Gamma Hydroxy Butyric Acid and Sodium Oxybate Used to Treat Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

To the Editor: ***September 12, 2007***

I write this case report to discuss the potential benefit of using sodium oxybate to treat posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Sodium oxybate is currently Food and Drug Administation approved to treat excessive daytime sleepiness due to narcolepsy.[1]

In contrast to stimulants, which increase norepinephrine and dopamine activity, and modafinil, which likely increases histamine activity to improve alertness, gamma hydroxy butyric acid (GHB), and likely sodium oxybate's, mechanism of action may include the induction of deep, more restorative sleep through γ-aminobutyric acid-B (GABA-B) receptor agonism. Allopragnanolone and allotetrahydrodeoxycorticosterone are neurosteroids that are enhanced after GHB dosing, and these allosteric modulators increase GABA-A receptor activity lending to hypnotic effects as well.

Norepinephrine activity is dampened after GHB dosing, which may dampen arousal and allow better sleep. When GHB washout occurs there is a robust release of norepinephrine which may account for daytime alerting effects. At low doses, dopamine activity is lessened, which fosters an ultimate increase in synthesis and availability of dopamine in the substantia nigra and mesocortical pathways. This allows improved frontal lobe function with improved wakefulness and attention. Finally, serotonin metabolism also may increase in the mesolimbic system and the endogenous opiods, dynorphin and enkaphalin, may increase.[2] This complicated mechanism of action is suggestive of an agent that may help improve sleep, wakefulness, and lessen anxiety symptoms as well.

CASE REPORT

Mr. Y is a married 36-year-old with one child and is gainfully employed in the security field. He was born in the eastern United States and moved to the West Coast around 11 years of age. He reports that his upbringing was largely uneventful in regards to trauma and that his basic needs were met. He reported academically that he always did well in most of his classes. He states he was a well-rounded individual in regards to friendships and social activities.

In the late 1980s he joined the Armed Forces at an early age with the permission of his parents. The patient reports that he was involved in a training accident where the vehicle he was in had an accident. As a result, he was severely injured and was flown by helicopter to the nearest trauma center. During the trauma and while he waited for the MEDEVAC he was witness to the death and dismemberment of his fellow soldiers. He sustained multiple fractures involving his face and extremities, had upper and lower back injuries, and his right shoulder and knees were injured.

Shortly after this accident, the patient reports having survivor guilt and admitted to the following symptoms: re-living events such as nightmares, repression of memory about the event, emotional distancing and numbing, loss of interest in enjoyable things, estrangement from peers and relationships, marked insomnia, irritability outbursts, and hypervigilance.

Despite these psychological and physical symptoms, the patient recovered enough to regain active-duty status and then served in the initial Persian Gulf war where he saw active combat. He received specialized training (for example, sniper training). The patient reports clear traumatic events that were

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reactivating in regards to the aforementioned PTSD symptoms here as well during his tour.

Following this service, he applied for and enrolled in special forces training. During training he suffered various injuries, including a cerebral hemorrhage during a parachute training exercise and the rupture of a nasal sinus during a water exercise. However, he reported that these injuries did not reactivate his posttraumatic symptoms. Following this he returned to the reserves. During this time, ~10 years after he initially entered the Armed Services, he also worked civilian security and learned that some of his military colleagues had been killed in action. He reported that his PTSD symptoms were relatively under control despite this bad news. In fact, up until this time, he had not received any pharmacologic treatment and very little psychotherapy treatment, if any, because he was able to manage his symptoms and continue in his workplace.

The patient reported that things changed on September 11, 2001, when the terrorist attacks in New York City were televised. The patient actually reported complete reactivation and worsening of his posttraumatic symptoms when he viewed fooage on the Internet of people trapped in the towers jumping to their deaths. He had an immediate return of insomnia and other hyperarousal symptoms as well as a clear onset of full major depressive disorder symptoms. He had never suffered depressive symptoms prior to this. This is when he first sought care due to the acute and incapacitating symptoms of PTSD combined with major depressive disorder.

During this initial phase of diagnosis and active treatment he was tried on the following medications: quetiapine 300 mg/day, citalopram 20–40 mg/day, clonazepam 2 mg/day, bupropion 300 mg/day, and divalproex 1,000 mg/day to treat his depressive and anxiety symptoms. The patient reported minor relief at best. More of a problem were his complaints of adverse effects (increases in hyperarousal, heart palpitations, and worsening of insomnia with some agents). He was also faced with marked sedation, fatigue, overeating, and resultant obesity, where he gained upwards of 250 pounds. Given his dissatisfaction with these options, he discontinued his medications without any ill effect and the side effects were alleviated.

As he was discouraged with prescription medications' inability to help and an increased side-effect burden, he turned to alternative medications. While visiting a health food store he asked questions of the employee and ultimately tried a version of GHB. At the time of his initial use of this over-the-counter product it was legal and was used to promote better sleep, deeper sleep, and, in theory, an increase of growth hormone. This product was often used by professional weightlifters for this latter reason. The patient reported that, within days, he was sleeping remarkably better and over weeks much of his depression and posttraumatic anxiety symptoms were alleviated.

He returned to school and obtained an associate's degree in Spanish and ultimately a bachelors degree in international relations. Previously, when his PTSD, depressive symptoms, and side effects were active, he was unable to complete school. The patient found this particularly distressful as he is a student that had always scored within the "99th percentile" on many standardized scores. He considers his return to school and completion of his degrees a remarkable success which he attributes to the medications ability to treat his anxiety disorder symptoms. The patient was married in this time frame and more recently has had his first child. The patient feels his PTSD is at least 70% better, and he is more social and more focused. However, he does report some intrusive symptoms that are relatively easily controlled. He was dosing his GHB at 2 tablespoons at bedtime from 1999 to 2002 during this time period. He reported no daytime side effects from GHB. GHB was ultimately withdrawn from the market in 2000 due to controversy that it could be abused as a sedative-hypnotic or even a date-rape product.[3] The patient reports when he was off his medication much of his depression and PTSD symptoms returned. More recently, he became aware of sodium oxybate, written under the prescription name "Xyrem", being used to treat the excessive sleepiness due to narcolepsy. The patient became aware that this prescription, a Drug Enforcement Agency Class III controlled drug, is chemically similar to GHB but, altogether safer than GHB. He petitioned his prescribers to allow him this drug, but despite his efforts, the controversy and lack of FDA approval for its use in treating either insomnia or PTSD, he was not allowed to take this medication. Finally, starting one-year ago a psychiatrist allowed him a prescription of sodium oxybate and he was titrated to a dose of 12 mg at bedtime followed by 6 mg four hours after falling asleep. The patient reports within a few days to a few weeks he returned to normal functioning without insomnia, PTSD, or depressive symptoms. The patient

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felt that the prescription provided the same relief as his previous over-the-counter GHB product. He denies any current side effects from his prescription of sodium oxybate.

DISCUSSION

This case series suggests that previous over-the-counter usage of GHB treated the patient's PTSD symptoms. He was forced to wash out of this agent and his symptoms returned. More recently, the off-label use of sodium oxybate allowed for symptom resolution again. This subject served as his own control and suggests the biological activity of this type of agent may be useful for treating anxiety disorder. The GABA, norepinephrine, serotonin activity of other FDA antidepressants are often used to treat anxiety. Sodium oxybate may manipulate similar chemicals and also facilitate a reduction in anxiety symptoms as seen in this patient. This case is obviously limited in design and the patient's response could be attributable to placebo effect or the fluctuating nature of chronic anxiety. Pilot and definitive studies of sodium oxybate in the treatment of anxiety may be warranted.

