

THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF

# Neurological Sciences

LE JOURNAL CANADIEN DES

# Sciences Neurologiques

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1 Message from the Editor

3 Editorial – New Canadian Initiatives in Dementia Research  
*William Pryse-Phillips*

## REVIEW ARTICLE

5 Huntington's Disease: Recent Advances in Diagnosis and Management  
*Sarah Furtado and Oksana Suchowersky*

## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

13 Brachytherapy for Recurrent Single Brain Metastasis  
*Mark Bernstein, Alberto Cabantog, Normand Laperriere, Phil Leung and Cindy Thomason*

17 Loss of Heterozygosity Analysis of Chromosomes 9, 10 and 17 in Gliomas in Families  
*Christopher J Watling, Donald J van Meyel, David A Ramsay, David R Macdonald and J Gregory Cairncross*

22 Intrathecal Baclofen Therapy for Adults with Spinal Spasticity: Therapeutic Efficacy and Effect on Hospital Admissions  
*Patricia Nance, Orpha Schryvers, Brian Schmidt, Hy Dubo, Brenda Loveridge and Derek Fewer*

30 Surgery of Unruptured, Asymptomatic Aneurysms: a Decision Analysis  
*Richard Leblanc and Keith J Worsley*

36 Electrical Stimulation of the Human Descending Motor Tracts at Several Levels  
*Yoshikazu Ugawa, Kieko Genba-Shimizu and Ichiro Kanazawa*

43 Sensorimotor Neuropathy and Abnormal Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> Metabolism in Early HIV Infection  
*M Veilleux, O Paltiel and J Falutz*

47 The Prognosis and Treatment of Headaches in Children: a Ten Year Follow-up  
*Joseph Dooley and Alexa Bagnell*

50 Pyridoxine Dependent Epilepsy with Iatrogenic Sensory Neuronopathy  
*Richard S McLachlan and William F Brown*

52 Bilateral Central Ptosis in Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome  
*Jason JS Barton, Randy H Kardon, Daniel Slagel and H Stanley Thompson*

56 Bilateral Temporal Lobe MRI Changes in Uncomplicated Hypoglycemic Coma  
*BF Boeve, DG Bell and JH Noseworthy*

59 Writer's Cramp and Tremor Due to Brain Tumor  
*I Milanov and D Georgiev*

## NEUROLOGICAL PRACTICE

62 Canadian Guidelines for the Development of Antidementia Therapies: a Conceptual Summary  
*Erich Mohr, Howard Feldman and Serge Gauthier*

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see page xx, xxi.

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	1	Message from the Editor
	3	Editorial – New Canadian Initiatives in Dementia Research <i>William Pryse-Phillips</i>
REVIEW ARTICLE	5	Huntington's Disease: Recent Advances in Diagnosis and Management <i>Sarah Furtado and Oksana Suchowersky</i>
ORIGINAL ARTICLES	13	Brachytherapy for Recurrent Single Brain Metastasis <i>Mark Bernstein, Alberto Cabantog, Normand Laperriere, Phil Leung and Cindy Thomason</i>
	17	Loss of Heterozygosity Analysis of Chromosomes 9, 10 and 17 in Gliomas in Families <i>Christopher J Watling, Donald J van Meyel, David A Ramsay, David R Macdonald and J Gregory Cairncross</i>
	22	Intrathecal Baclofen Therapy for Adults with Spinal Spasticity: Therapeutic Efficacy and Effect on Hospital Admissions <i>Patricia Nance, Orpha Schryvers, Brian Schmidt, Hy Dubo, Brenda Loveridge and Derek Fewer</i>
	30	Surgery of Unruptured, Asymptomatic Aneurysms: a Decision Analysis <i>Richard Leblanc and Keith J Worsley</i>
	36	Electrical Stimulation of the Human Descending Motor Tracts at Several Levels <i>Yoshikazu Ugawa, Kieko Genba-Shimizu and Ichiro Kanazawa</i>
	43	Sensorimotor Neuropathy and Abnormal Vitamin B <sub>12</sub> Metabolism in Early HIV Infection <i>M Veilleux, O Paltiel and J Falutz</i>
	47	The Prognosis and Treatment of Headaches in Children: a Ten Year Follow-up <i>Joseph Dooley and Alexa Bagnell</i>
	50	Pyridoxine Dependent Epilepsy with Iatrogenic Sensory Neuronopathy <i>Richard S McLachlan and William F Brown</i>
	52	Bilateral Central Ptosis in Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome <i>Jason JS Barton, Randy H Kardon, Daniel Slagel and H Stanley Thompson</i>
	56	Bilateral Temporal Lobe MRI Changes in Uncomplicated Hypoglycemic Coma <i>BF Boeve, DG Bell and JH Noseworthy</i>
	59	Writer's Cramp and Tremor Due to Brain Tumor <i>I Milanov and D Georgiev</i>
NEUROLOGICAL PRACTICE	62	Canadian Guidelines for the Development of Antidementia Therapies: a Conceptual Summary <i>Erich Mohr, Howard Feldman and Serge Gauthier</i>
		Books Received 72
		Erratum 73
CORRESPONDENCE		Fatigue in Multiple Sclerosis 75 <i>Ernest Friedman</i>
		Reply 75 <i>CJ Archibald and JD Fisk</i>
		Neurobiology of Working Memory 75 <i>Ernest Friedman</i>
		Reply 75 <i>John Turnbull</i>
		Book Reviews 77
		Notes and Announcements 80
		Calendar of Events 81
		Information for Authors viii
		Advertisers Index xxii

