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IVth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASES

The IVth International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases will be held in Montreal, Canada from **Sunday 17th to Thursday 21st, September, 1978.** The Scientific Program will consist of symposia, free communications, work shops and poster presentations. Attractive social events are also planned.

Information may be requested from the Secretariat of the Congress, 3587 University Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

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Symmetrel®

Capsules 100 mg

(amantadine HCl)

for the management of Parkinson's syndrome

✻ **Chemically distinct**
(Not related to levodopa or anticholinergic antiparkinson drugs.)

✻ **Fast onset of action**
(Usually effective within 1 week in contrast to the slower response from levodopa.)

Effective with levodopa

(Either initiated concurrently or added to levodopa. Additional benefit may result — such as smoothing out of fluctuations in performance which sometimes occur when levodopa is administered alone. When the levodopa dose must be reduced because of side effects, the addition of Symmetrel may result in better control of Parkinson's syndrome than is possible with levodopa alone.)

Effective with other anticholinergic antiparkinson drugs

(When these drugs, e.g. benztropine mesylate, provide only marginal benefits, Symmetrel used concomitantly may provide the same degree of control of Parkinson's syndrome, often with a lower dose of anticholinergic medication, and a possible reduction in anticholinergic side effects.)

Effective alone

(Lessening of Parkinsonian symptomatology usually evident within one week in responsive patients.)

CONTRAINDICATIONS "Symmetrel" is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to the drug.

WARNINGS Patients with a history of epilepsy or other "seizures" should be observed closely for possible untoward central nervous system effects.

Patients with a history of congestive heart failure or peripheral edema should be followed closely as there are patients who developed congestive heart failure while receiving "Symmetrel" (amantadine HCl).

Safety of use in pregnancy has not been established. Therefore, "Symmetrel" should not be used in women with childbearing potential, unless in the opinion of the physician, the expected benefit to the patient outweighs the possible risks to the fetus (see Toxicology-Effects on Reproduction).

Since the drug is secreted in the milk, "Symmetrel" should not be administered to nursing mothers.

PRECAUTIONS The dose of "Symmetrel" may need careful adjustment in patients with renal impairment, congestive heart failure, peripheral edema, or orthostatic hypotension. Since "Symmetrel" is not metabolized and is mainly excreted in the urine, it may accumulate when renal function is inadequate.

Care should be exercised when administering "Symmetrel" to patients with liver disease, a history of recurrent eczematoid rash, or to patients with psychosis or severe psychoneurosis not controlled by chemotherapeutic agents. Careful observation is required when "Symmetrel" is administered concurrently with central nervous system stimulants.

Patients with Parkinson's syndrome improving on "Symmetrel" should resume normal activities gradually and cautiously, consistent with other medical considerations, such as the presence of osteoporosis or phlebothrombosis.

Patients receiving "Symmetrel" (amantadine HCl) who note central nervous system effects of blurring of vision should be cautioned against driving or working in situations where alertness is important.

"Symmetrel" (amantadine HCl) should not be discontinued abruptly since a few patients with Parkinson's syndrome experienced a Parkinsonian crisis, i.e., sudden marked clinical deterioration, when this medication was suddenly stopped.

The dose of anticholinergic drugs or of "Symmetrel" should be reduced if atropine-like effects appear when these drugs are used concurrently.

ADVERSE REACTIONS Adverse reactions reported below have occurred in patients while receiving "Symmetrel" (amantadine HCl) alone or in combination with anticholinergic antiparkinson drugs and/or levodopa.

The more important adverse reactions are orthostatic hypotensive episodes, congestive heart failure, depression, psychosis and urinary retention; and rarely confusion, reversible leukopenia and neutropenia, and abnormal liver function test results.

Other adverse reactions of less importance which have been observed are: anorexia, anxiety, ataxia, confusion, hallucinations, constipation, dizziness (lightheadedness), dry mouth, headache, insomnia, livedo reticularis, nausea, peripheral edema, drowsiness, dyspnea, fatigue, hyperkinesia, irritability, nightmares, rash, slurred speech, visual disturbance, vomiting and weakness; and very rarely eczematoid dermatitis and oculogyric episodes.

Some side effects were transient and disappeared even with continued administration of the drug.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION The initial dose of "Symmetrel" is 100 mg daily for patients with serious associated medical illnesses or who are receiving high doses of other antiparkinson drugs. After one to several weeks at 100 mg once daily, the dose may be increased to 100 mg twice daily. When "Symmetrel" and levodopa are initiated concurrently, "Symmetrel" should be held constant at 100 mg daily or twice daily while the daily dose of levodopa is gradually increased to optimal dose. When used alone, the usual dose of "Symmetrel" is 100 mg twice a day.