CONCLUSION

Sodium oxybate was successful in resolving this treatment-resistant PTSD patient's symptoms. He is doing well in all spheres of life as a result.

Sincerely,
Thomas L. Schwartz, MD

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3. Baker JC, Harris SL, Dyer JE. Experiences of gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) ingestion: a focus group study. *J Psychoactive Drugs*. 2007;39:115-129.

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The things that may describe a patient with schizophrenia...

Delusions
Emotional withdrawal
Disorganized behavior

Family history of high cholesterol

...can obscure the person

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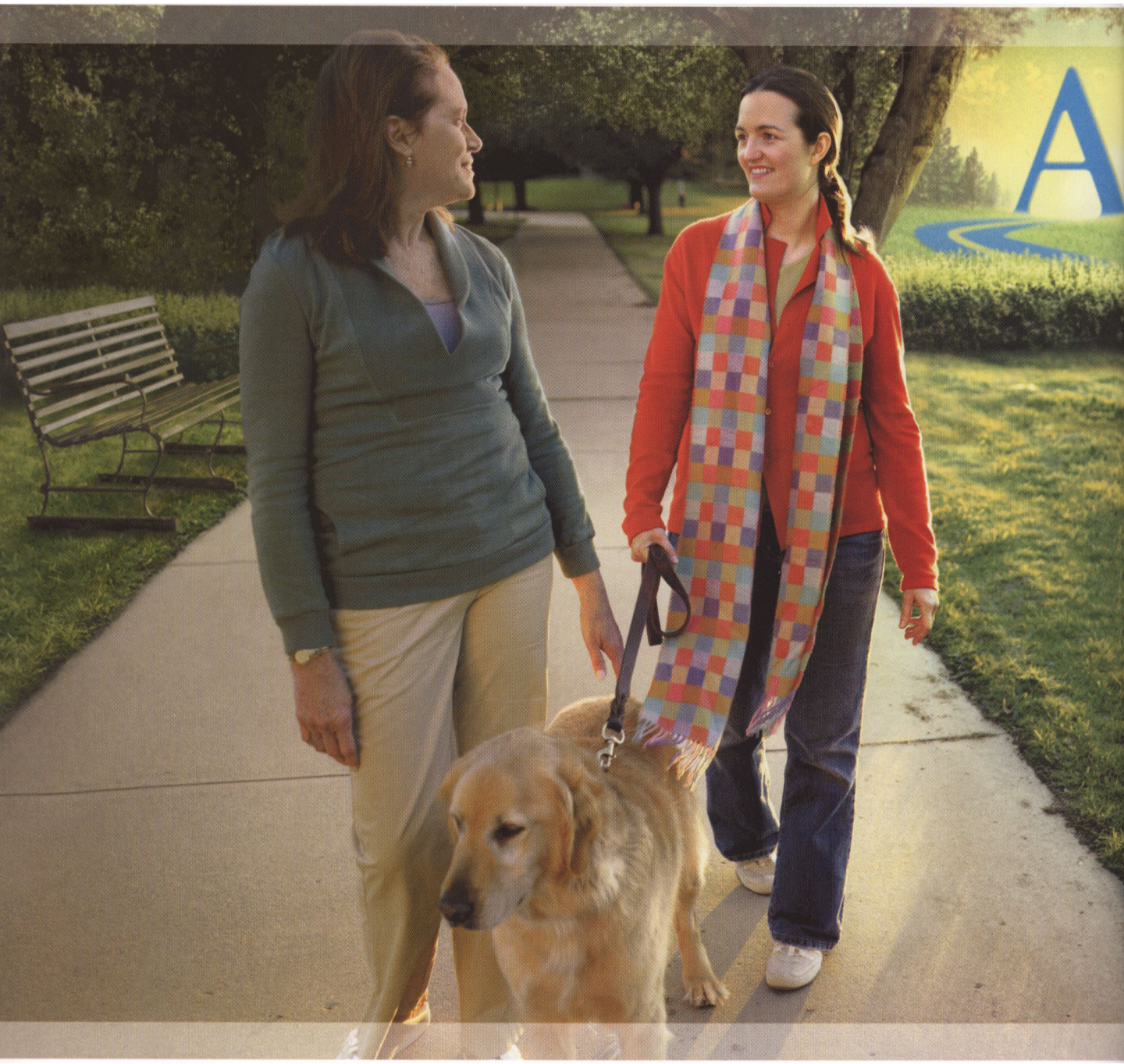
ABILIFY Helps Reveal



ABILIFY is indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia.

Elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis treated with atypical antipsychotic drugs are at an increased risk (1.6 to 1.7 times) of death compared to placebo (4.5% vs 2.6%, respectively). ABILIFY is not approved for the treatment of patients with dementia-related psychosis.

HELP ILLUMINATE

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The Person Within.

Meet Kristen, age 31. She is a patient with schizophrenia, but she's also an animal lover, daughter, and friend. She's so much more than her illness.

Do you have someone like Kristen in your practice?

ABILIFY significantly reduced positive and negative symptoms, as measured by PANSS™ Total Score, at primary endpoint (Week 4) in a 4-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial in patients with schizophrenia.[1]

In a long-term (26-week), placebo-controlled trial there were no medically important differences between the ABILIFY and placebo patients in the mean change from baseline in triglyceride, HDL, LDL, and total cholesterol measurements.

PANSS™ (Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale) is a trademark of Multi-Health Systems, Inc.

Please see IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION, including **Boxed WARNING**, on following page.

ABILIFY®
(aripiprazole)
TABLETS and ORAL SOLUTION 1 mg/mL

THE PERSON WITHIN

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IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION for ABILIFY

Elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis treated with atypical antipsychotic drugs are at an increased risk (1.6 to 1.7 times) of death compared to placebo (4.5% vs 2.6%, respectively). ABILIFY is not approved for the treatment of patients with dementia-related psychosis (see Boxed WARNING).

- **Neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS)**–As with all antipsychotic medications, a rare and potentially fatal condition known as NMS has been reported with ABILIFY. NMS can cause hyperpyrexia, muscle rigidity, diaphoresis, tachycardia, irregular pulse or blood pressure, cardiac dysrhythmia, and altered mental status. If signs and symptoms appear, immediate discontinuation is recommended
- **Tardive dyskinesia (TD)**–The risk of developing TD and the potential for it to become irreversible may increase as the duration of treatment and the total cumulative dose increase. Prescribing should be consistent with the need to minimize TD. If signs and symptoms appear, discontinuation should be considered since TD may remit, partially or completely
- **Cerebrovascular adverse events** (eg, stroke, transient ischemic attack), including fatalities, have been reported at an increased incidence in clinical trials of elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis treated with ABILIFY
- **Hyperglycemia and diabetes mellitus**–Hyperglycemia, in some cases associated with ketoacidosis, coma, or death, has been reported in patients treated with atypical antipsychotics including ABILIFY. Patients with diabetes should be monitored for worsening of glucose control; those with risk factors for diabetes should undergo baseline and periodic fasting blood glucose testing. Patients who develop symptoms of hyperglycemia should also undergo fasting blood glucose testing. There have been few reports of hyperglycemia with ABILIFY

Treatment-emergent adverse events reported with:

ABILIFY Oral

In short-term trials of patients with schizophrenia (up to 6 weeks) or bipolar disorder (up to 3 weeks), the following were reported at an incidence ≥10% and greater than placebo, respectively: headache (30% vs 25%), anxiety (20% vs 17%), insomnia (19% vs 14%), nausea (16% vs 12%), vomiting (12% vs 6%), dizziness (11% vs 8%), constipation (11% vs 7%), dyspepsia (10% vs 8%), and akathisia (10% vs 4%).

