

# IRISH JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE

VOL 15 NO 3 SEPTEMBER 1998

ISSN 0790-9667



# Mum has Alzheimer's



- **The first selective treatment** for the symptoms of mild to moderately severe Alzheimer's dementia licensed in Ireland<sup>1</sup>
- **Improvements** in cognitive symptoms and global function<sup>2-4</sup>
- **Simple** once daily dosage
- **Well tolerated.**<sup>5</sup>

but she knew I was calling today

**A** **new** **once daily**  
**Aricept**<sup>®</sup>  
donepezil hydrochloride



**A first step in Alzheimer's**

#### BRIEF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

ARICEPT<sup>®</sup> (donepezil hydrochloride)

Please refer to the SmPC before prescribing ARICEPT 5mg or ARICEPT 10mg. **Indication:** Symptomatic treatment of mild to moderately severe Alzheimer's dementia. **Dose and administration:** Adults/elderly; 5mg daily which may be increased to 10mg once daily after at least one month. No dose adjustment necessary for patients with renal or mild-moderate hepatic impairment. **Children:** Not recommended. **Contra-Indications:** Hypersensitivity to donepezil, piperidine derivatives or any excipients used in ARICEPT. **Pregnancy. Lactation:** Excretion into breast milk unknown. Women on donepezil should not breast feed. **Warnings and Precautions:** Initiation and supervision by a physician with experience of Alzheimer's dementia. A caregiver should be available to monitor compliance. Regular monitoring to ensure continued therapeutic benefit, consider discontinuation when evidence of a therapeutic effect ceases. Exaggeration of succinylcholine-type muscle relaxation. Avoid concurrent use of anticholinesterases, cholinergic agonists, cholinergic antagonists. Possibility of vagotonic effect on the heart which may be particularly important with "sick sinus syndrome" and supraventricular conduction conditions. Careful monitoring of patients at risk of ulcer disease including those receiving NSAIDs. Cholinomimetics may cause bladder outflow obstruction. Seizures occur in Alzheimer's disease and cholinomimetics have the potential to cause seizures. Care in patients suffering asthma and obstructive pulmonary disease. As with all Alzheimer's patients, routine evaluation of ability to drive/operate machinery. **Drug Interactions:** Experience of use with concomitant medications is limited, consider possibility of as yet unknown interactions. Interaction possible with inhibitors or inducers of Cytochrome P450; use such combinations with care. Possible synergistic activity with succinylcholine-type muscle relaxants, beta-blockers, cholinergic or anticholinergic agents. **Side effects:** Most commonly diarrhoea, muscle cramps, fatigue, nausea, vomiting and insomnia. Other common effects in clinical trials (≥5% and ≥placebo) headache, pain, accident, common cold, abdominal disturbance and dizziness. Rare cases of syncope, bradycardia, heart block. Minor increases in muscle creatine kinase. **Presentation:** Blister packed in strips of 14. ARICEPT 5mg; white, film coated tablets marked 5 and ARICEPT, packs of 28. ARICEPT 10mg; yellow, film coated tablets marked 10 and ARICEPT, packs of 28. **Marketing authorisation numbers:** ARICEPT 5 mg; PA 822/2/1. ARICEPT 10mg; PA 822/2/2. **Marketing authorisation holder:** Pfizer (Ireland) Limited, Pharmapark, Chapelizod, Dublin 20, Republic of Ireland. **Further information from/Marketed by:** Pfizer (Ireland) Limited, Pharmapark, Chapelizod, Dublin 20, Republic of Ireland. **Date of preparation:** September 1997.

**References:** 1. Rogers SL et al. In: Becker R, Giacolini E, eds. Cholinergic Basis for Alzheimer Therapy. Boston: Birkhauser; 1991: 314-320. 2. Data on file (A301). 3. Data on file (A302) and Rogers SL et al. Neurology 1996; 46: A217. 4. Rogers SL et al. Dementia 1996; 7: 293-303. 5. Data on file, Integrated Summary of Safety.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0790966700003700 Published online by Cambridge University Press

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**Publisher**

MedMedia Ltd.  
Media House,  
99 Upper George's Street,  
Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.

**Printing:** New Cityview Press

**Subscriptions**

Rates per volume of four issues  
(Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec)  
STG£43 EU, US\$96 USA, STG£53  
elsewhere (single issues US\$28 USA,  
STG£13.25 elsewhere) incl. airmail  
postage internationally.