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The Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences is published quarterly. The annual subscription rate is \$65 for members; \$75 for non-members in Canada; \$85 for USA and elsewhere. Residents, Interns, Pre- and Post-Doctoral Students \$32.50 per annum (members); \$37.50 per annum (non-members). Single copies \$20 each plus postage and handling. All manuscripts and communications should be sent to: Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences, P.O. Box 4220, Station C, Calgary, AB Canada T2T 5N1. Courier to: 810, 906 - 12th Avenue S.W., Calgary, AB Canada T2R 1K7. Telephone (403) 229-9575; Fax (403) 229-1661. COPYRIGHT© 1995 by THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES INC. No part of this journal may be reproduced in any form without the prior permission of The Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences. Mailed under Publications Mail registration number 3307. Postage paid at Calgary, Alberta. This journal is indexed by *Index Medicus*, *Excerpta Medica* and *Current Contents — Clinical Practice and Life Sciences*.

Le Journal Canadien des Sciences Neurologiques est publié trimestriellement. L'abonnement annuel est de 65 \$ pour les membres; 75 \$ pour les non-membres au Canada; 85 \$ pour les Etats Unis et ailleurs. Internes, résidents, fellows pré et post doctoral: 32,50 \$ par année (membres); 37,50 \$ par année (non-membres). Copie simple: 20 \$ plus affranchissement et manutention. Toutes les communications et les manuscrits doivent être adressés à Journal Canadien des Sciences Neurologiques, P.O. Box 4220, Station C, Calgary, AB Canada T2T 5N1. Par courrier: 810, 906 - 12th Avenue S.W., Calgary, AB Canada T2R 1K7. Téléphone (403) 229-9575; Fax (403) 229-1661.

DROITS D'AUTEUR© 1995: THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES INC. Aucune partie de ce Journal ne peut être reproduite, sous quelque forme que ce soit, sans la l'autorisation du Journal Canadien des Sciences Neurologiques. Posté sous permis de poste-publications no 3307. Port payé à Calgary, Alberta. Le Journal est cité et indexé dans *Index Medicus*, *Excerpta Medica* et *Current Contents — Clinical Practice et Life Sciences*.

**Advertising representative/Représentant de publicité:**

Sally Gregg, Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences  
810, 906 - 12 Ave. S.W., Calgary, AB Canada T2R 1K7  
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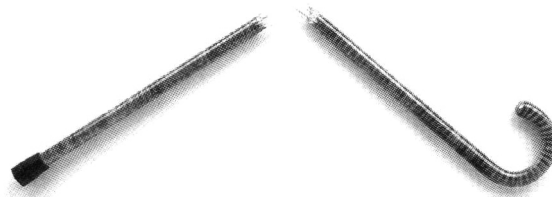
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# Four major studies establish the superior efficacy of Ticlid.

## Ticlopidine Versus Aspirin for Stroke Prevention: On-Treatment Results from the Ticlopidine Aspirin Stroke Study Group

J. D. Easton, Chair, TASS Publications Committee  
*J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis.* Vol. 3 No. 3. 1993;3:168-176.

