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EDITORIALS

REVIEW ARTICLE

PAPERS

COLUMNS

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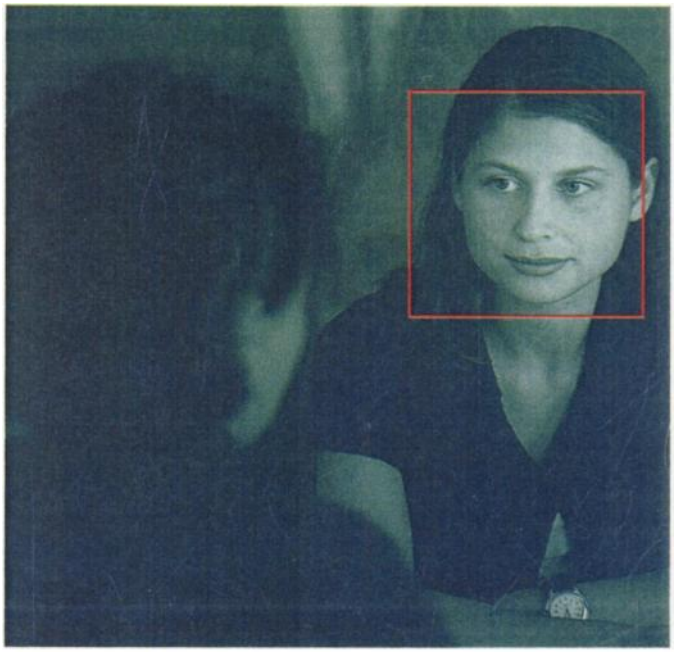
Debbie doesn't know that Cipramil is now indicated for panic disorder



... she just knows her doctor made a logical choice

As a patient with Panic Disorder, Debbie is beginning to appreciate the value of the Cipramil treatment that her doctor has newly prescribed.

Of course, Debbie would no more talk of the recently extended indication for Cipramil than its high selectivity[1,2], good tolerability[3], and low risk of drug interactions[4,5,6]. She just recognises the difference that Cipramil makes to the stability and quality of her life.

Lundbeck

Cipramil▼
citalopram
now indicated for panic disorder

Presentation: 'Cipramil' tablets 10 mg: PL 0458/0057, each containing 10 mg of citalopram as the hydrobromide. 28 (OP) 10 mg tablets £12.77. 'Cipramil' tablets 20 mg: PL 0458/0058, each containing 20 mg of citalopram as the hydrobromide. 28 (OP) 20 mg tablets £21.28. **Indications:** Treatment of depressive illness in the initial phase and as maintenance against relapse/recurrence. Treatment of panic disorder, with or without agoraphobia. **Dosage:** ***Treating depression: Adults:*** 20 mg a day. Depending upon individual patient response, this may be increased in 20 mg increments to a maximum of 60 mg. Tablets should not be chewed, and should be taken as a single oral daily dose, in the morning or evening without regard for food. Treatment for at least 6 months is usually necessary to provide adequate maintenance against the potential for relapse. ***Treating panic disorder:*** 10 mg daily for the first week, increasing to 20 mg daily. Depending upon individual patient response, dosage may be further increased to a maximum of 60 mg daily. Depending upon individual patient response, it may be necessary to continue treatment for several months. ***Elderly:*** 20 mg a day increasing to a maximum of 40 mg dependent upon individual patient response. ***Children:*** Not recommended. ***Reduced hepatic/renal function:*** Restrict dosage to lower end of range in hepatic impairment. Dosage adjustment not necessary in cases of mild/moderate renal impairment. No information available in severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <20ml/min). **Contra-indications:** Combined use of 5-HT agonists. Hypersensitivity to citalopram. ***Pregnancy and Lactation:*** Safety during human pregnancy and lactation has not been established. Use only if potential benefit [illegible] **Precautions:** Patients at risk of cardiac arrhythmias. Do not use with or within 14 days of MAO inhibitors: leave a seven day gap before starting MAO inhibitor treatment. Use a low starting dose for panic disorder, to reduce the likelihood of an initial anxiogenic effect (experienced by some patients) when starting pharmacotherapy. **Drug Interactions:** MAO inhibitors (see Precautions). Use lithium and tryptophan with caution. Routine monitoring of lithium levels need not be adjusted. **Adverse Events:** Most commonly nausea, sweating, tremor, somnolence and dry mouth. With citalopram, adverse effects are in general mild and transient. When they occur, they are most prominent during the first two weeks of treatment and usually attenuate as the depressive state improves. **Overdosage:** Symptoms have included somnolence, coma, sinus tachycardia, occasional nodal rhythm, episode of grand mal convulsion, nausea, vomiting, sweating and hyperventilation. No specific antidote. Treatment is symptomatic and supportive. Early gastric lavage suggested. **Legal Category:** POM 24.1.95. Further information available upon request. Product licence holder: Lundbeck Ltd., Sunningdale House, Caldecotte Lake Business Park, Caldecotte, Milton Keynes, MK7 8LF. ® 'Cipramil' is a Registered Trade Mark. © 1997 Lundbeck Ltd. Date of preparation: April 1997. 0897/CIP/501/044

1. Hyttel J. XXII Nordiske Psykiater Kongres, Reykjavic, 11 August 1988:11-21. 2. Eison AS et al Psychopharmacology Bull 1990; 26 (3): 311-315. 3. Wade AG et al. Br J Psychiatry 1997; 170: 549-553. 4. Sindrup SH et al. Ther Drug Monit 1993; 15: [illegible]

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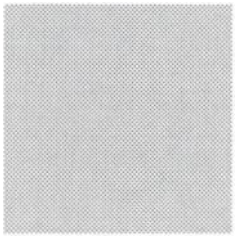

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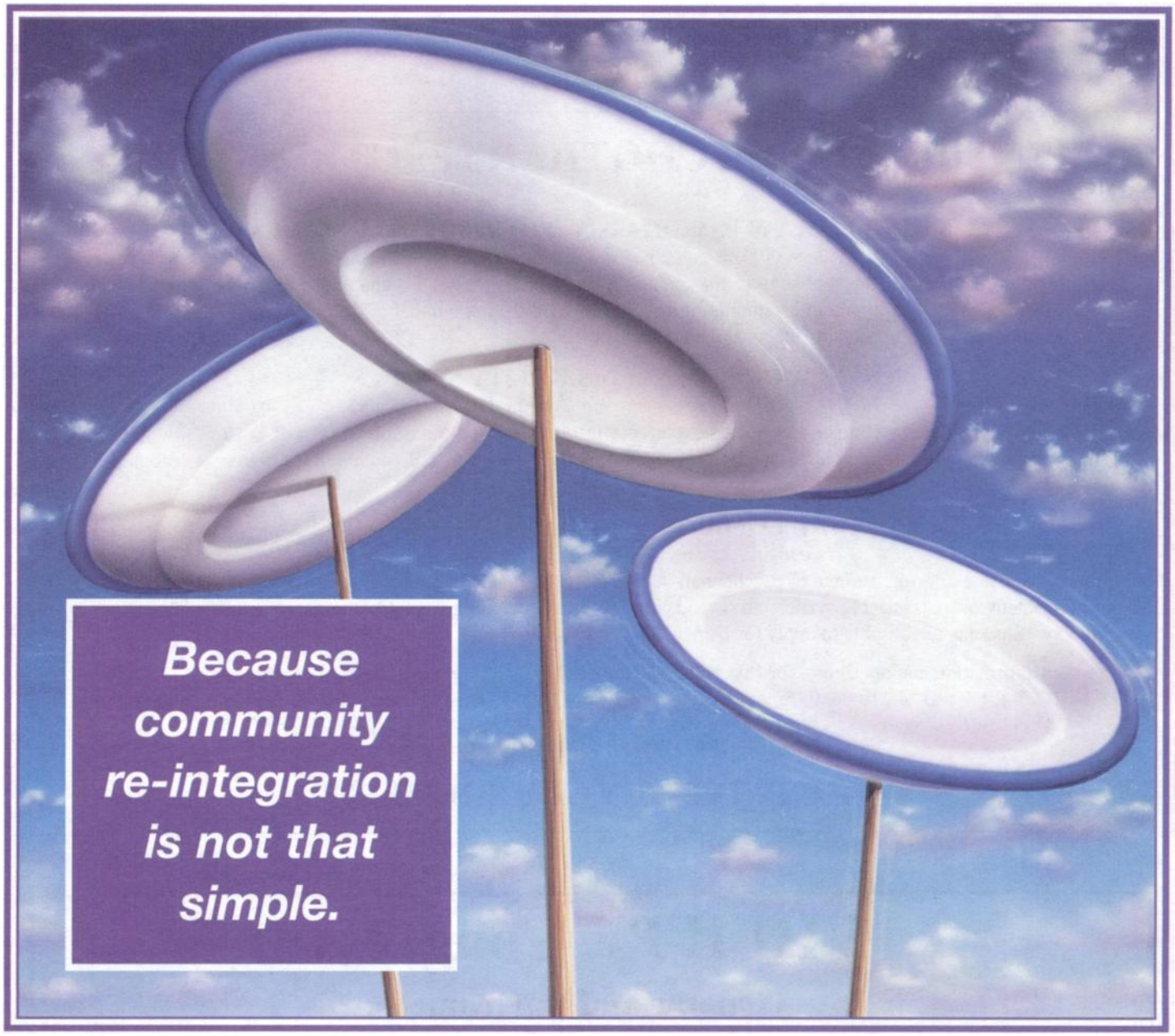