Patients whose responses are not optimal with "Symmetrel" (amantadine HCl) at 200 mg daily may benefit from an increase to 300 mg daily in divided doses. Patients who experience a fall-off of effectiveness may regain benefit by increasing the dose to 300 mg daily; such patients should be supervised closely by their physicians.

DOSAGE FORMS CAPSULES: (bottles of 100) each red, soft gelatin capsule contains 100 mg of amantadine HCl.

Product monograph, with complete references, available upon request.

Endo®

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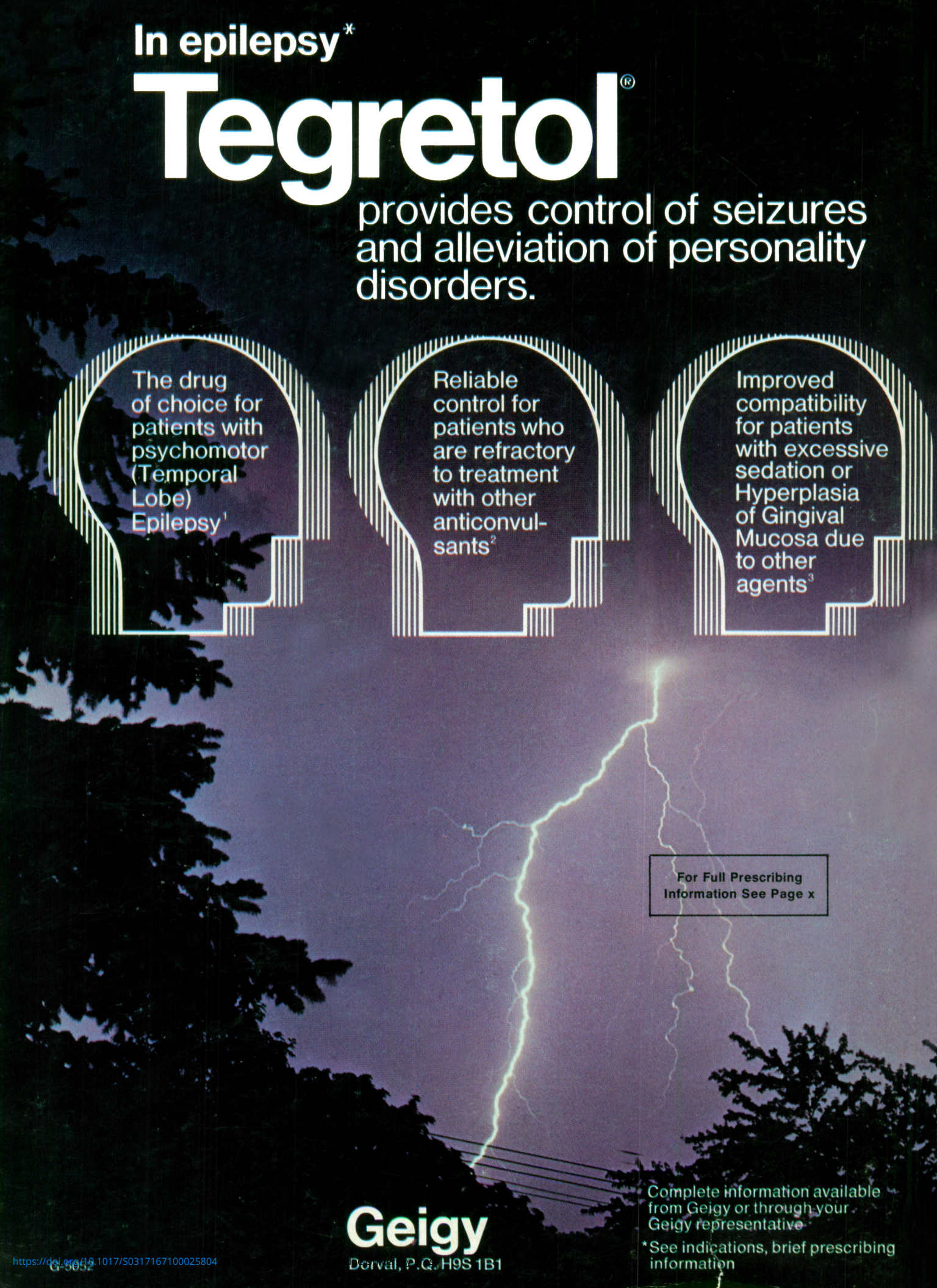

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