Ticlopidine is the newest antiplatelet agent that has been compared with aspirin for stroke prevention. Results from the intent-to-treat analysis of the Ticlopidine Aspirin Stroke Study, a randomized, triple-blind trial, showed ticlopidine to be more effective than aspirin for the prevention of threatened stroke. We present the on-treatment analysis from this study in 3,034 eligible patients receiving either ticlopidine (500 mg daily) or aspirin (1,300 mg daily). Follow-up was for 2-6 years.

During year 1, the high-risk period for stroke in patients with threatened stroke, ticlopidine reduced the risk of stroke over aspirin by 48% ( $p = 0.0004$ ; the event rates were 3.4 and 6.4 respectively). The overall risk for fatal and non fatal stroke was 27% (95% confidence intervals were 6.6 and 42.3), less with ticlopidine than with aspirin. Ticlopidine significantly decreased the risk of fatal and non fatal stroke in both sexes and has a different adverse effect profile than aspirin. More adverse effects, primarily diarrhea and rash, were reported with ticlopidine.

## Ticlopidine Versus Aspirin for the Prevention of Recurrent Stroke Analysis of Patients With Minor Stroke From the Ticlopidine Aspirin Stroke Study

John W. Harbison, M.D., for the Ticlopidine Aspirin Stroke Study Group  
*Stroke* 1992;1723-1727.

**Background and Purpose:** Ticlopidine has not been formally compared with aspirin in patients with a completed stroke. We therefore performed an analysis on a subgroup of patients from the Ticlopidine Aspirin Stroke Study (TASS) with a recent minor completed stroke as the qualifying ischemic event.

**Methods:** This was a multicenter, double-blind, randomized trial of patients with a recent history of cerebral ischemia. Eligible patients had a qualifying minor stroke within 3 months of study entry. All patients received either 650 mg aspirin twice daily or 250 mg ticlopidine twice daily for up to 5.8 years. The primary study end point was the first occurrence of non fatal stroke or death from any cause. A secondary end point was the first occurrence of a fatal or non fatal stroke.

**Results:** Minor stroke was the qualifying ischemic event in 927 patients (463 received ticlopidine and 464 received aspirin). The cumulative event rate at 1 year for non fatal stroke or death was 6.3% for patients receiving ticlopidine and 10.8% for patients receiving aspirin, a 42% risk reduction in favour of ticlopidine. For fatal or non fatal stroke, the cumulative event rate at 1 year was 4.8% for patients receiving ticlopidine and 7.5% for those receiving aspirin, a risk reduction of 36% for ticlopidine relative to aspirin. The overall risk reductions were 22.1% for non fatal stroke or death and 19.9% for fatal or non fatal stroke. Adverse reactions were reported in 58% of the ticlopidine patients and 51% of the aspirin patients.

**Conclusions:** The results in this subgroup are consistent with the overall TASS results and show that ticlopidine is somewhat more effective than aspirin for reducing the risk of stroke in patients with a completed minor stroke.

## Stroke Prevention in Women: Role of Aspirin Versus Ticlopidine

Linda A. Hershey, M.D., Ph.D., Buffalo, New York  
September 1991 *The American Journal of Medicine* Vol. 91;288-292.

**Summary and Conclusions:** Stroke remains an important health care problem. Although the incidence of stroke and stroke mortality is lower in women than in men, the outcome in terms of major disability, decreased quality of life, economic burdens, and impact on family life is just as real for women as for men. Although aspirin has proven efficacy for preventing initial stroke, it may have limited efficacy in preventing recurrent stroke. Moreover, questions remain about the efficacy of aspirin for stroke prevention in women. There is a need for an alternative to aspirin in stroke prevention therapy.

Ticlopidine has demonstrated efficacy for both initial and recurrent stroke prevention and has been shown to be more effective than aspirin for patients at high risk for a first stroke. It is just as effective for stroke prevention in women as in men. The overall incidence of adverse effects seen with ticlopidine is not significantly different from that seen with aspirin, although careful hematologic monitoring is required with ticlopidine during the first 3 months of use. Both agents are important tools to use in addition to antihypertensive therapy and smoking cessation in stroke prevention.