Antipsychotic Efficacy for First-line Use

Zyprexa Olanzapine

Making Community Re-integration the Goal

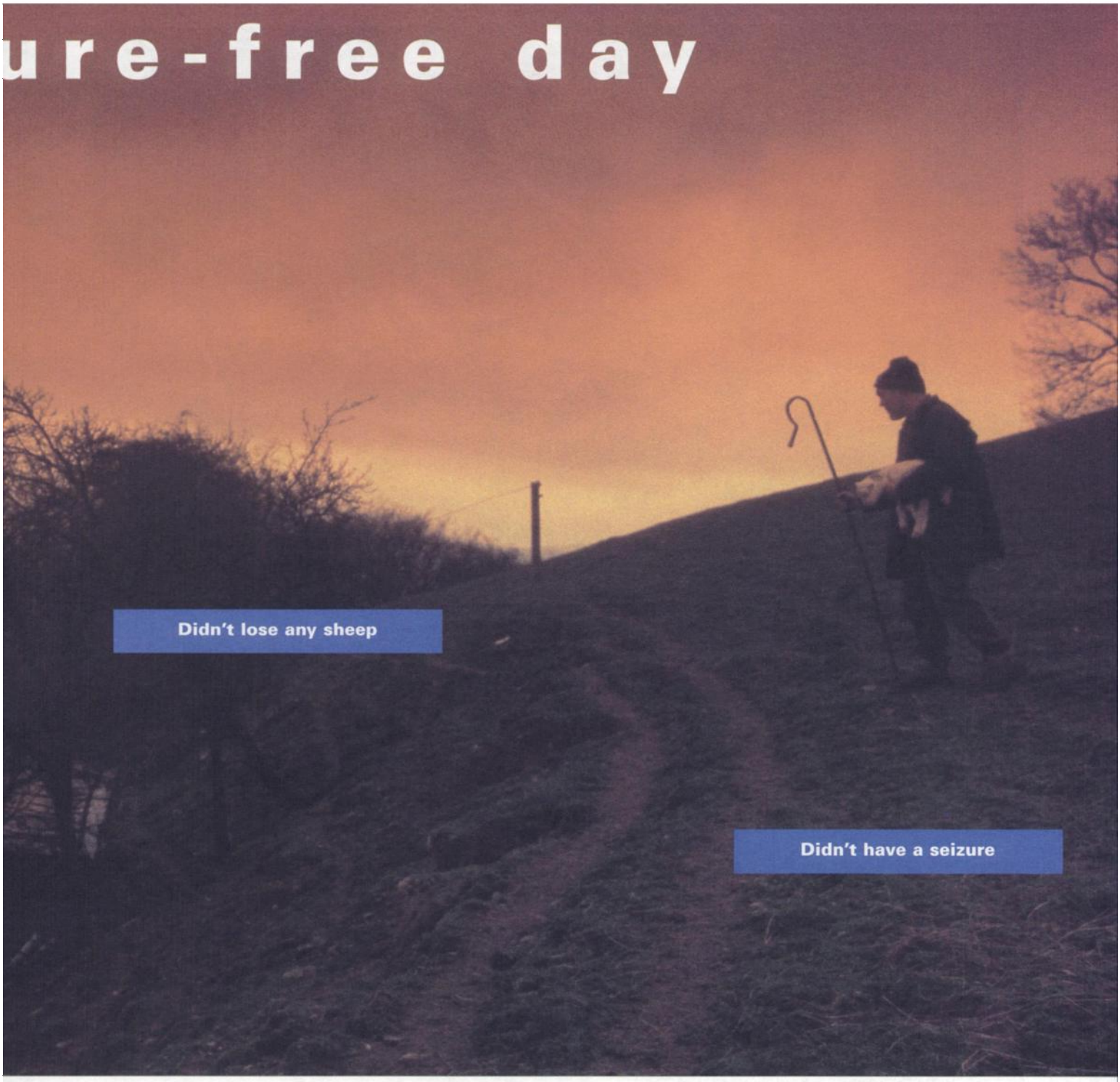
ABBREVIATED PRESCRIBING INFORMATION: **Presentation:** Coated tablets containing 5mg, 7.5mg or 10mg of olanzapine. The tablets also contain lactose. **Uses:** Schizophrenia, both as initial therapy and for maintenance of response. **Further Information:** In studies of patients with schizophrenia and associated depressive symptoms, mood score improved significantly more with olanzapine than with haloperidol. **Pharmacodynamics:** Olanzapine was associated with significantly greater improvements in both negative and positive schizophrenic symptoms than placebo or comparator in most studies. **Dosage and Administration:** 10mg/day orally, as a single dose without regard to meals. Dosage may subsequently be adjusted within the range of 5-20mg daily. An increase to a dose greater than the routine therapeutic dose of 10mg/day is recommended only after clinical assessment. *Children:* Not recommended under 18 years of age. *The elderly:* A lower starting dose (5mg/day) is not routinely indicated but should be considered when clinical factors warrant. *Hepatic and/or renal impairment:* A lower starting dose (5mg) may be considered. When more than one factor is present which might result in slower metabolism (female gender, elderly age, non-smoking status), consideration should be given to decreasing the starting dose. Dose escalation should be conservative in such patients. **Contra-indications:** Known hypersensitivity to any ingredient of the product. Known risk for narrow-angle glaucoma. **Warnings and Special Precautions:** Caution in patients with prostatic hypertrophy, or paralytic ileus and related conditions. Caution in patients with elevated ALT and/or AST, signs and symptoms of hepatic impairment, pre-existing conditions associated with limited hepatic functional reserve, and in patients who are being treated with potentially hepatotoxic drugs. As with other neuroleptic drugs, caution in patients with low leucocyte and/or neutrophil counts for any reason, a history of drug-induced bone marrow depression/toxicity, bone marrow depression caused by concomitant illness, radiation therapy or chemotherapy and in patients with hypereosinophilic conditions or with myeloproliferative disease. Thirty-two patients with clozapine-related neutropenia or agranulocytosis histories received olanzapine without decreases in baseline neutrophil counts. Although, in clinical trials, there were no reported cases of NMS in patients receiving olanzapine, if such an event occurs, or if there is unexplained high fever, all antipsychotic drugs, including olanzapine, must be discontinued. Caution in patients who have a history of seizures or have conditions associated with seizures. If signs or symptoms of tardive dyskinesia appear, a dose reduction or drug discontinuation should be considered. Caution when taken in combination with other centrally acting drugs and alcohol. Olanzapine may antagonise the effects of direct and elderly. However, blood pressure should be measured periodically in patients over 65 years, as with other antipsychotics. As with other antipsychotics, caution when prescribed with drugs known to increase QTc interval, especially in the elderly. In clinical trials, olanzapine was not associated with a persistent increase in absolute QT intervals. **Interactions:** Metabolism may be induced by concomitant smoking or carbamazepine therapy. **Pregnancy and Lactation:** Olanzapine had no teratogenic effects in animals. Because human experience is limited, olanzapine should be used in pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the foetus. Olanzapine was excreted in the milk of treated rats but it is not known if it is excreted in human milk. Patients should be advised not to breast feed an infant if they are taking olanzapine. **Driving, etc:** Because olanzapine may cause somnolence, patients should be cautioned about operating hazardous machinery, including motor vehicles. **Undesirable Effects:** The only frequent (>10%) undesirable effects associated with the use of olanzapine in clinical trials were somnolence and weight gain. Occasional undesirable effects included dizziness, increased appetite, peripheral oedema, orthostatic hypotension, and mild, transient anticholinergic effects, including constipation and dry mouth. Transient, asymptomatic elevations of hepatic transaminases, ALT, AST have been seen occasionally. Olanzapine-treated patients had a lower incidence of parkinsonism, akathisia and dystonia in trials compared with titrated doses of haloperidol. Photosensitivity reaction or high creatinine phosphokinase were reported rarely. Plasma prolactin levels were sometimes elevated, but associated clinical manifestations were rare. Asymptomatic haematological variations were occasionally seen in trials. *For further information see summary of product characteristics.* **Legal Category:** POM. **Marketing Authorisation Numbers:** EU/1/96/022/004 EU/1/96/022/006 EU/1/96/022/008 EU/1/96/022/009 EU/1/96/022/010. **Basic NHS Cost:** £52.73 per pack of 28 x 5mg tablets. £105.47 per pack of 28 x 10mg tablets. £158.20 perpack of 56 x 7.5mg tablets. £210.93 per pack of 56 x 10mg tablets. **Date of Preparation or Last Review:** April 1997. **Full Prescribing Information is Available From:** Eli Lilly and Company Limited, Dextra Court, Chapel Hill, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 5SY. Telephone: Basingstoke (01256) 315000.

