



THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY

July 1995

Vol. 167

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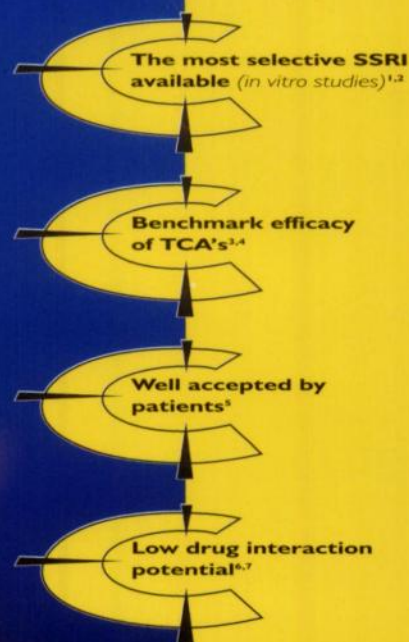
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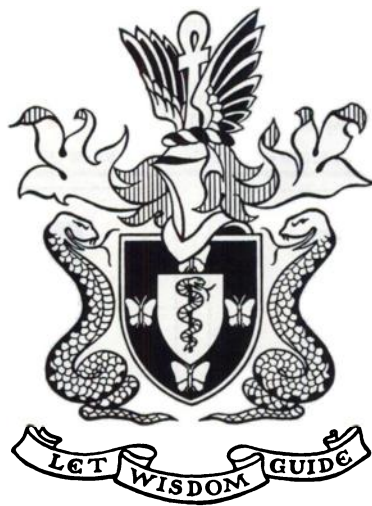
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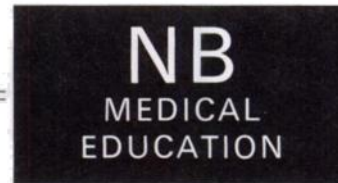
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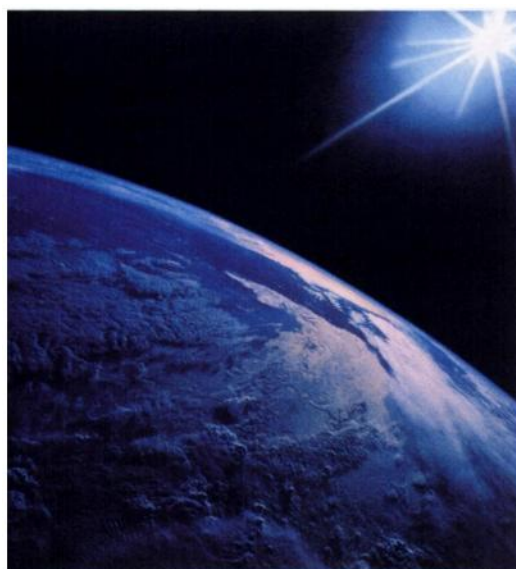
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PRESCRIBING INFORMATION: PRESENTATION: Tablets containing 37.5mg or 75mg venlafaxine (as hydrochloride). USE: Treatment of depressive illness. DOSAGE: Usually 75mg/day (37.5mg bd) with food, increasing to 150mg/day (75mg bd) if necessary. In more severely depressed patients, 150mg/day (75mg bd) increasing every 2 or 3 days in up to 75mg/day increments to maximum 375mg/day, then reducing to usual dose consistent with patient response. Discontinue gradually. Elderly: use normal adult dose. Doses should be reduced by 50% for moderate renal or moderate hepatic impairment. CONTRA-INDICATIONS: Pregnancy, lactation, concomitant use with MAOIs, hypersensitivity to venlafaxine or other components, patients aged below 18 years. PRECAUTIONS: Use with caution in patients with myocardial infarction, unstable heart disease, renal or hepatic impairment, or a history of epilepsy (discontinue in event of seizure). Patients should not drive or operate machinery if their

ability to do so is impaired. Possibility of postural hypotension (especially in the elderly). Women of child-bearing potential should use contraception. Prescribe smallest quantity of tablets according to good patient management. Monitor blood pressure with doses >200mg/day. Advise patients to notify their Doctor should an allergy develop or if they become or intend to become pregnant. Use with caution in patients taking other CNS-active drugs or in the elderly or hepatically-impaired patients taking cimetidine. Patients with a history of drug abuse should be monitored carefully. Not recommended in severe renal or severe hepatic impairment. INTERACTIONS: MAOIs: do not use Efexor in combination with MAOIs or within 14 days of stopping MAOI treatment. Allow 7 days after stopping Efexor before starting a MAOI. SIDE-EFFECTS: Nausea, headache, insomnia, somnolence, dry mouth, dizziness, constipation, asthenia, sweating, nervousness, anorexia, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, anxiety,

impotence, abnormality of accommodation, vasodilation, vomiting, tremor, paraesthesia, abnormal ejaculation/orgasm, chills, hypertension, palpitation, weight gain, agitation, decreased libido, rise in blood pressure, postural hypotension, reversible increases in liver enzymes, slight increase in serum cholesterol. BASIC NHS PRICE: 37.5mg tablet (PL 0011/0199) – Calendar pack of 56 tablets: £23.97, 75mg tablet (PL 0011/0201) – Calendar pack of 56 tablets: £39.97. LEGAL CATEGORY: POM. Further information is available upon request. PRODUCT LICENCE HOLDER: Wyeth Laboratories (John Wyeth & Brother Limited), Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 0PH. REFERENCES: 1. Clerc GE *et al.* Int Clin Psychopharmacol 1994; 9: 139-142. 2. Kalus O, Asnis GH, van Praag HM, Psychiatric Annals 1989; 19: 348-353. 3. Data on file, Medical Affairs Department, Wyeth-Ayerst International Inc. Date of Preparation: December 1994. Code Z770380/1294. *EFEXOR is a registered trademark.