## The Canadian American Ticlopidine Study (CATS) in Thromboembolic Stroke

Gent, J., et al. *The Lancet*: Saturday 3 June 1989.

The Canadian American Ticlopidine Study (CATS) is a randomised, double-blind placebo-controlled trial to assess the effect of ticlopidine (250 mg twice daily) in reducing the rate of subsequent occurrence of stroke, myocardial infarction, or vascular death in patients who have had a recent thromboembolic stroke. Twenty-five centres entered 1,072 patients into the study between 1 week and 4 months after their qualifying stroke. The patients were treated and followed up to 3 years (mean 24 months). In the efficacy analysis, the event rate per year for stroke, myocardial infarction or vascular death, considered together, was 15.3% in the placebo group and 10.8% in the ticlopidine group, representing a relative risk reduction with ticlopidine of 30.2% (95% confidence interval 7.5-48.3%;  $p=0.006$ ). Ticlopidine was beneficial for both men and women (relative risk reductions 28.1%,  $p=0.037$ , and 34.2%,  $p=0.045$ , respectively). Analysis by intention-to-treat gave a smaller estimate of risk reduction (23.2%,  $p=0.020$ ) for stroke, myocardial infarction, or vascular death. Adverse experiences associated with ticlopidine included neutropenia (severe in about 1% of cases) and skin rash and diarrhea (severe in 2% of cases each); all were reversible.

This study provides evidence of a beneficial effect of ticlopidine in both men and women with a recent thromboembolic stroke.

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SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR should be administered cautiously to patients with a history of peptic ulcer disease or of convulsions.

**Precautions:** *General:* Periodic evaluations of hepatic, hematopoietic, cardiovascular and renal function are recommended during extended therapy (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Patients with chronic wide angle glaucoma may be treated cautiously with SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR (levodopa and carbidopa), provided the intraocular pressure is well controlled and the patient monitored carefully for changes in intraocular pressure during therapy.

*Use in Children:* Safety of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR in patients under 18 years of age has not been established.

*Use in Pregnancy and Lactation:* Although the effects of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR on human pregnancy and lactation are unknown, both levodopa and combinations of carbidopa and levodopa have caused visceral and skeletal malformations in rabbits (see TERATOLOGIC AND REPRODUCTIVE STUDIES in Product Monograph). Therefore, use of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR in women of child-bearing potential requires that the anticipated benefits of the drug be weighed against possible hazards to the mother and to the fetus. SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR should not be given to nursing mothers.

*Drug Interactions:* Caution should be exercised when the following drugs are administered concomitantly with SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR:

*Antihypertensive drugs:* Symptomatic postural hypotension has occurred when levodopa/decarboxylase inhibitor combinations were added to the treatment of patients receiving antihypertensive drugs. Therefore, when therapy with SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR is started, dosage adjustment of the antihypertensive drug may be required.

*Psychoactive drugs:* Phenothiazines and butyrophenones may reduce the therapeutic effects of levodopa. The beneficial effects of levodopa in Parkinson's disease have been reported to be reversed by phenytoin and

papaverine. Patients taking these drugs with SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR should be observed carefully for loss of therapeutic response.

There have been rare reports of adverse reactions, including hypertension and dyskinesia, resulting from the concomitant use of tricyclic antidepressants and carbidopa-levodopa preparations. (For patients receiving monoamine oxidase inhibitors, see CONTRAINDICATIONS.)

*Other drugs:* Although specific interaction studies were not performed with other concomitant drugs, in clinical trials of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR patients were allowed to receive tricyclic antidepressants, benzodiazepines, propranolol, thiazides, digoxin, H<sub>2</sub> antagonists, salicylates and other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR was also used with other antiparkinson agents (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

**Adverse Reactions:** In controlled clinical trials involving 748 patients with moderate to severe motor fluctuations, SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR (levodopa and carbidopa) did not produce side effects which were unique to the controlled-release formulation.

The adverse reaction reported most frequently was dyskinesia (12.8%). Occasionally, prolonged, and at times, severe afternoon dyskinesias have occurred in some patients.

Other adverse reactions that were reported frequently were: nausea (5.5%), hallucinations (5.3%), confusion (4.9%), dizziness (3.5%), headache (2.5%), depression (2.5%), chorea (2.5%), dry mouth (2.3%), somnolence (2.1%), dream abnormalities (2.1%), dystonia (2.0%) and asthenia (2.0%).

