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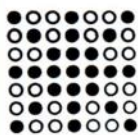
Scientific Editor

Eve C Johnstone

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The term 'biological psychiatry' often puzzles those working in other branches of science and medicine. The word 'biology' refers to the study of living things and therefore encompasses physiological, biochemical and psychological forms of investigation. In psychiatry, however, it has become conventional to use the term 'biological' to encompass physiological, biochemical and genetic approaches to psychiatric aetiology in contrast to psychosocial approaches.

'Biological' causes of severe psychiatric disorder have been suspected from the earliest times, and in some periods an excessive focus upon them has led to neglect of psychological and social approaches to treatment, to the detriment of patients. There is no doubt that the causes of psychiatric illness are complex, and it is unlikely that any single approach - biological or psychosocial - will ever be sufficient on its own. Nevertheless, recent advances in basic science and technological developments have made a significant contribution to the understanding of psychiatric aetiology, and this volume reviews the findings of the wide span of scientific approaches to mental illness that now exist, including structural and functional imaging of the brain, molecular genetics, cell biology and metabolic studies.

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cimetidine has not been fully assessed. With warfarin prothrombin time should be monitored when LUSTRAL is initiated or stopped. **Side-effects:** Dry mouth, nausea, diarrhoea/loose stools, ejaculatory delay, tremor, increased sweating, dyspepsia, dizziness, insomnia and somnolence. Asymptomatic elevations in serum transaminases have been reported infrequently (approx. 0.8%) in association with LUSTRAL. These usually occurred within the first 9 weeks treatment and resolved on cessation of therapy. Malaise and rash have been reported. Seizures (see precautions, warnings). There have been isolated reports of movement disorders and rare cases of hyponatraemia. **Legal category:** POM. **Basic NHS cost:** 50mg table (PL 57/0308) Calendar pack of 28, £26.51; 100mg tablet (PL 57/0309) Calendar pack of 28, £39.77. Further information on request. InvictaTM Pharmaceuticals or RichboroughTM Pharmaceuticals Divisions of Pfizer Limited, Sandwich, Kent