ABILIFY Injection

In short-term (24 hour) trials, the following were reported at an incidence ≥5% and greater than placebo, respectively: headache (12% vs 7%), nausea (9% vs 3%), dizziness (8% vs 5%), and somnolence (7% vs 4%).

ABILIFY for Schizophrenia:

- Rapid control of agitation*
- Early† and sustained positive and negative symptom control
- Low incidence of somnolence/sedation‡
- Low mean weight change in clinical trials
  - — In a 52-week schizophrenia trial, weight change averaged 1 kg for ABILIFY-treated patients (BMI <23, 2.6 kg; BMI 23 to 27, 1.4 kg; BMI >27, -1.2 kg). The percentage of ABILIFY-treated patients with ≥7% increase in baseline body weight was 30% for those with BMI <23, 19% for those with BMI 23 to 27, and 8% for those with BMI >27.
- Lipid profile comparable to placebo

*With ABILIFY Injection at primary endpoint (2 hours). ABILIFY Injection is indicated for the treatment of agitation associated with schizophrenia.
†As early as Week 1 through study endpoint (Week 4).
‡ABILIFY 10%, placebo 8%.

Physicians who elect to use ABILIFY for extended periods should periodically re-evaluate the long-term usefulness of the drug for the individual patient.

Like other antipsychotics, ABILIFY may have the potential to **impair judgment, thinking, or motor skills.** Patients should not drive or operate hazardous machinery until they are certain ABILIFY does not affect them adversely.

ABILIFY®
(aripiprazole)
TABLETS and ORAL SOLUTION 1 mg/mL

HELP ILLUMINATE THE PERSON WITHIN

Please see BRIEF SUMMARY OF FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION, including **Boxed WARNING,** on adjacent pages.

Reference: 1. Potkin SG, Saha AR, Kujawa MJ, et al. Aripiprazole, an antipsychotic with a novel mechanism of action, and risperidone vs placebo in patients with schizoaffective disorder. *Arch Gen Psychiatry.* 2003;60:681-690.

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ABILIFY® DISCMELT™ (aripiprazole) Orally Disintegrating Tablets
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INCREASED MORTALITY IN ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA-RELATED PSYCHOSIS

Elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis treated with atypical antipsychotic drugs are at an increased risk of death compared to placebo. Analyses of seventeen placebo-controlled trials (modal duration of 10 weeks) in these patients revealed a risk of death in the drug-treated patients of between 1.6 to 1.7 times that seen in placebo-treated patients. Over the course of a typical 10-week controlled trial, the rate of death in drug-treated patients was about 4.5%, compared to a rate of about 2.6% in the placebo group. Although the causes of death were varied, most of the deaths appeared to be either cardiovascular (eg, heart failure, sudden death) or infectious (eg, pneumonia) in nature. ABILIFY is not approved for the treatment of patients with dementia-related psychosis.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Known hypersensitivity to aripiprazole

WARNINGS: Increased Mortality in Elderly Patients With Dementia-Related Psychosis - *Elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis treated with atypical antipsychotic drugs are at an increased risk of death compared to placebo. ABILIFY (aripiprazole) is not approved for the treatment of patients with dementia-related psychosis* (see Boxed WARNING).

Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS): Potentially fatal NMS has been reported in association with administration of antipsychotic drugs, including ABILIFY. Clinical manifestations of NMS are hyperpyrexia, muscle rigidity, altered mental status, and evidence of autonomic instability (irregular pulse or blood pressure, tachycardia, diaphoresis, and cardiac dysrhythmia). Additional signs may include elevated creatine phosphokinase, myoglobinuria (rhabdomyolysis), and acute renal failure. If signs and symptoms appear, immediate discontinuation is recommended (see **Full Prescribing Information for additional information on management of NMS).** Patients requiring antipsychotic drug treatment after recovery from NMS should be carefully monitored since recurrences of NMS have been reported.

Tardive Dyskinesia (TD): Potentially irreversible TD may develop in patients treated with antipsychotic drugs. *Although the prevalence of TD appears to be highest among the elderly, especially elderly women, it* is impossible to predict which patients are more likely to develop the syndrome. The risk of developing TD and the potential for it to become irreversible may increase as the duration of treatment and the total cumulative dose increase. Prescribing should be consistent with the need to minimize TD. If signs and symptoms appear, discontinuation should be considered since TD may remit, partially or completely. Antipsychotic treatment, itself, may suppress (or partially suppress) the signs and symptoms of the syndrome and, thereby, may possible mask the underlying process. Chronic antipsychotic treatment should generally be reserved for patients who suffer from a chronic illness that (1) is known to respond to antipsychotic drugs, and (2) for whom alternative, equally effective, but potentially less harmful treatments are not available or appropriate. The need for continued treatment should be reassessed periodically.

Cerebrovascular Adverse Events, Including Stroke, in Elderly Patients with Dementia-Related Psychosis: In placebo-controlled clinical studies (two flexible-dose and one fixed-dose study) of dementia-related psychosis, there was an increased incidence of cerebrovascular adverse events (eg, stroke, transient ischemic attack), including fatalities, in aripiprazole-treated patients. In the fixed-dose study, there was a statistically significant dose response relationship for cerebrovascular adverse events in patients treated with aripiprazole. ABILIFY is not approved for the treatment of patients with dementia-related psychosis. (See also **Boxed WARNING, WARNINGS** and **PRECAUTIONS** in **Full Prescribing Information**)

Hyperglycemia and Diabetes Mellitus: Hyperglycemia, in some cases associated with ketoacidosis, hyperosmolar coma or death, has been reported in patients treated with atypical antipsychotics including ABILIFY. Assessment of the relationship between atypical antipsychotic use and glucose abnormalities is complicated by the possibility of an increased background risk of diabetes mellitus in patients with schizophrenia and the increasing incidence of diabetes mellitus in the general population. Patients diagnosed with diabetes who are started on atypical antipsychotics should be monitored regularly for worsening of glucose control; patients with risk factors for diabetes should undergo baseline and periodic fasting blood glucose (FBG) testing. Any patient being treated with an atypical antipsychotic should be monitored for symptoms of hyperglycemia and those who develop symptoms of hyperglycemia should also undergo FBG testing.