Adverse reactions occurring less frequently (less than 2%) were:

**Systemic:** *Body as a whole:* Chest pain 1.7%, Fatigue 0.9%, Weight loss 0.8%.

**Cardiovascular:** Orthostatic hypotension 0.8%, Palpitation 0.8%, Hypotension 0.5%.

**Nervous System / Psychiatric:** Insomnia 1.7%, Falling 1.6%, On-off phenomenon 1.2%, Paresthesia 0.9%, Disorientation 0.8%, Anxiety disorders 0.8%, Decreased mental acuity 0.7%, Extrapyramidal disorder 0.7%, Gait abnormalities 0.7%, Agitation 0.5%, Memory impairment 0.5%.

**Gastrointestinal:** Anorexia 1.9%, Constipation 1.5%, Vomiting 1.3%, Diarrhea 1.2%, Gastrointestinal pain 0.9%, Dyspepsia 0.8%.

**Musculoskeletal:** Muscle cramps 0.9%.

**Respiratory:** Dyspnea 1.6%.

**Special Senses:** Blurred vision 1.1%.

Other adverse reactions that have been reported with levodopa or SINEMET<sup>®</sup> and may be potential side effects with SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR are listed below:

**Nervous System:** Ataxia, numbness, increased hand tremor, muscle twitching, blepharospasm, trismus, activation of latent Horner's syndrome.

**Psychiatric:** Sleepiness, euphoria, paranoid ideation and psychotic episodes, and dementia.

**Cardiovascular:** Arrhythmias, non-specific ECG changes, flushing, phlebitis.

**Gastrointestinal:** Bitter taste, sialorrhea, dysphagia, bruxism, hiccups, gastrointestinal bleeding, flatulence, burning sensation of tongue, development of duodenal ulcer.

**Integumentary:** Increased sweating, dark sweat, rash, hair loss.

**Genitourinary:** Urinary frequency, retention, incontinence, hematuria, dark urine, nocturia and priapism.

**Special Senses:** Diplopia, dilated pupils, oculogyric crises.

**Hematologic:** Leukopenia, hemolytic and non-hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia, agranulocytosis.

**Miscellaneous:** Weakness, faintness, hoarseness, malaise, hot flashes, sense of stimulation, bizarre breathing patterns, hypertension, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, malignant melanoma (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Convulsions have occurred; however, a causal relationship with levodopa or levodopa/carbidopa combinations has not been established.

**Dosage and Administration:** SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR (levodopa and carbidopa) Tablets contain a 4:1 ratio of levodopa to carbidopa. SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50 contains levodopa 200 mg/carbidopa 50 mg per tablet. SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 100/25 contains levodopa 100 mg/carbidopa 25 mg per tablet. The daily dosage of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR must be determined by careful titration. Patients should be monitored closely during the dose adjustment period, particularly with regard to appearance or worsening of nausea or abnormal involuntary movements, including dyskinesias, chorea and dystonia.

SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50 may be administered as whole or as half tablets. SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 100/25 should only be administered as whole tablets. To maintain the controlled-release properties of the product, tablets should not be chewed or crushed.

Standard antiparkinson drugs, other than levodopa alone, may be continued while SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR is being administered, although their dosage may have to be adjusted. The delayed onset of action with SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR may require the supplemental use of conventional SINEMET<sup>®</sup> Tablets for optimal control in the mornings.

*Initial Dosage and Titration for Patients Currently Treated with Conventional Levodopa/Decarboxylase Inhibitor Combinations:* Dosage with

SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50 should be substituted at an amount that eventually provides approximately 10 to 30 percent more levodopa per day. The interval between doses should be prolonged by 30 to 50 percent. Initially, patients should receive SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50 at a dosage that provides the same amount of levodopa, but with a longer dosing interval. Depending on clinical response, the dosage may be increased.

A guide for the initiation of treatment with SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50 is shown in the following table:

Guideline for Initial Conversion  
from SINEMET<sup>®</sup> to SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50

SINEMET <sup>®</sup> Total Daily Dose* Levodopa (mg)	SINEMET <sup>®</sup> CR 200/50 (levodopa 200 mg/ carbidopa 50 mg) Suggested Dosage Regimen
300-400	1 tablet b.i.d.
500-600	1 1/2 tablets b.i.d. or 1 tablet t.i.d.
700-800	A total of 4 tablets in 3 or more divided doses (e.g., 1 1/2 tablets a.m., 1 1/2 tablets early p.m., and 1 tablet later p.m.)
900-1000	A total of 5 tablets in 3 or more divided doses (e.g., 2 tablets a.m., 2 tablets early p.m., and 1 tablet later p.m.)