Lilly PSYCHIATRY

A first choice add-on ther

Topamax Abbreviated Prescribing Information.
Please read Summary of Product Characteristics before prescribing.
Presentation: Tablets containing 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg, or 200 mg topiramate. **Uses:** Adjunctive therapy of inadequately controlled seizures: partial seizures; seizures associated with Lennox Gastaut Syndrome and primary generalised tonic/clonic seizures. **Dosage and Administration:** Oral administration. *Over 16 years of age:* Usual dose: 200-400 mg/day in two divided doses. Initiate at 50 mg daily then titrate to an effective dose. A lower dose may be used. Patients with significant renal disease may require a dose modification. See SmPC for additional information. *Children age 2 to 16:* Usual dose: Approximately 5 to 9 mgs/kg/day in two divided doses. Initiate at 25 mg nightly, and increase at 1 to 2 week intervals in 1 to 3 mg/kg increments, to an effective dose.

Drowsiness likely. Topamax may be sedating; therefore caution if driving or operating machinery. Do not use in pregnancy unless potential benefit outweighs risk. Woman of childbearing potential should use adequate contraception. Do not use if breastfeeding. **Interactions:** *Other Antiepileptic Drugs:* No clinically significant effect except in some patients on phenytoin where phenytoin plasma concentrations may increase. Phenytoin level monitoring is advised. *Effects of other antiepileptic drugs:* Phenytoin and carbamazepine decrease topiramate plasma concentration. *Digoxin:* A decrease in serum digoxin occurs. Monitor serum digoxin on addition or withdrawal of TOPAMAX®. *Oral Contraceptives:* Should contain not less than 50µg of oestrogen. Ask patients to report any change in bleeding patterns. *Others:* Avoid agents predisposing to nephrolithiasis. **Side Effects:** *Adults:* In 5% or more: abdominal pain, ataxia, anorexia, asthenia, confusion, difficulty with



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speech problems, abnormal vision and weight decrease. May cause agitation and emotional lability (mood problems and nervousness) and depression. Less common adverse effects include, gait abnormal, aggressive reaction, apathy, cognitive problems, coordination problems, leucopenia, psychotic symptoms (such as hallucinations), and taste perversion. Venous thromboembolic events reported - causal association not established. *Children:* In 5% or more: somnolence, anorexia, fatigue, insomnia, nervousness, personality disorder (behaviour problems), difficulty with concentration/attention, aggressive reaction, weight decrease, gait abnormal, mood problems, ataxia, saliva increased, nausea, difficulty with memory, hyperkinesia, dizziness, speech disorder/related speech problems and paraesthesia. Less frequently but potentially relevant: emotional lability, agitation, apathy, cognitive problems, psychomotor slowing, confusion,

Supportive treatment as appropriate. Haemodialysis is effective in removing topiramate. **Pharmaceutical Precautions:** Store in a dry place at or below 25°C. **Legal Category:** POM. **Package Quantities and Prices:** Bottles of 60 tablets. 25 mg (PL0242/0301) = £22.02, 50 mg (PL0242/0302) = £36.17; 100 mg (PL0242/0303)= £64.80; 200 mg (PL0242/0304) = £125.83. **Product licence holder:** JANSSEN-CILAG LIMITED, SAUNDERTON, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP14 4HJ ENGLAND. APIVER200498.

Further information is available on request from the Marketing Authorisation Holder: Janssen-Cilag Limited, Saunderton, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP14 4HJ.

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HELPS RESTORE SOCIAL INTERACTION.

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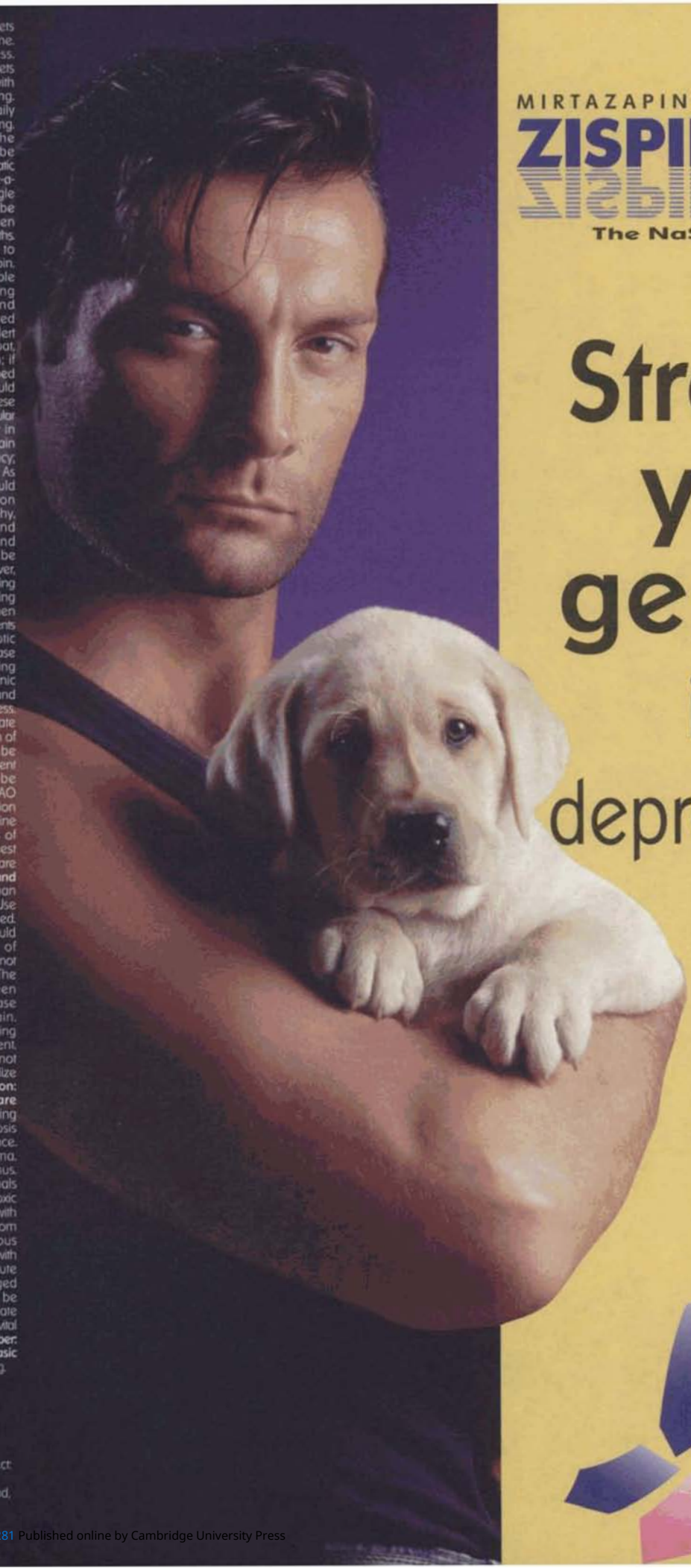
ABBREVIATED PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Presentation: Tablets containing 4mg reboxetine. **Indications:** Use in the acute treatment of depressive illness, and maintenance of clinical benefit in patients responsive to treatment. **Posology and method of administration:** *Adults* 4 mg b.i.d. (8 mg/day) administered orally. After 3-4 weeks, can increase to 10 mg/day. *Elderly and children* Elderly patients have been studied in comparative clinical trials at doses of 2 mg b.i.d. although not in placebo controlled conditions. There is no experience in children and therefore reboxetine cannot be recommended in either of these groups. *Renal/Hepatic* **Special warnings and precautions for use:** Close supervision is required for subjects with a history of convulsive disorders and must be discontinued if the patient develops seizures. Avoid concomitant use with MAO-inhibitors. Close supervision of bipolar patients is recommended. Close supervision should be applied in patients with current evidence of urinary retention, glaucoma, prostatic hypertrophy and cardiac disease. At doses higher than the maximum recommended, orthostatic hypotension has been observed with greater frequency. Particular attention should be paid when administering reboxetine with other drugs known to lower blood pressure. **Interactions with other medicaments** that have a narrow therapeutic margin and are metabolised by CYP3A4 or CYP2D6 e.g. anti-arrhythmics (flecainide), anti-psychotic drugs and tricyclic anti-depressants. No pharmacokinetic interaction with lorazepam. Reboxetine does not appear to potentiate the effect of alcohol. **Pregnancy and lactation:** Reboxetine is contraindicated in pregnancy and lactation. **Effects on ability to drive and use machines**: Reboxetine is not sedative per se. However, as with all psychoactive drugs, caution patients about operating machinery and driving. **Undesirable effects:** Adverse events occuring more frequently than placebo are: dry mouth, constipation, insomnia, paraesthesia, increased sweating, required. **Package and NHS Price:** Pack of 60 tablets in blisters £19.80. **Legal Category:** POM **Marketing Authorisation Holder:** Pharmacia & Upjohn Limited, Davy Avenue, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PH, UK. **Marketing Authorisation Number:** PL 0032/0216, **Date of Preparation:** June 1998. **References: 1.** Montgomery SA. *Journal of Psychopharmacology* 1997 (in press). **2.** Dubini A. et al. *European Neuropsychopharmacol*. 1997; **7** (Suppl 1): S57-S70. **3.** Bosc M. et al. *European Neuropsychopharmacol*. 1997; **7** (Suppl 1): S57-S70. Further information is available from Pharmacia & Upjohn Limited, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton



