

# THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES

# LE JOURNAL CANADIEN DES SCIENCES NEUROLOGIQUES

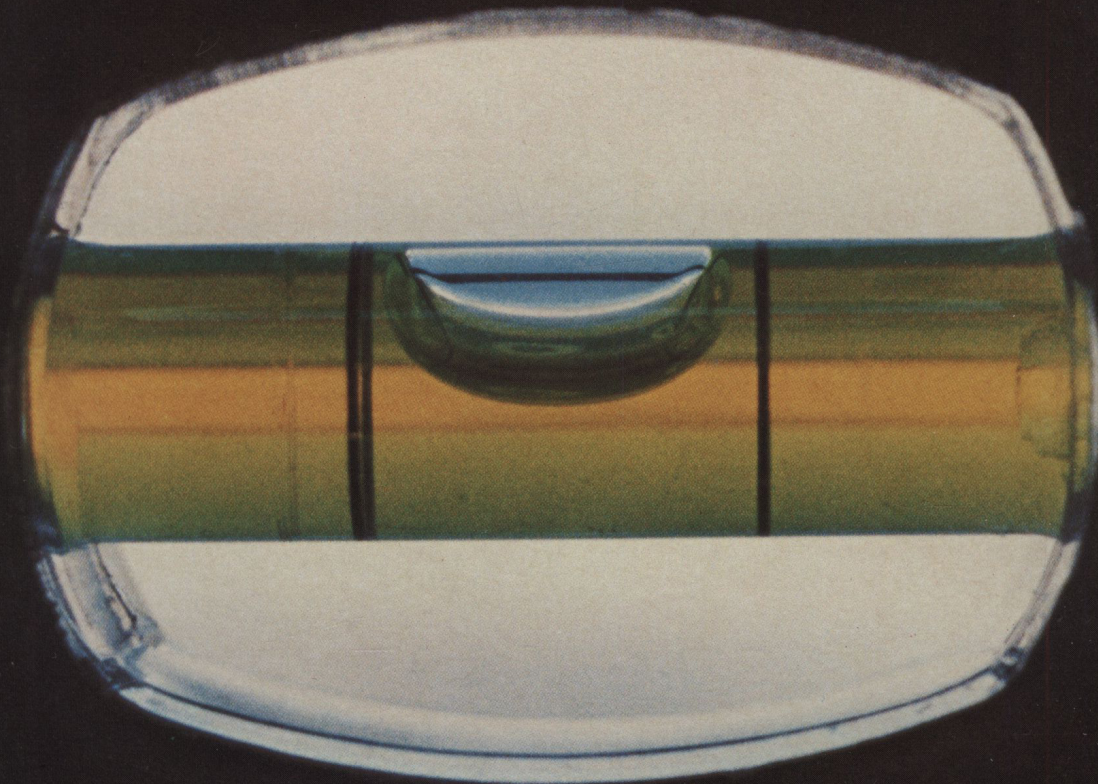
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\*Reynolds, F.H. et al: Lancet, 923-926, May 1, 1976

\*\*Goodman and Gilman, 5th Edition

\*\*\*Sherwin, (1973) Arch. Neurol. (28), 178.

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- Drowsiness, which may occur, is generally dose-related and may be well controlled with proper dosage adjustment.<sup>2,3</sup>



