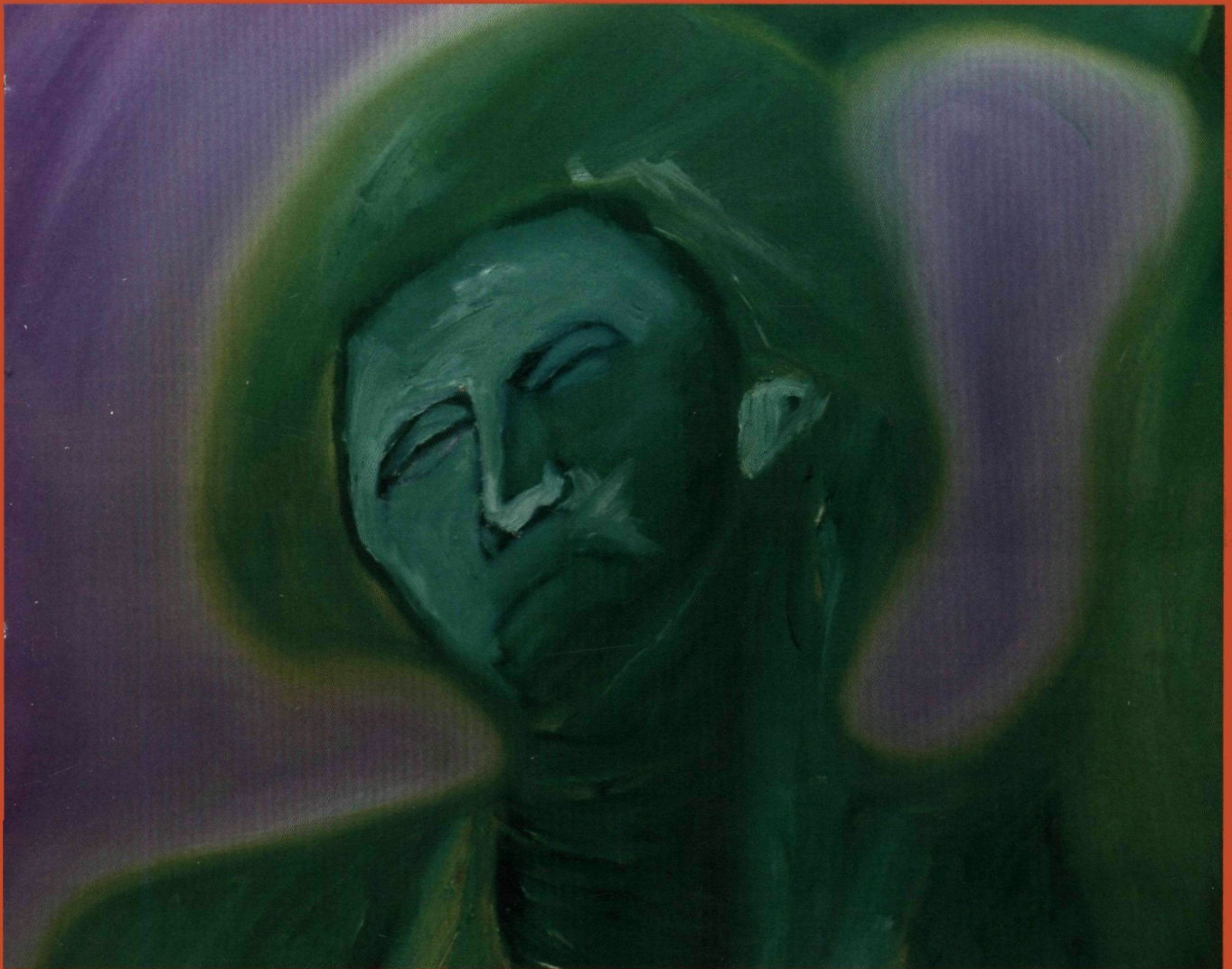


IRISH JOURNAL OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL
— **MEDICINE** —
VOL 26 NO 1 MAR 2009 ISSN 0790-9667



'Girlfriend' Acrylics on board (21"x16")

Well being with bipolar disorder

NEW
Treatment and prevention of
mania associated with bipolar
disorders (Epilim Chrono only)