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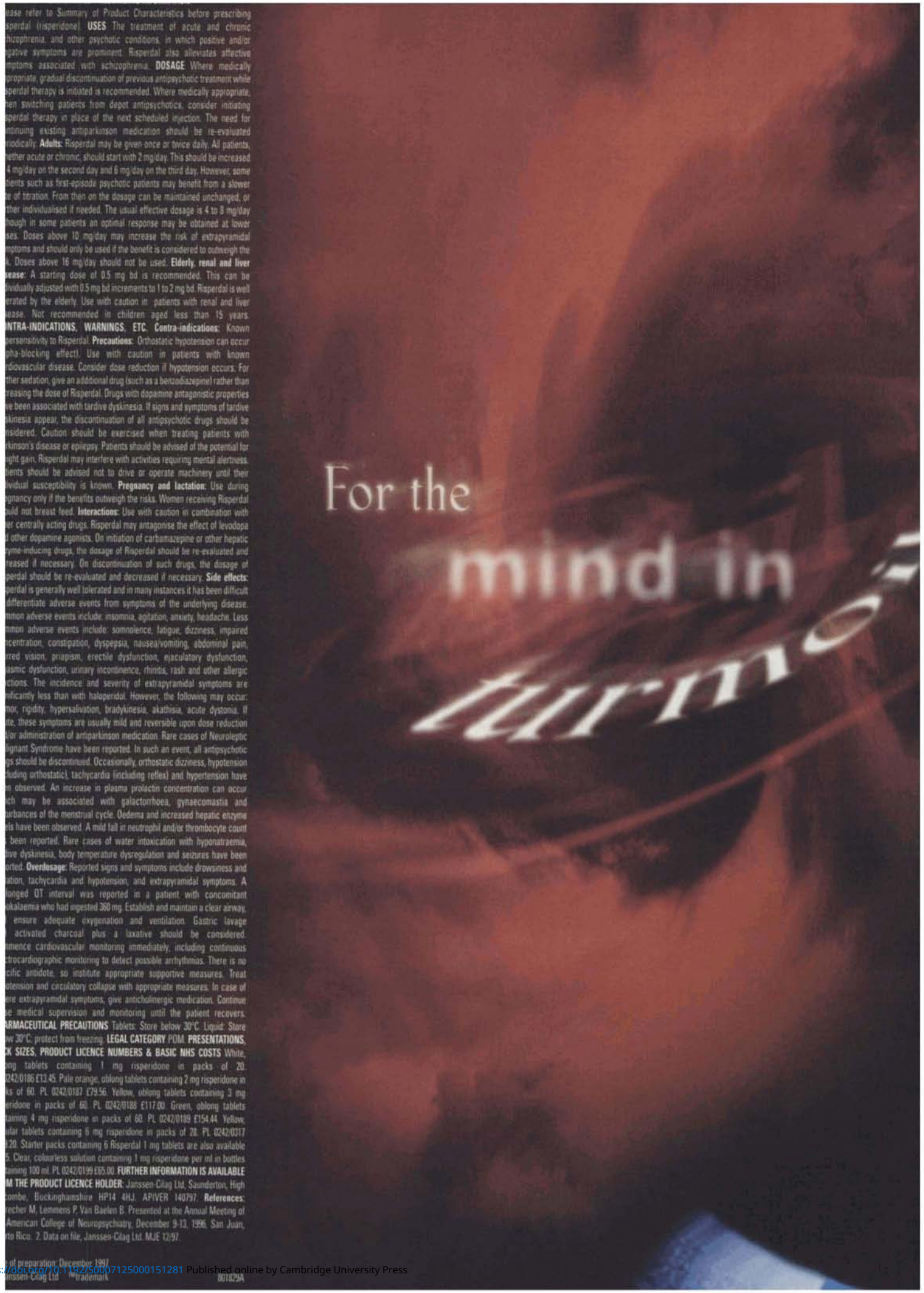