PRECAUTIONS: General:

Orthostatic Hypotension: ABILIFY may be associated with orthostatic hypotension, perhaps due to its α_1-adrenergic receptor antagonism. The incidence of orthostatic hypotension-associated events from five short-term, placebo-controlled trials in schizophrenia (n=926) on oral ABILIFY included: orthostatic hypotension (1.9%), postural dizziness (0.8%), and syncope (0.6%). The incidence of orthostatic hypotension-associated events from short-term, placebo-controlled trials in bipolar mania (n=597) on oral ABILIFY included: orthostatic hypotension (0.7%), postural dizziness (0.5%), and syncope (0.3%). The incidence of orthostatic hypotension-associated events from short-term, placebo-controlled trials in agitation associated with schizophrenia or bipolar mania (n=501) on ABILIFY Injection included: orthostatic hypotension (0.6%), postural dizziness (0.2%), and syncope (0.4%). The incidence of a significant orthostatic change in blood pressure (defined as a decrease of at least 30 mmHg in systolic blood pressure when changing from a supine to standing position) for aripiprazole was not statistically different from placebo in trials in patients with schizophrenia, bipolar mania, or agitation associated with schizophrenia or bipolar mania. ABILIFY should be used with caution in patients with known cardiovascular disease (history of myocardial infarction or ischemic heart disease, heart failure or conduction abnormalities), cerebrovascular disease, or conditions which would predispose patients to hypotension (dehydration, hypovolemia, and treatment with antihypertensive medications). If parenteral benzodiazepine therapy is deemed necessary in addition to ABILIFY Injection treatment, patients should be monitored for excessive sedation and for orthostatic hypotension.

Seizures: In short-term trials, seizures/convulsions occurred in 0.1% (1/926) of oral aripiprazole-treated patients with schizophrenia, in 0.3% (2/597) of oral aripiprazole-treated patients with bipolar mania, and in 0.2% (1/501) of aripiprazole injection-treated patients with agitation associated with schizophrenia or bipolar mania. Use cautiously in patients with a history of seizures or with conditions that lower the seizure threshold. Conditions that lower the seizure threshold may be more prevalent in a population of 65 years or older.

Potential for Cognitive and Motor Impairment: Despite the relatively modest increased incidence of somnolence compared to placebo, ABILIFY, like other antipsychotics, may have the potential to impair judgment, thinking, or motor skills. In short-term trials, somnolence (including sedation) was reported in 10% of patients with schizophrenia on oral ABILIFY compared to 8% of patients on placebo; 14% of patients with bipolar mania on oral ABILIFY compared to 7% of patients on placebo; and in 9% of patients with agitation associated with schizophrenia or bipolar mania on ABILIFY Injection compared to 6% of patients on placebo. Patients should be cautioned about operating hazardous machinery, including automobiles, until they are reasonably certain that therapy with ABILIFY does not affect them adversely.

Body Temperature Regulation: Disruption of body temperature regulation has been attributed to antipsychotic agents. Use appropriate care when prescribing aripiprazole for patients who will be experiencing conditions that may contribute to an elevation in core body temperature.

Dysphagia: Esophageal dysmotility and aspiration have been associated with antipsychotic drug use, including ABILIFY. Aspiration pneumonia is a common cause of morbidity and mortality in patients with advanced Alzheimer's disease. ABILIFY and other antipsychotic drugs should be used cautiously in patients at risk for aspiration pneumonia.

Suicide: The possibility of a suicide attempt is inherent in psychotic illnesses and bipolar disorder, and close supervision of high-risk patients should accompany drug therapy. Prescriptions for ABILIFY should be written for the smallest quantity consistent with good patient management.

Use in Patients with Concomitant Illness: Clinical experience with ABILIFY in patients with certain concomitant systemic illnesses is limited. ABILIFY has not been evaluated or used to any appreciable extent in patients with a recent history of myocardial infarction or unstable heart disease.

In three, 10-week, placebo-controlled studies of aripiprazole in elderly patients with psychosis associated with Alzheimer's disease (n=938), the treatment-emergent adverse events that were reported at an incidence of ≥3% and aripiprazole incidence at least twice that for placebo were lethargy, somnolence (including sedation), incontinence (primarily, urinary incontinence), excessive salivation, and lightheadedness. ABILIFY is not approved for treatment of patients with dementia-related psychosis. If the prescriber elects to treat such patients with ABILIFY, vigilance should be exercised, particularly for the emergence of difficulty swallowing or excessive somnolence, which could predispose to accidental injury or aspiration (See **Boxed WARNING, WARNINGS** and **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Special Populations** in **Full Prescribing Information**).

Information for Patients: Physicians are advised to discuss the following issues with patients for whom they prescribe ABILIFY (aripiprazole) see full Prescribing Information for the complete information to discuss with patients taking aripiprazole:

Interference with Cognitive and Motor Performance: Patients should be cautioned about operating hazardous machinery, including automobiles, until they are reasonably certain that ABILIFY does not affect them adversely.

Pregnancy: Patients should be advised to notify their physician if they become pregnant or intend to become pregnant during therapy with ABILIFY.

Nursing: Patients should be advised not to breast-feed an infant if they are taking ABILIFY.

Concomitant Medication: Patients should be advised to inform their physicians if they are taking, or *plan to take, any prescription or over-the-counter drugs, since there is a potential for interactions.*

Heat Exposure and Dehydration: Patients should be advised regarding appropriate care in avoiding overheating and dehydration.

Phenylketonurics: Phenylalanine is a component of aspartame. Each ABILIFY DISCMELT orally disintegrating tablet contains the following amounts: 10 mg - 1.12 mg phenylalanine and 15 mg - 1.68 mg phenylalanine.

Sugar Content: Patients should be advised that each mL of ABILIFY oral solution contains 400 mg of sucrose and 200 mg of fructose.

Drug Interactions: Use caution when ABILIFY is taken in combination with other centrally acting drugs and alcohol. ABILIFY may enhance the effect of certain antihypertensive agents. ABILIFY is unlikely to cause clinically important drug interactions mediated by the enzymes CYP1A1, CYP1A2, CYP2A6, *CYP2B6, CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, or CYP2E1 enzymes. In vivo studies using 10- to 30-mg/day doses* of aripiprazole had no significant effect on metabolism by CYP2D6 (dextromethorphan), CYP2C9 (warfarin), CYP2C19 (omeprazole, warfarin), and CYP3A4 (dextromethorphan) substrates. No clinically significant effect of famotidine, valproate, or lithium was seen on the pharmacokinetics of aripiprazole.

Inducers of CYP3A4 (eg, carbamazepine) could cause an increase in aripiprazole clearance and lower blood levels. When a **CYP3A4** inducer is added to ABILIFY, the dose of ABILIFY should be doubled. Additional dose increases should be based on clinical evaluation. When the CYP3A4 inducer is withdrawn from combination therapy, the ABILIFY dose should be reduced.

Carbamazepine: Coadministration of carbamazepine (200 mg BID) with ABILIFY (30 mg QD) resulted in an approximate 70% decrease in C_{max} and AUC values of aripiprazole and its active metabolite, dehydro-aripiprazole.

Inhibitors of CYP3A4 *(eg, ketoconazole)* *or* ***CYP2D6*** *(eg, quinidine, fluoxetine, or paroxetine) can inhibit the* elimination of aripiprazole and cause increased blood levels. When a strong **CYP3A4** or **CYP2D6** inhibitor is added to ABILIFY, the dose of ABILIFY should be reduced to one-half of the usual dose. When the CYP3A4 or CYP2D6 inhibitor is withdrawn from the combination therapy, the ABILIFY dose should then be increased.

