

GREETINGS FROM OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



All of us are acutely aware of the plight of persons with refractory seizures and their families. We desperately need new therapies. The Epilepsy Therapy Development Project (ETDP) has been one of the leaders in this effort. This past month, ETDP sponsored the filming of a gripping 30-minute documentary, which will air on many public television stations across the United States next month. A full version will also be posted to epilepsy.com. We'll send out more information soon so that you can let your patients know when to watch.

We've added several new features to the professional site this month to help you take care of patients with epilepsy. I'm always interested in hearing from you if you'd like more – just write to me at webmaster@epilepsytdp.org.

Talk to you next month.

Steven C. Schachter, MD
Editor-in-Chief

A NEW TOOL TO HELP YOU PRACTICE

Seizure drugs are often affected by drug-drug interactions. Remembering all the possible drug-drug interactions is daunting. We've created printable sheets for most of the commonly prescribed seizure drugs to put this vital information at your fingertips.

To learn more go to:

<http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/doclib.html>

LATEST RESEARCH AND EPILEPSY NEWS

FDA Approves New Epilepsy Indication For Lamictal (R)

On September 25, 2006, the FDA approved a new use of the antiepileptic drug (AED), Lamictal (R)(lamotrigine) Tablets for the treatment of Primary Generalized Tonic-Clonic (PGTC) seizures, formerly called "grand-mal" seizures. With this new indication, Lamictal is now approved an add-on therapy to treat PGTC seizures in children aged 2 and older as well as adults.

The FDA approval was based on a multicenter, placebo-controlled trial in pediatric (age 2 and older) and adult patients (n=117). In the study, Lamictal was given to patients whose

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming epilepsy-related conferences, symposia and events include:

October 08-October 11, 2006

[131st Annual Meeting of the American Neurological Association](#)

Chicago, Illinois

October 14-October 18, 2006

[Society for Neuroscience 36th Annual Meeting](#)

Atlanta, GA

October 24-October 29, 2006

[53rd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 2006](#)

San Diego, California

October 29-November 02, 2006

[10th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders](#)

Kyoto, Japan

PGTC seizures were not well-controlled, despite taking other AEDs. Patients with partial seizures were excluded from this particular study. Over the entire treatment period of the study, Lamictal reduced PGTC seizures by 66% compared to 34% for the placebo group, which was statistically significant ($p=0.006$). Similar effects were seen during the titration and maintenance phases of the study. Significantly more patients receiving Lamictal as maintenance therapy experienced at least a 50% reduction compared to placebo (72% versus 49%, $p<0.05$). Efficacy was similar across age groups.

What does this mean for the care of patients? We asked Dr. Eric Kossoff from Johns Hopkins University. Go to: http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar_1159452052.html

New Study Highlights Decreased Quality of Life in Patients with Epilepsy and Comorbid Medical and Psychiatric Conditions

People with chronic epilepsy frequently report dissatisfaction with their quality of life. While seizure-related factors (frequency, medication side effects) are an important consideration, it is also important to identify other potential factors which impact quality of life. It is now evident from population based studies that people with epilepsy experience higher rates of co-morbid medical and psychiatric difficulties than is observed in the general population. The relationship of some psychiatric comorbidities such as depression and anxiety have been found to be related to QOL, but the impact of additional health problems has not been previously examined. A new study of self-reported quality of life in patients with temporal lobe epilepsy and comorbid medical and psychiatric conditions has identified some answers.

To read more go to: http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar_1159463095.html

STAY TUNED

- Inaugural Hallway Conversation: Depakote and Pregnancy
- Report from the recent new AED meeting in Sitges, Spain
- AED information sheets to give patients

December 01-December 05, 2006
60th Annual Meeting of the American Epilepsy Society
San Diego, California

March 21-March 24, 2007
Antiepileptic Drug Trials IX
Sunny Isles, Florida USA

TALKING TO YOUR PATIENTS ABOUT DRIVING

Driving is a rite of passage that catapults an individual from adolescence to adulthood substantially increasing their freedom and independence. In fact, many people believe that their driver's license is vital to their independence. So, how can you talk to your patients with epilepsy about driving and the possibility that their epilepsy may restrict them from the one activity they equate with autonomy?

Epilepsy.com has the answer with our downloadable driving discussion sheet: <http://professionals.epilepsy.com/pdfs/driving.pdf>

HELP YOUR YOUNG PATIENTS ENJOY HALLOWEEN SAFELY

Trick or treating poses possible risks to children with epilepsy. What advice can you give kids and their parents?

To read more go to: http://www.epilepsy.com/articles/ar_1159297989.html

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 epilepsy.com/professionals](http://www.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!!

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.

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.