\*For dosing ranges not shown in the table, see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.

SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 100/25 is available to facilitate titration when 100 mg steps are required and as an alternative to the half tablet of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50.

*Initial Dosage for Patients Currently Treated with Levodopa Alone:* Levodopa must be discontinued at least eight hours before therapy with SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50 is started. SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR should be substituted at a dosage that will provide approximately 25% of the previous levodopa dosage. In patients with mild to moderate disease, the initial dose is usually 1 tablet of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50 two times daily.

*Patients Without Prior Levodopa Therapy:* Experience with SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR is limited in the *de novo* parkinsonian patients.

SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 100/25 may be used in early stage patients who have not had prior levodopa therapy or to facilitate titration when necessary in patients receiving SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50. The initial recommended dose is 1 tablet of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 100/25 twice daily. For patients who require more levodopa, a daily dose of 1 to 4 tablets of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 100/25 twice a day is generally well-tolerated.

When appropriate, levodopa therapy may also be initiated with SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50. The initial recommended dose in patients with mild to moderate disease is 1 tablet of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50 two times daily. Initial dosages should not exceed 600 mg per day of levodopa or be given at intervals of less than 6 hours.

**Titration:** Doses and dosing intervals must be adjusted on an individual basis, depending upon therapeutic response. An interval of at least 3 days between dosage adjustments is recommended. Most patients have been adequately treated with 2 to 8 tablets of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50 per day, administered as divided doses at intervals ranging from 4 to 12 hours during the waking day.

If the divided doses of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 200/50 are not equal, it is recommended that the smaller doses be given at the end of the day.

**Maintenance:** Because Parkinson's disease is progressive, periodic clinical evaluations are recommended and adjustment of the dosage regimen of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR may be required.

**Addition of Other Antiparkinson Medications:** Anticholinergic agents, dopamine agonists, amantadine and lower doses of selective MAO-B inhibitors can be given with SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR. When combining therapies, dosage adjustments may be necessary.

**Interruption of Therapy:** Patients should be observed carefully if abrupt reduction or discontinuation of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR is required, especially if the patient is receiving neuroleptics (see PRECAUTIONS).

If general anesthesia is required, SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR may be continued as long as the patient is permitted to take oral medication. If therapy is interrupted temporarily, the usual dosage should be administered as soon as the patient is able to take oral medication.

**Availability of Dosage Form:** No. 2042 - SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR 100/25 is a pink-colored, oval-shaped, biconvex, compressed tablet, engraved SINEMET CR on one side and 601 on the other. Available in bottles of 100.

No. 2041 - SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR is peach-colored, oval-shaped, biconvex, scored compressed tablet, engraved SINEMET CR on one side and 521/521 on the other. Available in bottles of 100.

**Product Monograph Available on Request**

(384-a,4,93)