Ketoconazole: Coadministration of ketoconazole (200 mg/day for 14 days) with a 15-mg single dose of ABILIFY increased the AUC of aripiprazole and its active metabolite by 63% and 77%, respectively.

Quinidine: Coadministration of a 10-mg single dose of ABILIFY with quinidine (166 mg/day for 13 days) increased the AUC of aripiprazole by 112% but decreased the AUC of its active metabolite, dehydro-aripiprazole, by 35%.

Alcohol: There was no significant difference between aripiprazole coadministered with ethanol and placebo coadministered with ethanol on performance of gross motor skills or stimulus response in healthy subjects. As with most psychoactive medications, patients should be advised to avoid alcohol while taking ABILIFY.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenesis: Carcinogenicity studies were conducted in ICR mice and in Sprague-Dawley (SD) and F344 rats. Aripiprazole was administered for 2 years in the diet at doses of 1, 3, 10, and 30 mg/kg/day to ICR mice and at 10, 20, 40, 60 mg/kg/day (3 to 19 times the maximum recommended human dose [MRHD] based on mg/m^2) to SD rats and 1, 3, and 10 mg/kg/day to F344 rats (0.2 to 5 and 0.3 to 3 times the MRHD based on mg/m^2, respectively). In addition, SD rats were dosed orally for 2 years. Aripiprazole did not induce tumors in male mice or rats. In female mice, the incidences of pituitary gland adenomas and mammary gland adenocarcinomas and adenoacanthomas were increased at dietary doses of 3 to 30 mg/kg/day (0.1 to 0.9 times human exposure at MRHD based on AUC and 0.5 to 5 times the MRHD based on mg/m^2). In female rats, the incidence of mammary gland fibroadenomas was increased at a dietary dose of 10 mg/kg/day (0.1 times human exposure at MRHD based on AUC and 3 times the MRHD based on mg/m^2); and the incidences of adrenocortical carcinomas and combined adrenocortical adenomas/carcinomas were increased at an oral dose of 60 mg/kg/day (14 times human exposure at MRHD based on AUC and 19 times the MRHD based on mg/m^2). These findings are considered to be prolactin-mediated. Increases in serum prolactin were observed in a 13-week dietary study in female mice at doses used in the carcinogenicity study. Serum prolactin was not increased in a 4- and 13-week dietary study in female rats. The relevance for human risk of prolactin-mediated endocrine tumors in rodents is unknown. **Mutagenesis:** Aripiprazole and a metabolite (2,3-DCPP) were clastogenic in the *in vitro* chromosomal aberration assay in Chinese hamster lung (CHL) cells, with and without metabolic activation. The metabolite, 2,3-DCPP, produced increases in numerical aberrations in the *in vitro* assay in CHL cells in the absence of metabolic activation. A positive response was obtained in the *in vivo* micronucleus assay in mice; however, the response was shown to be due to a mechanism not considered relevant to humans. **Impairment of Fertility:** Female rats were treated with oral doses of 2, 6, and 20 mg/kg/day (0.6, 2, and 6 times the MRHD on an mg/m^2 basis) of aripiprazole from 2 weeks prior to mating through day 7 of gestation. Estrus cycle irregularities and increased corpora lutea were seen at all doses, but no impairment of fertility was seen. Increased pre-implantation loss was seen at 6 and 20 mg/kg, and decreased fetal weight was seen at 20 mg/kg. Male rats were treated with oral doses of 20, 40, and 60 mg/kg/day (6, 13, and 19 times the MRHD on an mg/m^2 basis) of aripiprazole from 9 weeks prior to mating through mating. Disturbances in spermatogenesis were seen at 60 mg/kg, and prostate atrophy was seen at 40 and 60 mg/kg, but no impairment of fertility was seen.

Pregnancy Category C: There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Aripiprazole should be used in pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus. In animal studies, aripiprazole demonstrated developmental toxicity, including possible teratogenic effects in rats and rabbits.

Labor and Delivery: The effect of aripiprazole on labor and delivery in humans is unknown.

Nursing Mothers: Aripiprazole was excreted in milk of rats during lactation. It is not known whether aripiprazole or its metabolites are excreted in human milk. It is recommended that women receiving aripiprazole should not breast-feed.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness in pediatric and adolescent patients have not been established.

Geriatric Use: Placebo-controlled studies of oral aripiprazole in schizophrenia or bipolar mania did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. There was no effect of age on the pharmacokinetics of a single 15-mg dose of aripiprazole. Aripiprazole clearance was decreased by 20% in elderly subjects (≥65 years) compared to younger adult subjects (18 to 64 years), but there was no detectable effect of age in the population pharmacokinetic analysis in schizophrenia patients. Studies of elderly patients with psychosis associated with Alzheimer's disease have suggested that there may be a different tolerability profile in this population compared to younger patients with schizophrenia. (See also **Boxed WARNING, WARNINGS** *and* **PRECAUTIONS** *in* **Full Prescribing Information**)

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Aripiprazole has been evaluated for safety in 8456 patients who participated in multiple-dose, clinical trials in schizophrenia, bipolar mania, and dementia of the Alzheimer's type, and who had approximately 5635 patient-years of exposure to oral aripiprazole and 749 patients with exposure to aripiprazole injection. A total of 2442 patients were treated with oral aripiprazole for at least 180 days and 1667 patients treated with oral aripiprazole had at least 1 year of exposure.

Adverse Events Associated with Discontinuation of Treatment: Overall, there was little difference in the incidence of discontinuation due to adverse events in placebo-controlled oral aripiprazole trials (aripiprazole vs placebo: schizophrenia, 7% vs 9%; bipolar mania, 11% vs vs 9%; or in placebo-controlled intramuscular aripiprazole injection trials (aripiprazole injection, 0.8%; placebo 0.5%). The types of adverse events that led to discontinuation were similar between the oral aripiprazole and placebo-treated patients.

Commonly Observed Adverse Events: (≥5% incidence and at a rate at least twice the rate of placebo for ABILIFY vs placebo, respectively): In 4- to 6-week, placebo-controlled, schizophrenia trials (2 to 30 mg/day), the one commonly observed adverse event associated with the use of oral aripiprazole was: akathisia (8%, 4%). In 3-week, placebo-controlled, bipolar mania trials (15 or 30 mg/day), the most common adverse events associated with oral aripiprazole were: akathisia (15%, 3%), constipation (13%, 6%), sedation (8%, 3%), tremor (7%, 3%), restlessness (6%, 3%), extrapyramidal disorder (5%, 2%). In 24-hour placebo-controlled trials of intramuscular aripiprazole injection for agitation associated with schizophrenia or bipolar mania, nausea was the one adverse event observed (9%, 3%).