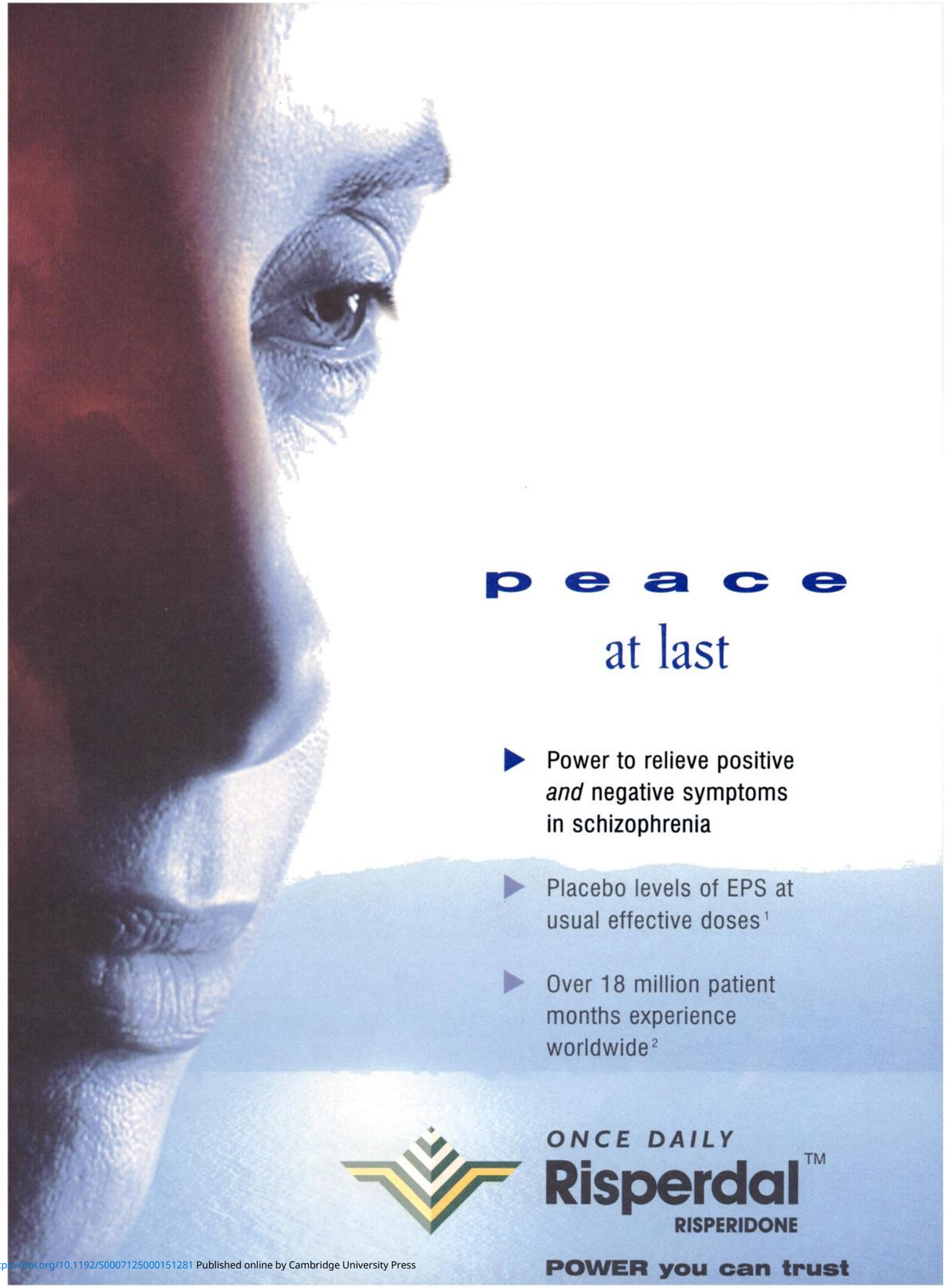

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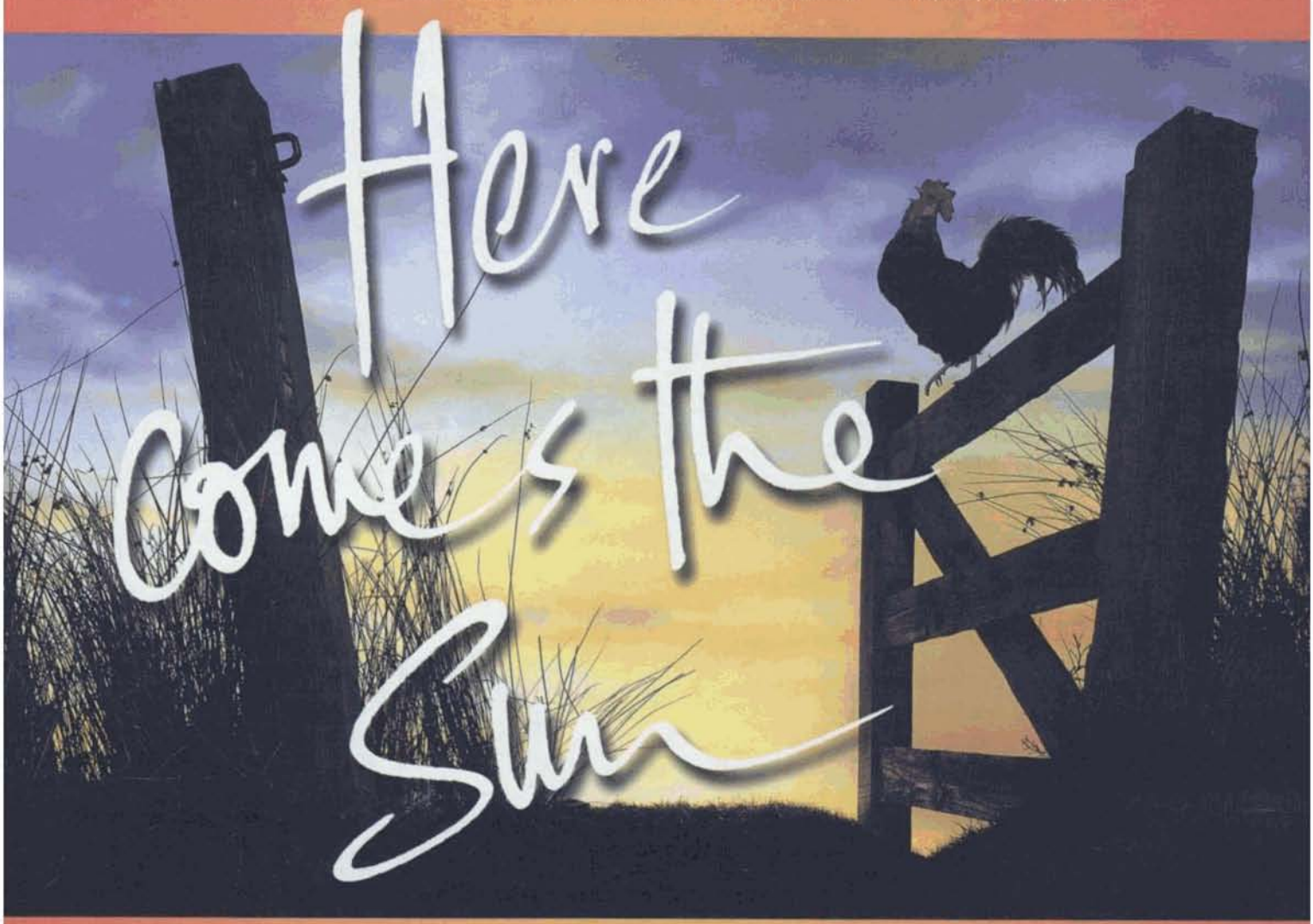
Efexor® XL venlafaxine - Prescribing information Presentation: Capsules containing 75mg or 150mg venlafaxine (as hydrochloride) in an extended release formulation. **Use:** Treatment of depressive illness. **Dosage:** *Adults (including the elderly):* Usually 75mg, given once daily with food, increasing to 150mg once daily if necessary. The dose can be increased further to 225mg once a day. Dose increments should be made at intervals of approximately 2 weeks or more, but not less than 4 days. Discontinue gradually to avoid possibility of discontinuation effects. *Children:* Contra-indicated below 18 years of age. *Moderate renal or moderate hepatic impairment:* Doses should be reduced by 50%. Not recommended in severe renal or severe 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. Patients with a history of drug abuse should be monitored carefully. **Interactions:** MAOIs: do not use Efexor XL in combination with MAOIs or within 14 days of stopping MAOI treatment. Allow 7 days after stopping Efexor XL before starting an MAOI. Use with caution in elderly or hepatically-impaired patients taking cimetidine, in patients taking other CNS-active drugs, and in patients taking drugs which inhibit *both* CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 hepatic enzymes. **Side-effects:** Nausea, insomnia, dry mouth, somnolence, dizziness, constipation, sweating, nervousness, asthenia, abnormal ejaculation/orgasm, anorexia, abnormal vision/accommodation, impotence, vomiting, tremor, abnormal dreams, vasodilatation, hypertension, rash, agitation, hypertonia, paraesthesia, postural hypotension, reversible increases in liver enzymes, slight increase in serum cholesterol, weight gain or loss, hyponatraemia. **Basic NHS price:** 75mg capsule (PL 00011/0223) - blister pack of 28 capsules: £23.97. 150 mg capsule (PL 00011/0224) - blister pack of 28 capsules: £39.97. **Legal category:** POM. Further information is available upon request from the Product Licence holder: Wyeth Laboratories, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 0PH. Date of preparation: August 1997. ® trade mark. Code no: Z777440/0897. WEFX3-UK-JA. References: 1. Muth EA *et al.* Biochem Pharmacol 1986; 35(24): 4493-4497. 2. Muth EA *et al.* Drug Development Research 1991; 23: 191-199. 3. Rudolph R *et al.* Poster presented at the New Clinical Drug Evaluation Unit (National Institute of Mental Health), Boca Raton, Florida 1997. 4. McPartlin GM *et al.* Poster at the 10th European College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting, Vienna, September 13th-17th, 1997. 5. Salinas E. Biol Psychiatry 1997; 42(Suppl. 1): 244S.