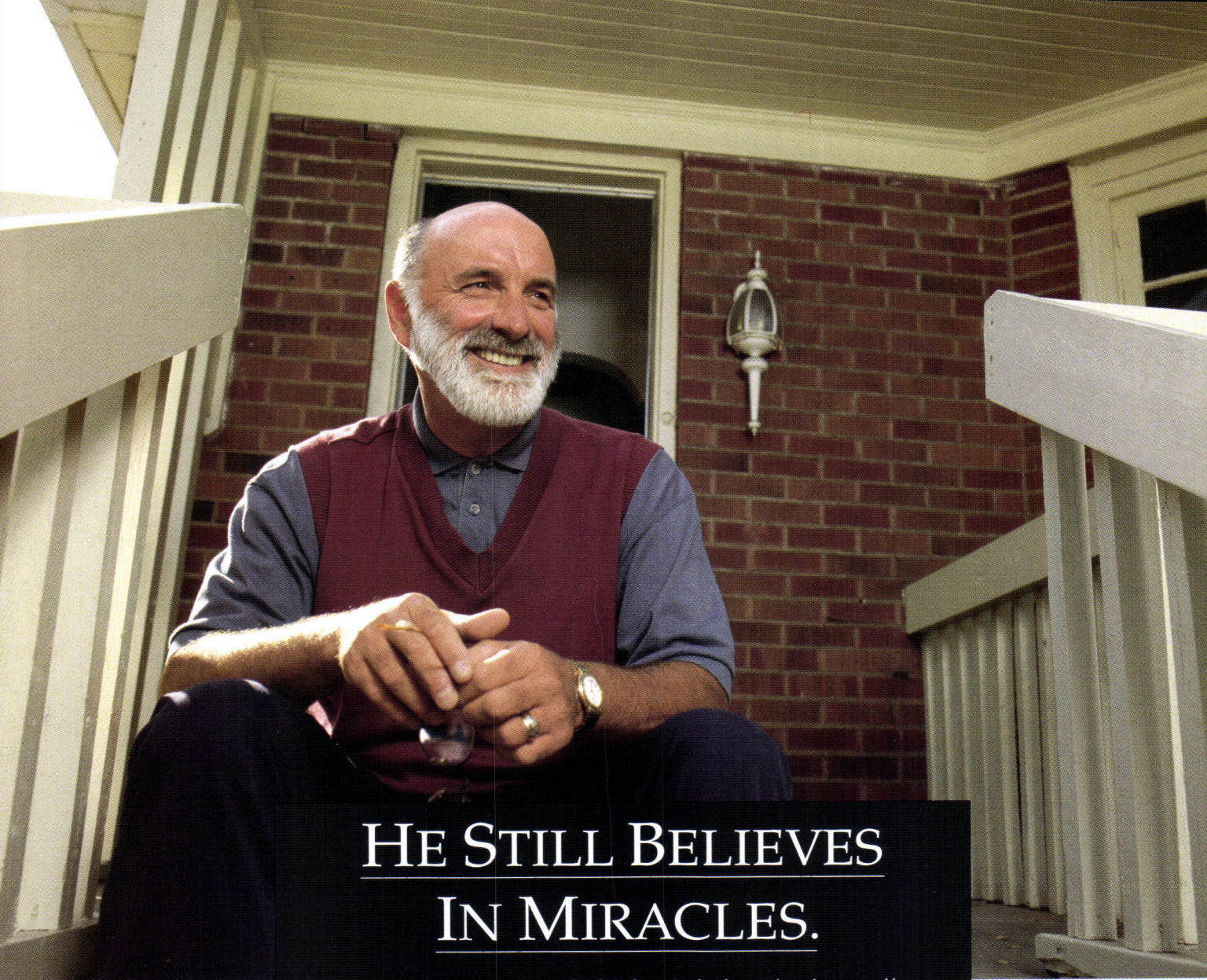
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P A A B

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## HE STILL BELIEVES IN MIRACLES.

*George Dingman was first diagnosed with Parkinson's when he was thirty-four years old.  
He's fifty-one today and still active in the community.*

He still believes in the unlikely and even the impossible. That's just the way he is – even if it does sound naïve. He just thinks it's healthier to look for possibilities than to accept the way things are. Maybe miracles are too much to expect. But perhaps having a better life with Parkinson's doesn't take a miracle. There's evidence now to suggest that maintaining consistent drug levels can improve the control of Parkinson's – particularly as the disease progresses. It's not exactly a miracle. But, to someone like George, it means hope.

Pr **SINEMET<sup>®</sup> CR**   
(levodopa/carbidopa) CONTROLLED-RELEASE

TREAT TODAY WITH TOMORROW IN MIND

Other patients' experience may differ.

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PHARMA

# 1995 CANADIAN ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY EXAMINATION

ORGANIZED BY THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL NEUROPHYSIOLOGISTS

*To assure and maintain a high standard of competence in clinical electroencephalography across Canada, the Canadian Society of Clinical Neurophysiologists (CSCN) conducts an annual examination in EEG and related subjects for those eligible physicians entering EEG practice who elect to take it. Successful candidates will be given a certificate by the CSCN. The Provincial Licensing Bodies and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada have been informed of this examination and of the objective of the CSCN to maintain high standards in the practise of Clinical Neurophysiology in Canada.*

**DEADLINE WITH APPLICATION: MAY 1, 1995**

**ELIGIBILITY:** Candidates shall have an M.D. degree from a medical school approved by the CSCN and at least six months of EEG training.