Adverse Events with an Incidence ≥2% in Oral Aripiprazole Trials: The following treatment-emergent

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events were reported at an incidence of ≥2% with oral aripiprazole (doses ≥2 mg/d), and at a greater incidence with aripiprazole than with placebo in short-term placebo-controlled trials (aripiprazole N=1523, placebo N=849), respectively, were: headache (30%, 25%), anxiety (20%, 17%), insomnia (19%, 14%), nausea (16%, 12%), vomiting (12%, 6%), dizziness (11%, 8%), constipation (11%, 7%), dyspepsia (10%, 8%), akathisia (10%, 4%), sedation (7%, 4%), fatigue (6%, 5%), extrapyramidal disorder (6%, 4%), somnolence (5%, 4%), dry mouth (5%, 4%), arthralgia (5%, 4%), tremor (5%, 3%), restlessness (5%, 3%), pharyngolaryngeal pain (4%, 3%), pain in extremity (4%, 2%), cough (3%, 2%), nasal congestion (3%, 2%), *abdominal discomfort* (3%, 2%), *stomach discomfort* (3%, 2%), *pain* (3%, 2%), *vision blurred* (3%, 1%), salivary hypersecretion (2%, 1%), peripheral edema (2%, 1%), hypertension (including blood pressure increased) (2%, 1%). The following events were reported by patients treated with oral aripiprazole with an incidence equal to or less than placebo: diarrhea, toothache, upper abdominal pain, abdominal pain, musculoskeletal stiffness, back pain, myalgia, agitation, psychotic disorder, dysmenorrhea (percentage based on gender total), and rash.

Adverse Events with an Incidence ≥1% in Intramuscular Aripiprazole Injection Trials: The following treatment-emergent events were reported at an incidence ≥1% with intramuscular aripiprazole injection (doses ≥5.25 mg/day) and at incidence greater than placebo in 24-hour, placebo-controlled trials (aripiprazole injection N=501, placebo N=220) in agitated patients with schizophrenia or bipolar mania, respectively, include: headache (12%, 7%), nausea (9%, 3%), dizziness (8%, 5%), somnolence (7%, 4%), sedation (3%, 2%), vomiting (3%, 1%), fatigue (2%, 1%), tachycardia (2%, <1%), akathisia (2%, 0%), dyspepsia (1%, <1%), dry mouth (1%, <1%), blood pressure increased (1%, <1%), musculoskeletal stiffness (1%, <1%). The following events were reported by patients treated with aripiprazole injection with an incidence equal to or less than placebo: injection site pain, injection site burning, insomnia, agitation.

Dose-Related Adverse Events: Dose response relationships for the incidence of treatment-emergent adverse events were evaluated from four trials in patients with schizophrenia comparing various fixed doses (2, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 30 mg/day) of oral aripiprazole to placebo. The one adverse event to have a possible dose response relationship was somnolence (including sedation) which was most prominent at the 30 mg/day dose (placebo, 7.1%; 10 mg, 8.5%; 15 mg, 8.7%; 20 mg, 7.5%; 30 mg, 12.6%).

Extrapyramidal Symptoms: In the short-term, placebo-controlled trials of schizophrenia, the incidence of reported EPS-related events, excluding events related to akathisia was (oral aripiprazole 13%, placebo 12%) and the incidence of akathisia-related events was (oral aripiprazole 8%, placebo 4%). In the short-term, placebo-controlled trials in bipolar mania, the incidence of reported EPS-related events, excluding events related to akathisia was (oral aripiprazole 15%, placebo 8%) and the incidence of akathisia-related events was (oral aripiprazole 15%, placebo 4%). In the placebo-controlled trials in patients with agitation *associated with schizophrenia or bipolar mania, the incidence of reported EPS-related events excluding* events related to akathisia was (aripiprazole injection 2%, placebo 2%) and the incidence of akathisia-related events was (aripiprazole injection 2%, placebo 0%).

Laboratory Test Abnormalities: A between group comparison for 3- to 6-week, placebo-controlled trials revealed no medically important differences between the aripiprazole and placebo groups in the proportions of patients experiencing potentially clinically significant changes in routine serum chemistry, hematology, or urinalysis parameters. Similarly, there were no aripiprazole/placebo differences in the incidence of discontinuations for changes in serum chemistry, hematology, or urinalysis. In a long-term (26-week), placebo-controlled trial there were no medically important differences between the aripiprazole and placebo patients in the mean change from baseline in prolactin, fasting glucose, triglyceride, HDL, LDL, and total cholesterol measurements.

Weight Gain: In 4- to 6-week trials in schizophrenia, there was a slight difference in mean weight gain between aripiprazole and placebo patients (+0.7 kg vs. -0.05 kg, respectively), and also a difference in the proportion of patients meeting a weight gain criterion of ≥7% of body weight [aripiprazole (8%) compared to placebo (3%)]. In 3-week trials in mania, the mean weight gain for aripiprazole and placebo patients was 0.0 kg vs. -0.2 kg, respectively. The proportion of patients meeting a weight gain criterion of ≥7% of body weight was aripiprazole (3%) compared to placebo (2%). In a 26-week schizophrenia trial, weight change, respectively, for ABILIFY (aripiprazole)- and placebo-treated patients was -0.5 kg and -0.5 kg for those with BMI <23, -1.3 kg and -0.6 kg for those with BMI 23 to 27, and -2.1 kg and -1.5 kg for those with BMI >27. The percentage of ABILIFY- and placebo-treated patients, respectively, with ≥7% increase in baseline body weight was 6.8% and 3.7% for those with BMI <23, 5.1% and 4.2% for those with BMI 23 to 27, and 5.7% and 4.1% for those with BMI >27. In a 52-week schizophrenia trial, weight change for ABILIFY-treated patients was 2.6 kg for those with BMI <23, 1.4 kg for those with BMI 23 to 27, and -1.2 kg for those with BMI >27. The percentage of ABILIFY-treated patients with ≥7% increase in baseline body weight was 30% for those with BMI <23, 19% for those with BMI 23 to 27, and 8% for those with BMI >27.

ECG Changes: Pooled analysis of placebo-controlled trials in patients with schizophrenia or bipolar mania *treated with oral aripiprazole or in patients with agitation associated with schizophrenia or bipolar mania* treated with intramuscular aripiprazole injection, revealed no significant differences between aripiprazole and placebo of potentially important changes in ECG parameters. Oral aripiprazole was associated with a median increase in heart rate of 5 beats per minute compared to a 1 beat per minute increase among placebo patients.

Adverse Events in Long-Term, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trials

The adverse events reported in a 26-week, double-blind trial comparing oral ABILIFY and placebo in patients with schizophrenia or bipolar mania were generally consistent with those reported in the short-term, placebo-controlled trials, except for a higher incidence of tremor (ABILIFY 8% vs placebo 2%).

Other Adverse Events Observed During the Premarketing Evaluation of Oral Aripiprazole

