new treatments for people living with epilepsy.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Epilepsy.com/professionals is building a resource section of useful practice tools for the professional community. If you have a form, patient information sheet, or other useful handout for patients with epilepsy, and you'd like to share it with thousands of your colleagues by adding it to the [resource section of epilespy.com/professionals](http://resource.section.of.epilepsy.com/professionals), please email it to jacki@epilepsytdp.org or fax it to (703) 437-4288, and we'll take it from there. Thanks!!

The Epilepsy Therapy Development Project is also the sponsor of epilepsy.com and epilepsy.com/professionals. We are working to build epilepsy.com/professionals into the most comprehensive source of information, tools, and interchange available online for patients, practicing neurologists, and for the research and therapy development community.

To learn more about our programs, please visit our website: www.epilepsytdp.org. To make a difference, we need your ongoing support and contributions. Help us to extend our mission of advancing new therapies for people living with epilepsy. For more information on how you can donate, please visit: www.epilepsytdp.org/sec/contribute.

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