**Subscription enquiries, orders  
and cheques made payable to:**

Royal Society of Medicine Press Ltd.,  
1 Wimpole St, London, W1M 8AE, UK.  
Tel: 0171-2902927;  
int: +44-171-2902927.  
Fax: 0171-2902929;  
int: +44-171-2902929.

**Circulation**

3,000 to 54 countries.  
Journal participates in the World Health  
Organisation project to improve  
distribution of scientific materials on  
mental health. Publication does not  
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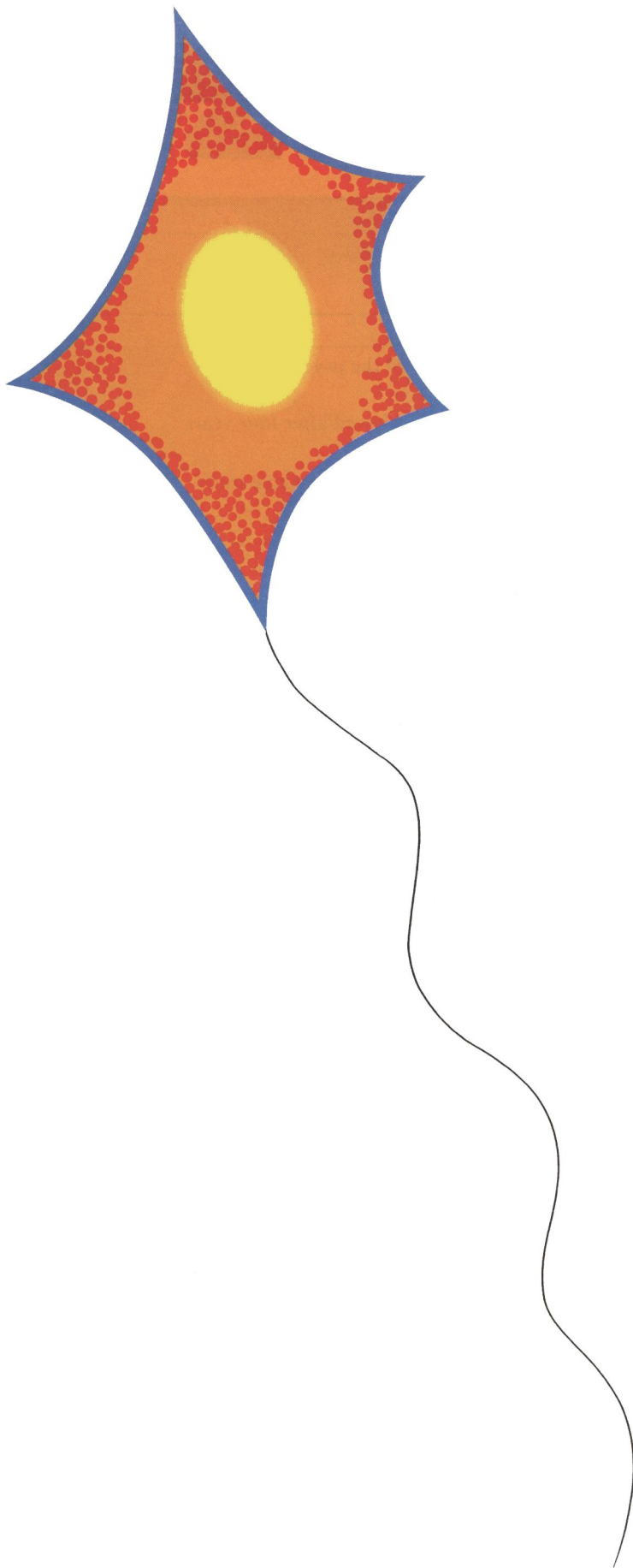
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**Cover illustration:** 'The House Builders', 1902 Walter Osborne (1859-1903)

Indexed and abstracted by BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (BIOSIS Previews); CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE/INIST; PASCAL; EXCERPTA MEDICA/EMBASE; INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION: CURRENT CONTENTS/Social & Behavioural Sciences (Social Science CITATION INDEX, Research Alert); PSYCHOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (PsycINFO/PsycLIT); Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature, Current AIDS Literature (CAB Abstracts), International Pharmaceutical Abstracts, Linguistics & Language Behaviour Abstracts, Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews, (CAB Abstracts), Referativnyi Zhurnal, Social Planning/Policy & Development Abstracts, Social Work Research & Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts.

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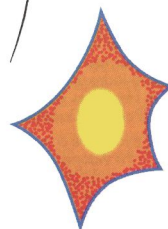
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