The following adverse events were reported with oral aripiprazole at multiple doses ≥2 mg/day in clinical trials (8456 patients, 5365 patient-years of exposure). This list may not include events previously listed elsewhere in the labeling, those events for which a drug cause was remote, those terms which were so general as to be uninformative, and those events reported with an incidence of ≤0.05% and which did not have a substantial probability of being acutely life-threatening. *Frequent events* are those occurring in at least 1/100 patients; *Infrequent events* are those occurring in 1/100 to 1/1000 patients; *rare events* are those occurring in fewer than 1/1000 patients. ***Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders:*** *Infrequent* - anaemia, lymphadenopathy, leukopenia (including agranulocytosis, neutropenia); *Rare* - leukocytosis, thrombocytopenia, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, thrombocythaemia. ***Cardiac Disorders:*** *Frequent* - tachycardia (including ventricular, supraventricular, sinus); *Infrequent* - bradycardia, palpitations, cardiac failure (including congestive and acute), myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest, atrial fibrillation, atrioventricular block (including first degree and complete), extrasystoles (including ventricular and supraventricular), angina pectoris, cyanosis, bundle branch block (including left, right), myocardial ischaemia; *Rare* - atrial flutter, cardiomegaly, cardiomyopathy, cardiopulmonary failure. ***Ear and Labyrinth Disorders:*** *Infrequent* - ear pain, vertigo, tinnitus; *Rare* - deafness. ***Endocrine Disorders:*** *Infrequent* - hypothyroidism; *Rare* - goitre, hyperparathyroidism, hyperthyroidism. ***Eye Disorders:*** *Frequent* - conjunctivitis; *Infrequent* - eye redness, eye irritation, dry eye, blepharospasm, visual disturbance, eye pain, eye discharge, blepharitis, cataract, lacrimation increased; *Rare* - eyelid function disorder, oculogyration, eyelid oedema, photophobia, diplopia, eyelid ptosis, eye haemorrhage. ***Gastrointestinal Disorders:*** *Frequent* - loose stools; *Infrequent* - flatulence, dysphagia, gastroesophageal reflux disease, gastritis, haemorrhoids, abdominal distension, faecal incontinence, haematochezia, gingival pain, rectal haemorrhage, abdominal pain lower, oral pain, retching, faecaloma, gastrointestinal haemorrhage, ulcer (including gastric, duodenal, peptic), tooth fracture, gingivitis, lip dry; *Rare* - abdominal tenderness, chapped lips, periodontitis, aptyalism, gastrointestinal pain, hypoaesthesia oral, inguinal hernia, swollen tongue, colitis, haematemesis, hyperchlorhydria, irritable bowel syndrome, oesophagitis, faeces hard, gingival bleeding, glossodynia, mouth ulceration, reflux oesophagitis, cheilitis, intestinal obstruction, pancreatitis, eructation, gastric ulcer haemorrhage, melaena, glossitis, stomatitis. ***General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions:*** *Frequent* - asthenia, pyrexia, chest pain, gait disturbance; *Infrequent* - malaise, oedema, influenza-like illness, chills, general physical health deterioration, feeling jittery, mobility decreased, thirst, feeling cold, difficulty in walking, facial pain, sluggishness, condition aggravated; *Rare* - inflammation localized, swelling, energy increased, inflammation, abasia, xerosis, feeling hot, hyperthermia, hypothermia. ***Hepatobiliary Disorders:*** *Infrequent* - cholecystitis (including acute and chronic); *Rare* - cholelithiasis, hepatitis. ***Immune System Disorders:*** *Infrequent* - hypersensitivity. ***Infections and Infestations:*** *Frequent* - respiratory tract infection (including upper and lower), pneumonia; *Infrequent* - cellulitis, dental caries, vaginitis, vaginal infection, cystitis, vaginal mycosis, eye infection, gastroenteritis, onychomycosis, vaginal candidiasis, otitis media, folliculitis, candidiasis, otitis externa, pyelonephritis, rash pustular; *Rare* - appendicitis, septic shock. ***Injury, Poisoning, and Procedural Complications:*** *Frequent* - fall, skin laceration, contusion, fracture; *Infrequent* - blister, scratch, joint sprain, burn, muscle strain, periorbital haematoma, arthropod bite/sting, head injury, sunburn; *Rare* - joint dislocation, alcohol poisoning, road traffic accident, self mutilation, eye penetration, injury asphyxiation, poisoning, heat exhaustion, heat stroke. ***Investigations:*** *Frequent* - weight decreased, blood creatine phosphokinase increased; *Infrequent* - blood glucose increased, heart rate increased, body temperature increased, alanine aminotransferase increased, blood cholesterol increased, white blood cell count increased, haemoglobin decreased, aspartame aminotransferase increased, blood urea increased, *electrocardiogram ST segment abnormal (including depression, elevation), haematocrit decreased, hepatic* enzyme increased, blood bilirubin increased, blood glucose decreased, blood creatinine increased, blood alkaline phosphatase increased, blood pressure decreased, blood potassium decreased, blood urine present, electrocardiogram QT corrected interval prolonged; *Rare* - transaminases increased, blood triglycerides increased, blood uric acid increased, cardiac murmur, eosiniphil count increased, neutrophil count increased, platelet count increased, red blood cell count decreased, white blood cell count decreased, white blood cells urine positive, bacteria urine identified, blood lactate dehydrogenase increased, blood potassium increased, neutrophil count decreased, urine output decreased, blood creatine phosphokinase MB increased, ECG signs of myocardial ischemia, electrocardiogram T-wave inversion, heart rate decreased, tuberculin test positive, glucose urine present, glycosylated haemoglobin increased, glucose tolerance decreased, glycosylated haemoglobin decreased, muscle enzyme increased. ***Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders:*** *Frequent* - decreased appetite (including diet refusal, markedly *reduced dietary intake*), dehydration; *Infrequent* - *anorexia, increased appetite, hypercholesterolaemia,* hypokalaemia, hyperglycaemia, diabetes mellitus, hypoglycaemia, hyponatremia, diabetes mellitus non-insulin-dependent, hyperlipidaemia, obesity (including overweight), polydipsia; *Rare* - hypertriglyceridaemia, gout, hypernatraemia, weight fluctuation, diabetes mellitus inadequate control. ***Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders:*** *Frequent* - musculoskeletal pain (including neck, jaw, chest wall, bone, buttock, groin, flank, musculoskeletal chest, pubic, and sacral), muscle rigidity, muscle cramp; *Infrequent* - muscle twitching, joint swelling, muscle spasms, muscle tightness, arthritis, osteoarthritis, muscular weakness, joint range of motion decreased, sensation of heaviness; *Rare* - tendonitis, osteoporosis, trismus, arthropathy, bursitis, exostosis, night cramps, coccydynia, joint contracture, localised osteoarthritis, osteopenia, rhabdomyolysis, costochondritis, rheumatoid arthritis, torticollis. ***Nervous System Disorders:*** *Frequent* - lethargy, dyskinesia; *Infrequent* - disturbance in attention, parkinsonism, dystonia, drooling, cogwheel rigidity, dysarthria, paraesthesia, hypoaesthesia, loss of consciousness (including depressed level of consciousness), hypersomnia, psychomotor hyperactivity, balance disorder, cerebrovascular accident, hypokinesia, tardive dyskinesia, memory impairment, amnesia, ataxia, dementia, hypotonia, burning sensation, dysgeusia, restless leg syndrome, hypertonia, Parkinson's disease, akinesia, dysphasia, transient ischaemic attack, facial palsy, hemiparesis, myoclonus, sciatica; *Rare* - bradykinesia, coordination abnormal, cognitive disorder, syncope vasovagal, carpal tunnel syndrome, hyporeflexia, intention tremor, muscle contractions involuntary, sleep apnea syndrome, dementia Alzheimer's type, epilepsy, hyperreflexia, mastication disorder, mental impairment, nerve compression, parkinsonian gait, tongue paralysis, aphasia, choreoathetosis, formication, masked facies, neuralgia, paresthesia oral, parkinsonian rest tremor, cerebral haemorrhage, dizziness exertional, hyperaesthesia, haemorrhage intracranial, ischaemic stroke, judgment impaired, subarachnoid haemorrhage. ***Psychiatric Disorders:*** *Frequent* - schizophrenia (including schizoaffective disorder), depression (including depressive symptom), hallucination (including auditory, visual, tactile, mixed, olfactory, and somatic), mood altered (including depressed, euphoric, elevated, and mood swings), paranoia, irritability, suicidal ideation, confusional state, aggression, mania, delusion (including persecutory, perception, somatic, and grandeur); *Infrequent* - tension, nervousness, nightmare, excitability, panic attack (including panic disorder, panic disorder with agoraphobia, and panic reaction), abnormal dreams, apathy, libido decreased, hostility, suicide attempt, bipolar disorder (including bipolar I), libido increased, anger, delirium, acute psychosis, disorientation, bruxism, hypomania, obsessive-compulsive disorder (including obsessive thoughts), mental status changes, crying, dysphoria, completed suicide, flat affect, impulsive behaviour; *Rare* - blunted affect, cognitive deterioration, logorrhea, psychomotor agitation, social avoidant behaviour, psychomotor retardation, suspiciousness, affect lability, anorgasmia, fear, homicidal ideation, tic, premature ejaculation, dysphemia, bradyphrenia, derealisation, depersonalisation. ***Renal and Urinary Disorders:*** *Infrequent* - pollakiuria, dysuria, haematuria, urinary retention, renal failure (including acute and chronic), urinary hesitation, enuresis, nephrolithiasis, micturition urgency, polyuria; *Rare* - nocturia, proteinuria, glycosuria, calculus urinary, azotaemia. ***Reproductive System and Breast Disorders:*** *Infrequent* - erectile dysfunction, vaginal discharge, amenorrhoea, vaginal haemorrhage, menstruation irregular, menorrhagia, premenstrual syndrome, testicular pain, genital pruritus female, ovarian cyst, benign prostatic hyperplasia, prostatitis; *Rare* - gynaecomastia, priapism (including spontaneous penile erection), breast pain, pelvic pain, epididymitis, galactorrhoea, uterine haemorrhage. ***Respiratory, Thoracic, and Mediastinal Disorders:*** *Frequent* - dyspnoea (including exertional); *Infrequent* - sinus congestion, rhinorrhoea, wheezing, epistaxis, asthma, hiccups, productive cough, chronic obstructive airways disease (including exacerbated), rhinitis allergic, pneumonia aspiration, pulmonary congestion, sinus pain, respiratory distress, dry throat, hoarseness; *Rare* - bronchopneumopathy, haemoptysis, respiratory arrest, sneezing, hypoxia, pulmonary embolism, pulmonary oedema (including acute), respiratory failure, brochospasm, nasal dryness, paranasal sinus hypersecretion, pharyngeal erythema, rhonchi, tonsillar hypertrophy, asphyxia, Mendelson's syndrome. ***Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders:*** *Infrequent* - hyperhydrosis, erythema, pruritis (including generalised), dry skin, decubitus ulcer, dermatitis (including allergic, seborrhoeic, acneiform, exfoliative, bullous, neurodermatitis), ecchymosis, skin ulcer, acne, eczema, hyperkeratosis, swelling face, skin discoloration, photosensitivity reaction, skin irritation, alopecia, rash maculopapular, cold sweat, scab, face oedema, dermal cyst, psoriasis, night sweats, rash erythematous; *Rare* - rash scaly, urticaria, rash maculopapular, rosacea, seborrhoea, periorbital oedema, rash vesicular. ***Vascular Disorders:*** *Frequent* - hypotension; *Infrequent* - hot flush (including flushing), haematoma, deep vein thrombosis, phlebitis; *Rare* - pallor, petechiae, varicose vein, circulatory collapse, haemorrhage, thrombophlebitis, shock.