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Wyeth

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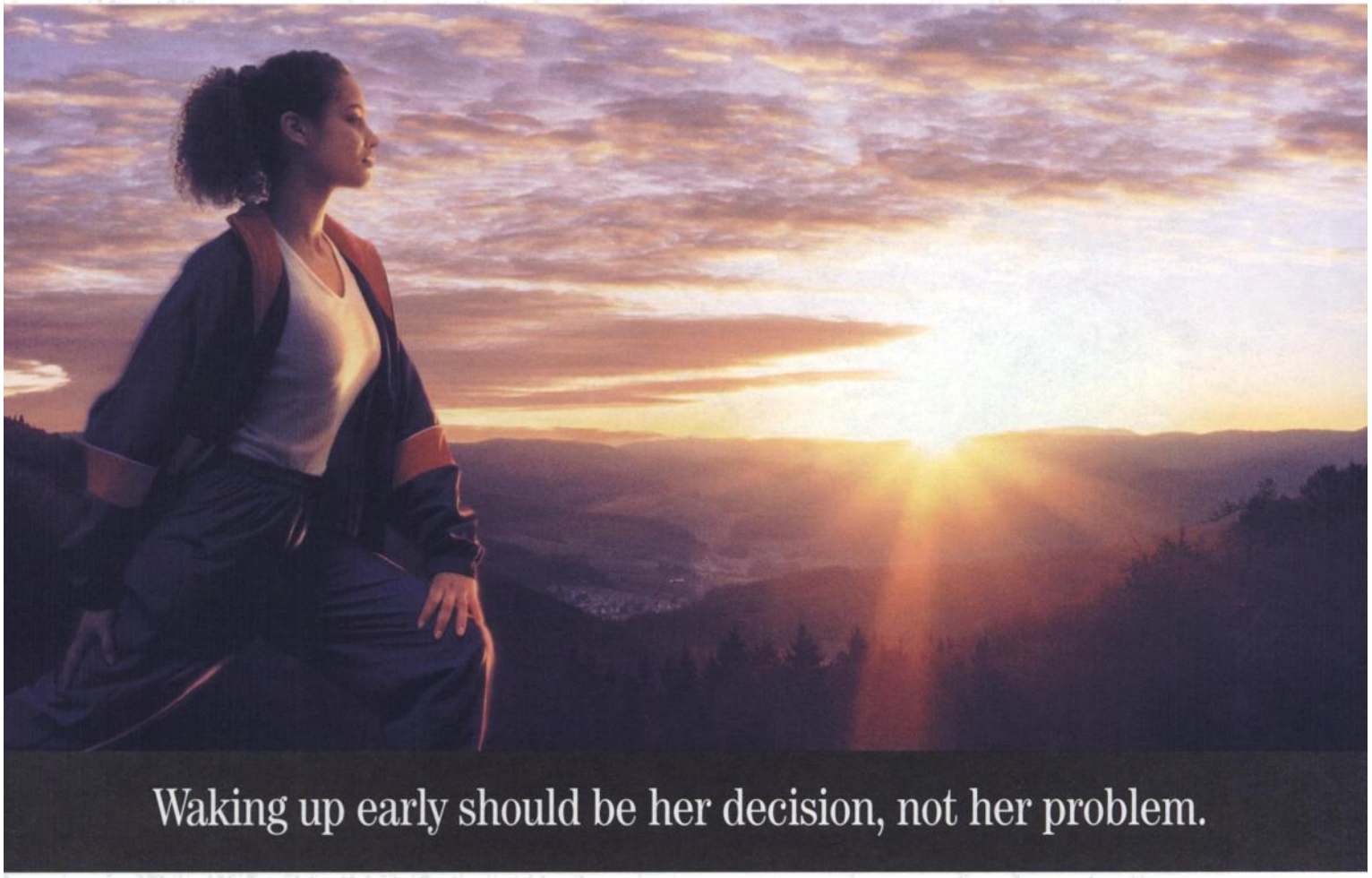
DUTONIN™▼ Abbreviated Prescribing Information PRESENTATION: Tablets containing 50mg, 100mg and 200mg nefazodone hydrochloride. INDICATIONS: Symptomatic treatment of all types of depressive illness, including depressive syndromes accompanied by anxiety or sleep disturbances. DOSAGE: Usual therapeutic dose 200mg twice daily. Range – 100mg - 600mg daily, see Summary of Product Characteristics. Elderly: Usual therapeutic dose 50 - 200mg twice daily. Renal and Hepatic Impairment: Lower end of dose range. Children: Not recommended below the age of 18 years. CONTRA-INDICATIONS: Hypersensitivity to nefazodone hydrochloride, tablet excipients or phenylpiperazine antidepressants. WARNINGS/ PRECAUTIONS: Hepatic or renal impairment. Patients at high risk of self harm should be kept under close supervision during initial treatment phase. Modest decrease in some psychomotor function tests but no impairment of cognitive function. Not recommended in pregnancy and lactation. Use with caution in epilepsy, history of mania/hypomania, recent M.I., unstable heart disease. No clinical studies available on concurrent use of ECT and nefazodone. DRUG INTERACTIONS: Caution is advised when combining with other CNS medication, digoxin, products metabolised by Cytochrome $P_{450}III_{A4}$; see Summary of Product Characteristics. SIDE EFFECTS: Most frequently asthenia, dry mouth, nausea, constipation, somnolence, light-headedness and dizziness; see Summary of Product Characteristics. OVERDOSAGE: There is no specific antidote for nefazodone. Gastric lavage recommended for suspected overdose. Treatment should be symptomatic and supportive in the case of hypotension or excessive sedation. PRODUCT LICENCE NUMBERS: Dutonin Tablets 50mg PL 11184/0027; Dutonin Tablets 100mg PL 11184/0028; Dutonin Tablets 200mg PL 11184/0029, PRODUCT LICENCE HOLDER: Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals Ltd. BASIC NHS PRICE: Treatment Initiation Pack containing 50mg tablets 14, 100mg tablets 14, 200mg tablets 28 – £16.80; 100mg tablets 56 – £16.80; 200mg tablets 56 – £16.80. LEGAL CATEGORY: POM. Further information from: Medical Information, Bristol-Myers Squibb House, 141-149 Staines Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 3JA. Telephone: 0181-754-3740. Date of preparation: July 1997.

REFERENCES: 1. Armitage R. Journal of Psychopharmacology 1996; 10(suppl1): 22-25. 2. Sharpley AL *et al.* Psychopharmacology 1996; 126: 50-54. 3. Armitage R *et al.* J Clin Psychopharmacol 1997; 17(3): 161-168. 4. Armitage R *et al.* Presented at the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), 30 September - 4 October 1995, Venice, Italy. 5. Fontaine R *et al.* J Clin Psychiatry 1994; 55(6): 234-241. 6. Gillin JC *et al.* J Clin Psychiatry 1997; 58: 185-192.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals Limited



It's not only depression that wakes patients up early. Sleep can also be disturbed by many SSRIs.[1-4]

Dutonin is an excellent choice. Not only does Dutonin effectively relieve depression,[5] it also normalises sleep patterns.[3,4,6]

Moreover, Dutonin lifts anxiety symptoms within the first week of treatment.[5]

Waking up early should always be your patient's choice, not their problem.