For Rx Summary, see page xii

# Rivotril<sup>®</sup> for the victims of minor motor seizures

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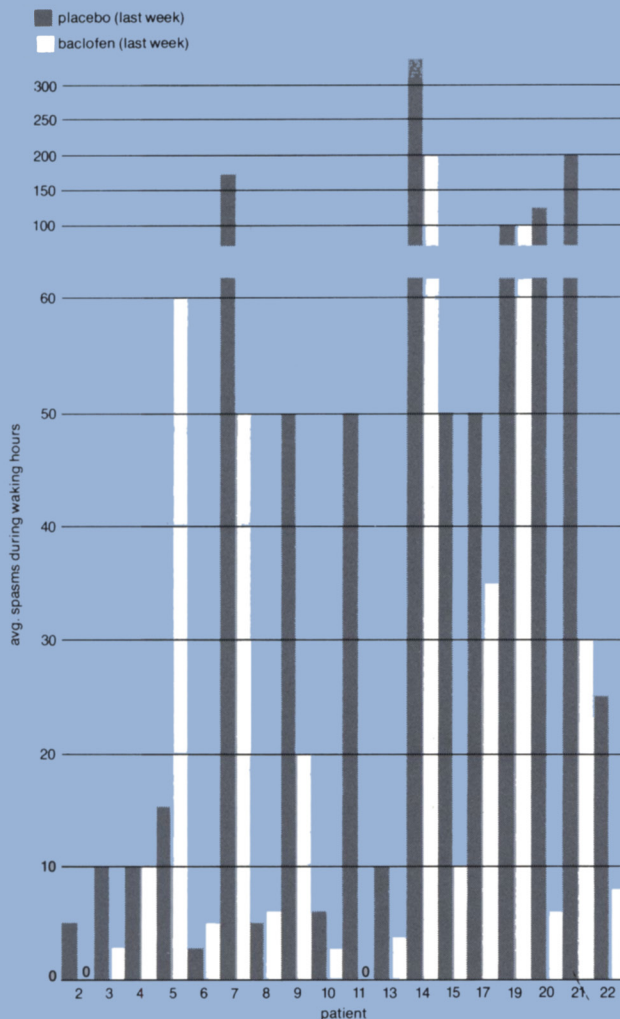
Lioresal is capable of inhibiting both monosynaptic and polysynaptic reflexes at the spinal level, possibly by hyperpolarization of the afferent terminals. However, the precise mechanism of action is not fully known. Actions at supraspinal sites may also occur and contribute to the clinical effect.

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## Effective

Results of a four-week, double blind crossover study of 22 patients showed 72 percent of 18 patients with spontaneous daytime spasms had a reduction in the frequency when treated with Lioresal. Furthermore, a reduction in severity amplitude, and duration of remaining spasms was also reported in patients treated with Lioresal.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1. Average daily number of spasms during the last week of baclofen and placebo treatment periods in the 18 patients with spontaneous daytime spasms. (From Duncan et al<sup>1</sup>)



When compared with placebo and diazepam in a double-blind study, Lioresal proved to be effective in reducing the number of spasms in 50% of patients who had developed tolerance to diazepam.<sup>2</sup>

In one study of 14 patients with spasticity, "Baclofen caused less sedation than would have been expected from comparable doses of diazepam but it did nevertheless have a tranquilizing effect..."<sup>3</sup>

And in one double-blind study, "No serious side effects developed and there were no signs of even transient bone marrow, liver, kidney, or gastrointestinal toxicity."<sup>1</sup> A few cases of increased SGOT, elevated alkaline phosphatase and elevated blood sugar have been reported but are not clinically significant. Gastrointestinal and other side effects also have been reported but generally do not persist.

## Facilitates physical therapy

By relieving painful spasms Lioresal may allow more active physical therapy and daily function.

The advantages of improvement in resistance to passive movement noted in patients treated with Lioresal included more comfortable positioning and easier transfers and nursing.<sup>1</sup>

Effect of treatment on resistance to passive movement (Adapted from Duncan et al<sup>1</sup>)

Stage	Baclofen	Placebo
<b>Improved</b>	11 (55%)	1 (5%)
<b>Worsened</b>	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>Unchanged</b>	9 (45%)	19 (95%)
<b>Total</b>	20	20

**Geigy**

For Brief Prescribing Information, see page xi. G-9038-R

The Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences is the official publication of the Canadian Neurological Society, the Canadian Neurosurgical Society and the Canadian Society of Electroencephalographers, and Electromyographers and Clinical Neurophysiologists.

These three Societies meet together as the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences once a year. The meetings are usually held in the third week in June. A different city is chosen for the meeting each year.

Details regarding membership in each of the Societies, the date and place of the meeting and the scientific program can be obtained from the Secretaries.

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