Other Adverse Events Observed During the Premarketing Evaluation of Aripiprazole Injection

The following adverse events were reported with aripiprazole injection at doses ≥1 mg/day in clinical trials (749 patients). This list may not include events previously listed elsewhere in the labeling, those events for which a drug cause was remote, those terms which were so general as to be uninformative, and those events reported with an incidence of ≤0.05% and which did not have a substantial probability of being acutely life-threatening. *Frequent events* are those occurring in at least 1/100 patients; *Infrequent events* are those occurring in 1/100 to 1/1000 patients; *rare events* are those occurring in fewer than 1/1000 patients. ***Ear and Labyrinth Disorders:*** *Infrequent* - hyperacusis. ***General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions:*** *Infrequent* - injection site stinging, abnormal feeling, injection site pruritus, injection site swelling, venipuncture site bruise. ***Infections and Infestations:*** *Infrequent* - bacteruria, urinary tract infection, urosepsis. ***Investigations:*** *Infrequent* - blood pressure abnormal, heart rate irregular, electrocardiogram T-wave abnormal. ***Psychiatric Disorders:*** *Infrequent* - intentional self-injury. ***Respiratory, Thoracic, and Mediastinal Disorders:*** *Infrequent* - pharyngolaryngeal pain, nasal congestion. ***Vascular Disorders:*** *Infrequent* - blood pressure fluctuation.

Postintroduction Reports: Reported since market introduction and temporally (not necessarily causally) related to aripiprazole therapy: allergic reaction (eg, anaphylactic reaction, angioedema, laryngospasm, oropharyngeal spasm, pruritis, or urticaria), grand mal seizure, and jaundice.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE: Aripiprazole is not a controlled substance.

Abuse and Dependence: Aripiprazole has not been systematically studied in humans for its potential for abuse, tolerance, or physical dependence. While the clinical trials did not reveal any tendency for any drug-seeking behavior, it is not possible to predict on the basis of this limited experience the extent to which a CNS-active drug will be misused, diverted, and/or abused once marketed. Patients should be evaluated carefully for a history of drug abuse and closely observed for signs of ABILIFY (aripiprazole) misuse or abuse.

OVERDOSAGE: 76 cases of deliberate or accidental overdosage with oral ABILIFY alone or in combination *with other substances were reported worldwide [44 cases with known outcome, 33 recovered without* sequelae and one recovered with sequelae (mydriasis and feeling abnormal)]. Additionally, 10 of these cases were in children (age 12 and younger) involving oral aripiprazole ingestions up to 195 mg with no fatalities. The largest known acute ingestion was 1080 mg of oral aripiprazole (36 times maximum recommended daily dose) in a patient who fully recovered. Common adverse events (reported in at least 5% of all overdose cases) were vomiting, somnolence, and tremor. **For more information on symptoms of overdose, see Full Prescribing Information.**

Management of Overdosage: No specific information is available on the treatment of overdose with aripiprazole. An electrocardiogram should be obtained in case of overdosage and, if QTc interval prolongation is present, cardiac monitoring should be instituted. Otherwise, management of overdose should concentrate on supportive therapy, maintaining an adequate airway, oxygenation and ventilation, and management of symptoms. Close medical supervision and monitoring should continue until the patient recovers. ***Charcoal:*** In the event of an overdose of ABILIFY, an early charcoal administration may be useful in partially preventing the absorption of aripiprazole. Administration of 50 g of activated charcoal, one hour after a single 15-mg oral dose of aripiprazole, decreased the mean AUC and C_{max} of aripiprazole by 50%. ***Hemodialysis:*** Although there is no information on the effect of hemodialysis in treating an overdose with aripiprazole, hemodialysis is unlikely to be useful in overdose management since aripiprazole is highly bound to plasma proteins.

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