Makes the difference in depression

DUTONIN™▼

NEFAZODONE

Campral EC acamprosate

Presentation: Off-white round enteric-coated tablets, containing 333mg acamprosate calcium. Printed on one side with 333. **Properties:** Acamprosate may act by stimulating GABAergic inhibitory neurotransmission and antagonising excitatory amino acids, particularly glutamic acid. **Indication:** Maintenance of abstinence in alcohol dependent patients. It should be combined with counselling. **Dosage and Administration:** *Adults ≥ 60kg:* 6 tablets per day (2 tablets taken three times daily with meals) *Adults < 60kg:* 4 tablets per day (2 tablets in the morning, 1 at noon and 1 at night with meals). Recommended treatment period one year, starting as soon as possible after the withdrawal period. Treatment should be maintained if the patient relapses. *Elderly:* Not recommended. *Children:* Not recommended. **Contraindications:** Known hypersensitivity to the drug, renal insufficiency (serum creatinine > 120 micromol/L), severe hepatic failure (Childs-Pugh classification C), pregnancy, lactation. **Precautions and Warnings:** Campral EC does not constitute treatment during the withdrawal period. **Interactions:** None observed in studies with diazepam, disulfiram or imipramine. The concomitant intake of alcohol and acamprosate does not affect the pharmacokinetics of either alcohol or acamprosate. **Side Effects:** Diarrhoea, and less frequently nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain; pruritus. These are usually mild and transient. An occasional maculopapular rash and rare cases of bullous skin reactions have been reported. Fluctuations in libido have been reported. Campral EC should not impair the patient's ability to drive or operate machinery. **Overdose:** Gastric lavage; should hypercalcaemia occur, treat patient for acute hypercalcaemia. **Legal Category:** POM. **Pharmaceutical Precautions:** None. **Package Quantities and Basic NHS Price:** 84 blister packed tablets £24.95. **Marketing Authorisation Number/Holder:** 13466/0001, Lipha SA, Lyon, France. **Date of Preparation:** August 1997. Further information is available on request from Merck Pharmaceuticals, Harrier House, High Street, West Drayton, Middlesex, UB7 7QG. **Date of Preparation:** March 1998.

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Solian is a new benzamide antipsychotic, with the ability to treat both the positive[1] and negative[2] symptoms of schizophrenia.

Solian offers a lower incidence of EPS than standard neuroleptics such as haloperidol,[3] as well as avoiding some of the drawbacks of certain atypicals: it does not require routine cardiovascular[4,5] or haematological[4,6] monitoring and patients gain significantly less weight than those treated with risperidone.[2]

So when patients need the ability to cope with their condition, Solian has the power to treat their positive[1] *and* their negative[2] symptoms whilst still allowing them to do the everyday things that the rest of us take for granted.

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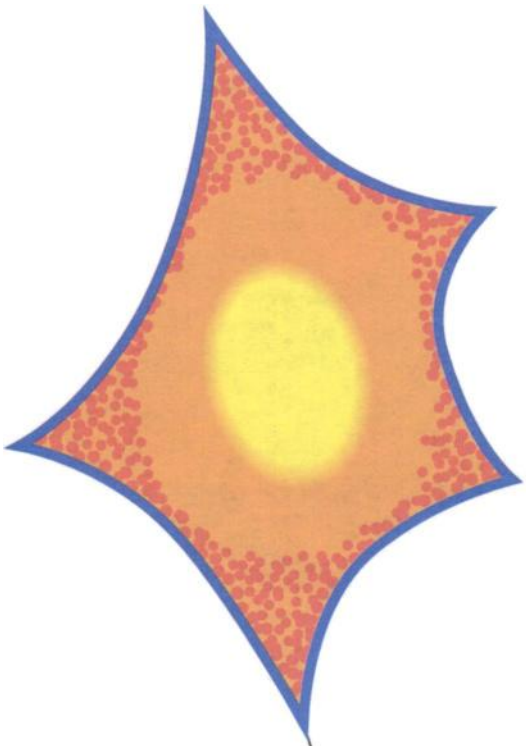
Efficacy that patients can live with

Prescribing Information - Solian 200 and Solian 50 ▼ Presentation: Solian 200mg tablets contain 200mg amisulpride and Solian 50mg tablets contain 50mg amisulpride. **Indication:** Acute and chronic schizophrenia in which positive and/or negative symptoms are prominent. **Dosage:** Acute psychotic episodes: 400-800mg/day, increasing up to 1200mg/day according to individual response (dose titration not required), in divided doses. Predominantly negative symptoms: 50-300mg once daily adjusted according to individual response. Elderly: administer with caution due to the risk of hypotension or sedation. Renal insufficiency: reduce dose and consider intermittent therapy. Hepatic insufficiency: no dosage adjustment necessary. Children: contraindicated in children under 15 years (safety not established). **Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity; concomitant prolactin-dependent tumours e.g. pituitary gland prolactinaemias and breast cancer; phaeochromocytoma; children under 15 years; pregnancy; lactation; women of child bearing potential unless using adequate contraception. **Warning and Precautions:** As with all neuroleptics, neuroleptic malignant syndrome may occur (discontinue Solian). Caution in patients with a history of epilepsy and Parkinson's disease. **Interactions:** Caution in hypotensive medications, and dopamine agonists. **Side Effects:** Insomnia, anxiety, agitation. Less commonly somnolence and GI disorders. In common with other neuroleptics: Solian causes a reversible increase in plasma prolactin levels; Solian may also cause weight gain, acute dystonia, extrapyramidal symptoms, tardive dyskinesia, hypotension and bradycardia; rarely, allergic reactions, seizures and neuroleptic malignant syndrome have been reported. **Basic NHS Cost:** Blister packs of: 200mg x 60 tablets - £60.00; 200mg x 90 tablets - £90.00; 50mg x 60 tablets - £16.45; 50mg x 90 tablets - £24.69. **Legal Category:** POM. **Product Licence Numbers:** Solian 200 - PL 15819/0002, Solian 50 - PL 15819/0001. **Product Licence Holder:** Lorex Synthélabo UK and Ireland Ltd, Foundation Park, Roxborough Way, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 3UD. **References:** 1. Freeman HL. Int Clin Psychopharmacol 1997;12(Suppl 2):S11-S17. 2. Möller HJ. 6th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry, Nice, France, June 22-27 1997. 3. Coukell AJ, Spencer CM, Benfield P. CNS Drugs (Adis) 1996 Sep 6 (3):237-256. 4. Solian SPC. Lorex Synthélabo. 5. Sertindole SPC. Lundbeck Ltd. 6. Clozapine SPC.

SYNTHÉLABO
CNS DIVISION



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As part of our continuing commitment to improving the management of psychiatric illness, Pfizer will be awarding five research grants of £5,000 each to support projects in the field of mental health; £2,000 will be given to the winning institution and £3,000 to the author.

The awards are open to any hospital physician or research scientist with an interest in psychiatry who has carried out previously unpublished research in schizophrenia, dementia or depression.

For more details, including an entry form, contact your Pfizer representative, call Freephone 0800 0681915, or write to:

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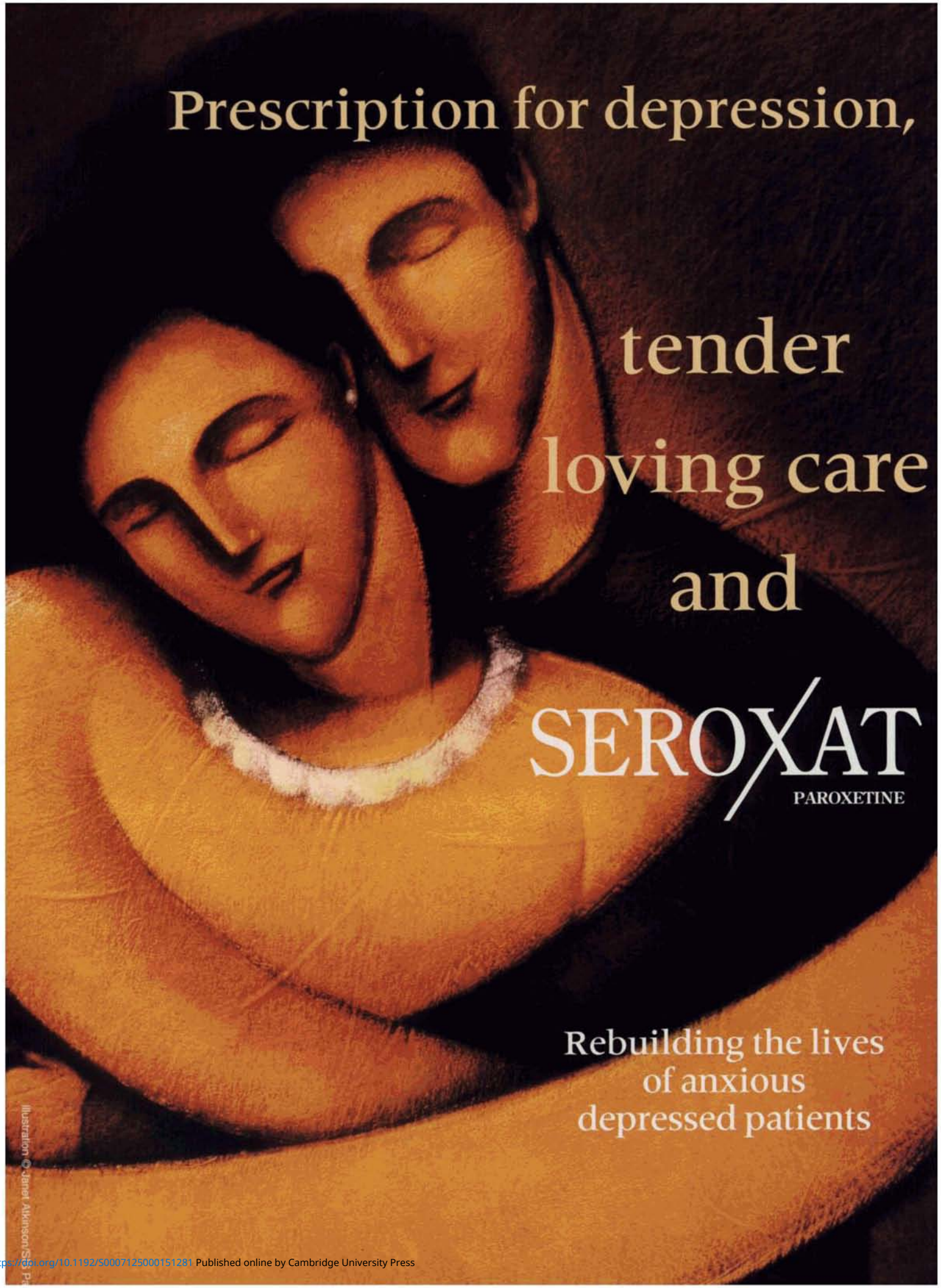

PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Presentation: 'Seroxat' Tablets, PL 10592/0001-2, each containing either 20 or 30 mg paroxetine as the hydrochloride. 30 (OP) 20 mg tablets, £20.77; 30 (OP) 30 mg tablets, £31.16. 'Seroxat' Liquid, PL 10592/0092, containing 20 mg paroxetine as the hydrochloride per 10 ml. 150 ml (OP), £20.77.

Indications: Treatment of symptoms of depressive illness of all types including depression accompanied by anxiety. Following satisfactory response, continuation is effective in preventing relapse. Treatment of symptoms and prevention of relapse of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). Treatment of symptoms and prevention of relapse of panic disorder with or without agoraphobia.

Dosage: *Adults: Depression:* 20 mg a day. Review response within two to three weeks and if necessary increase dose in 10 mg increments to a maximum of 50 mg according to response.

Obsessive compulsive disorder: 40 mg a day. Patients should be given 20 mg a day initially and the dose increased weekly in 10 mg increments. Some patients may benefit from a maximum dose of 60 mg a day.

Panic disorder: 40 mg a day. Patients should be given 10 mg a day initially and the dose increased weekly in 10 mg increments. Some patients may benefit from a maximum dose of 50 mg a day.

Give orally once a day in the morning with food. The tablets should not be chewed. Continue treatment for a sufficient period, which should be at least four to six months after recovery for depression and may be longer for OCD and panic disorder. As with many psychoactive medications abrupt discontinuation should be avoided – see Adverse reactions.

Elderly: Dosing should commence at the adult starting dose and may be increased in weekly 10 mg increments up to a maximum of 40 mg a day according to response.

Children: Not recommended.

Severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <30 ml/min) or severe hepatic impairment: 20 mg a day. Restrict incremental dosage if required to lower end of range.

Contra-indication: Hypersensitivity to paroxetine.

Precautions: History of mania. Cardiac conditions: caution. Caution in patients with epilepsy; stop treatment if seizures develop. Driving and operating machinery.

Drug interactions: Do not use with or within two weeks after MAO inhibitors; leave a two-week gap before starting MAO inhibitor treatment. Possibility of interaction with tryptophan. Great caution with warfarin and other oral anticoagulants. Use lower doses if given with drug metabolising enzyme inhibitors; adjust dosage if necessary with drug metabolising enzyme inducers. Alcohol is not advised. Use lithium with caution and monitor lithium levels. Increased adverse effects with phenytoin; similar possibility with other anticonvulsants.

Pregnancy and lactation: Use only if potential benefit outweighs possible risk.

Adverse reactions: In controlled trials most commonly nausea, somnolence, sweating, tremor, asthenia, dry mouth, insomnia, sexual dysfunction (including impotence and ejaculation disorders), dizziness, constipation and decreased appetite.

Also spontaneous reports of dizziness, vomiting, diarrhoea, restlessness, hallucinations, hypomania, rash including urticaria with pruritus or angioedema, and symptoms suggestive of postural hypotension. Extrapyramidal reactions reported infrequently; usually reversible abnormalities of liver function tests and hyponatraemia described rarely. Symptoms including dizziness, sensory disturbance, anxiety, sleep disturbances, agitation, tremor, nausea, sweating and confusion have been reported following abrupt discontinuation of 'Seroxat'. It is recommended that when antidepressant treatment is no longer required, gradual discontinuation by dose-tapering or alternate day dosing be considered.

Overdosage: Margin of safety from available data is wide. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, tremor, dilated pupils, dry mouth, irritability, sweating and somnolence. No specific antidote. General treatment as for overdosage with any antidepressant. Early use of activated charcoal suggested.

Legal category: POM. 7.4.98

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PARTNERS IN PSYCHIATRIC CARE

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SEROXAT

Rebuilding the lives of anxious depressed patients

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0598 ST:AD/8/037JP

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New
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By Sheila Hollins, Angie Avis and Samantha Cheverton
Illustrated by Denise Redmond

We all of us worry about going into hospital. For people with learning disabilities, there is the added fear of not being able to explain what is wrong, as well as not understanding what is happening.

This book is designed to support patients like Martin and Mary who are shown going into hospital – one is having a planned operation and the other is admitted as an emergency – by explaining what happens to them there.

Feelings, information and consent are all addressed. Ideally this book should be used to prepare someone before he or she goes into hospital. But it will also be invaluable to hospital staff to use during consultations and before treatments, and to understand the needs of people with learning disabilities.

£10.00, approx. 56 pp, ISBN 1 901242 19 6, Ringbound, Gaskell, September 1998

Going to Out-Patients

By Sheila Hollins, Jane Bernal and Matthew Gregory
Illustrated by Denise Redmond

This book is a companion text to *Going Into Hospital*. Both books are aimed at people with learning disabilities, their carers and medical professionals in hospital settings.

Going to Out-Patients follows a man and a woman through various out-patient situations and treatment scenarios. Situations covered include trying to find the right place, waiting, and seeing the doctor. Common procedures are also illustrated, including an ultrasound, a hearing test, an X-ray, and a plaster cast being put on and eventually removed.

£10.00, approx. 56 pp, ISBN 1 901242 18 8, Ringbound, Gaskell, Autumn 1998

I Can Get Through It

By Sheila Hollins, Christiana Horrocks and Valerie Sinason
Illustrated by Lisa Kopper

This book is a logical follow-on to the three other titles about abuse in this series: *Bob Tells All*, *Jenny Speaks Out* and *Going to Court*. As with all the books in the series it is aimed at people with learning disabilities, their carers and counselling professionals working with people with learning disabilities who have been sexually abused.

I Can Get Through It is the story of a woman who is abused. It shows how, with the help of a counsellor/therapist, she is able to 'get through it' and back to coping with life. It will provide a valuable resource for families who are looking for treatment for their son or daughter who has been abused.

£10.00, approx. 56 pp, ISBN 1 901242 20 X, Paperback, Gaskell, September 1998

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About the Series

Books Beyond Words literally go beyond words, they speak visually. They are intended for people with learning disabilities or difficulties or mental health needs. The stories are told through pictures alone, although a short written text at the end of the book provides extra help in understanding for those who can read. The stylised drawings include mime and body language to communicate simple, explicit messages to the reader. The carefully chosen colours in the pictures add the dimension of emotions to the stories in a way that is more readily understood than verbal explanation. There are no other books for adults and adolescents which provide information and address the emotional aspects of difficult experiences in this way.

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