**FORMAT:** *Written Examination* Friday, June 23, 1995, Victoria, B.C.  
3-hour, 100 question multiple choice  
*Oral Examination* Saturday, June 24, 1995, Victoria, B.C.

**LANGUAGE:** The written and oral will be offered in both English and French

**APPLICATION:** Please apply by letter to: Dr. Warren T. Blume  
CSCN, Examining Committee  
University Hospital, EEG Dept.  
339 Windermere Road  
London, Ontario N6A 5A5

## EXAMENS D'EEG DE LA SCNC POUR 1995

ORGANISÉ PAR LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE NEUROPHYSIOLOGIE CLINIQUE

*Afin d'assurer le maintien d'un haut niveau de compétence en électroencéphalographie clinique au Canada, la Société canadienne de neurophysiologie clinique (SCNC) organise chaque année un examen en EEG et ses sujets connexes auquel peuvent se présenter les médecins admissibles qui se lancent dans la pratique de l'EEG. Les heureux candidats recevront un certificat de la SCNC. Les organismes provinciaux de réglementation professionnelle et le Collège royal des médecins et chirurgiens du Canada ont été informés de cet examen, ainsi que de l'objectif de la SCNC de maintenir des normes élevées dans la pratique de la neurophysiologie clinique au Canada.*

**DATE LIMITE DE SOUMISSION DES CANDIDATURES ACCOMPAGNÉES DES FRAIS D'EXAMEN : 1<sup>ER</sup> MAI**

**ADMISSIBILITÉ :** Un doctorat en médecine d'une faculté de médecine approuvée par la SCNC, et au moins six mois de formation en EEG

**FORMAT :** *Examen écrit* Le vendredi 23 juin 1995, Victoria (C.-B.)  
Trois heures, 100 questions à choix multiples.  
*Examen oral* le samedi 24 juin 1995, Victoria (C.-B.)

**LANGUE :** Les examens écrits et oraux seront offerts en anglais et en français.

**CANDIDATURE :** Veuillez soumettre votre candidature par écrit à : Dr. Warren T. Blume  
CSCN, Examining Committee  
University Hospital, EEG Dept.  
339 Windermere Road  
London, Ontario N6A 5A5

# **P** **NEURONTIN**<sup>\*</sup>

*capsules de gabapentine*

*dosées à 100 mg, 300 mg, 400 mg*

**POUR UNE MAÎTRISE SUPPLÉMENTAIRE  
DES CRISES D'ÉPILEPSIE...**



**... ET AVOIR LA SITUATION  
BIEN EN MAIN!**

Neurontin est maintenant offert au Canada comme traitement adjuvant des crises partielles et tonico-cloniques secondairement généralisées.

Contrairement à ce qui se passe avec les autres traitements adjuvants, il n'y a pas d'interaction pharmacocinétique entre Neurontin et les anticonvulsivants d'usage courant<sup>†1</sup>.

Maintenant, avec Neurontin, la décision d'utiliser des traitements en association pour obtenir une maîtrise supplémentaire des crises est facile à prendre.

\* carbamazépine, phénobarbital, phénytoïne, acide valproïque †1 Monographie de Neurontin (gabapentine)



## On peut facilement reconnaître le jeune patient épileptique traité au Tegretol® CR.

### *Excellent contrôle des crises*

☑ Tegretol® CR (carbamazépine à libération contrôlée) maîtrise les crises chez de nombreux patients, causant peu d'impact sur la fonction cognitive<sup>1,2</sup>. Tegretol CR permet à de nombreux patients de penser clairement et de donner le meilleur d'eux-mêmes<sup>1,2</sup>.

### *Taux sanguins uniformes*

Tegretol CR cause moins de «hauts et de bas» dans les taux sanguins que le Tegretol conventionnel. Les effets secondaires sont ainsi réduits et le modèle de fonction cognitive est plus stable<sup>3,4</sup>.

### *Posologie b.i.d. commode*

Lorsque vous instituez ou remplacez un traitement, pensez au Tegretol CR. Il est présenté en comprimés à 200 mg et 400 mg facilement divisibles pour une plus grande souplesse d'administration et améliorer l'observance du patient.



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leur plein potentiel.*



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