Epilim[®]
Sodium Valproate/Valproic Acid

Epilim[®] **ABBREVIATED PRESCRIBING INFORMATION. PRESENTATION** Epilim Enteric 200mg Gastro-resistant Coated Tablets and Epilim Enteric 500mg Gastro-resistant Coated Tablets: Enteric coated tablets containing 200 mg, and 500 mg sodium valproate, respectively. Epilim 100mg Crushable Tablets containing 100 mg sodium valproate. Epilim Syrup 200mg/5ml Oral Solution and Epilim Liquid 200mg/5ml Oral Solution (sugar free) both containing 200 mg sodium valproate per 5 ml. Epilim Chrono 200mg, Epilim Chrono 300mg, and Epilim Chrono 500mg Prolonged Release Tablets: Prolonged release tablets containing a mixture of sodium valproate and valproic acid equivalent to 200 mg, 300 mg and 500 mg sodium valproate respectively. Epilim Intravenous 400mg powder and solvent for solution for injection or infusion: 400mg sodium valproate freeze-dried powder per vial. **INDICATIONS** Treatment and prevention of mania associated with bipolar disorders (Chrono only), Epilim IV – For short-term therapy, where oral treatment is not possible. **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION Adults:** titrate until seizure control is achieved. Initially 600 mg/day increasing in steps of 200 mg at 3 day intervals to a maximum dose of 2500 mg/day (target dose range 20-30 mg/kg/day). **Children over 20 kg:** initially 400 mg/day increasing in steps to a maximum dose of 35 mg/kg/day (target dose range 20-30 mg/kg/day). **Children under 20 kg:** initially 20 mg/kg/day – the dose may be increased in severe cases provided that plasma levels are monitored; above 40mg/kg/day chemistry and haematology should be monitored. Epilim Chrono should not be used in this group of patients, due to the tablet size and need for dose titration. **Dosage in Bipolar Disorder (Epilim Chrono):** Initially 20 mg/kg/day. Adjust according to individual response. Recommended daily dose 1,000 – 2,000mg (max 3,000mg). **Epilim IV:** Patients already satisfactorily treated with Epilim may be continued at their current dosage using continuous or repeated infusion. Other patients may be given a slow intravenous injection over 3-5 minutes, usually 400-800mg depending on body weight (up to 10mg/kg) followed by continuous or repeated infusion up to a maximum of 2500 mg/day. Epilim IV should be replaced by oral Epilim therapy as soon as practicable. **Combination therapy:** levels of Epilim and co-administered anticonvulsants may be affected and optimum dosage is determined by seizure control. Adjust dose in renal impairment and in the elderly. **CONTRAINDICATIONS** Active liver disease, family or personal history of severe hepatic dysfunction, especially drug related. Porphyria. **PRECAUTIONS** Hepatic dysfunction: liver function tests are advised before therapy and during the first six months, especially in patients at risk or with a history of liver disease. Blood cell count, bleeding time and coagulation tests advised before therapy to avoid bleeding complications. Pancreatitis, especially in young children. Hyperammonaemia: metabolic tests are advised before therapy in those at risk. Systemic lupus erythematosus. Risk of weight gain. Discontinuation should be done under the supervision of a specialist. Monotherapy is recommended in children under 3 years but benefits and risks should be considered. May cause false positives in urine testing for diabetes. Women of childbearing potential. **INTERACTIONS** Epilim affects the following drugs: antipsychotics, MAOIs, antidepressants, benzodiazepines, phenobarbital, primidone, phenytoin, carbamazepine, lamotrigine, zidovudine, vitamin K-dependent anticoagulants. Drugs which affect Epilim: phenytoin, phenobarbital, carbamazepine, felbamate, mefloquine, chloroquine, highly protein bound agents (e.g. aspirin), cimetidine, erythromycin, carbapenem antibiotics, colestyramine. Other interactions: Caution advised when using Epilim with newer anti-epileptics. **USE IN PREGNANCY AND LACTATION Women of childbearing potential:** should receive specialist neurological advice of the risks and benefits of continuing anti-epileptic medication throughout pregnancy. Anticonvulsant monotherapy is preferable in divided doses at lowest effective dose. Epilim should not be discontinued during pregnancy without assessment of the benefits versus risks. **Risk in the neonate:** Rare reports of haemorrhagic syndrome (related to hypofibrinaemia) in neonates whose mothers received sodium valproate during their pregnancy. Afibrinaemia has also been reported and may be fatal. Neonatal platelet counts, fibrinogen plasma levels and coagulation status should be fully investigated. **Lactation:** Epilim is excreted in breast milk in concentrations between 1 to 10%. **SIDE EFFECTS** Occasional: congenital and familial/genetic disorders, transient GI disorders, sedation, dose-related ataxia, fine postural tremor, increased alertness, aggression, hyperactivity, hyperammonaemia, thrombocytopenia, transient hair loss, amenorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea, vasculitis, allergic reactions, increased weight. Rare: hepato-biliary disorders, lethargy, confusion, stupor, hallucinations, convulsions, anaemia, leucopenia, pancytopenia, cutaneous reactions, hearing loss. Very rare: pancreatitis, encephalopathy, coma, reversible parkinsonism/dementia/cerebral atrophy, hyponatraemia, reduction in fibrinogen, reversible increase in bleeding time, spontaneous bruising or bleeding, toxic epidermal necrolysis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, erythema multiforme, gynaecomastia, reversible Fanconi's syndrome, enuresis, non-severe peripheral oedema. **PHARMACEUTICAL PRECAUTIONS:** Epilim is hygroscopic – keep tablets in blister pack until use and avoid cutting blister strips. Epilim Liquid should not be diluted. **PACK QUANTITY** Epilim Crushable, Enteric and Chrono Tablets: 100 Tablets, Epilim Syrup & Liquid: 300ml, Epilim Intravenous: 1 vial & 1 ampoule. **LEGAL CATEGORY:** POM. **MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER** sanofi-aventis Ireland Ltd., Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24. **MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBERS** Epilim 100mg Crushable Tablets – PA 540/150/1 Epilim 200 Enteric Tablets – PA 540/150/2 Epilim 500 Enteric Tablets – PA 540/150/3 Epilim Chrono 200mg – PA 540/150/10 Epilim Chrono 300mg – PA 540/150/11 Epilim Chrono 500mg – PA 540/150/12 Epilim Intravenous – PA 540/150/13 Epilim Liquid – PA 540/150/14 Epilim Syrup – PA 540/150/15 **Further information is available from** sanofi-aventis Ireland Ltd., 18 Riverwalk, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24 or contact Imedinfo@sanofi-aventis.com, Tel: (01) 4035600. Please refer to Summary of Product Characteristics which can be found on IPHA @ <http://www.medicines.ie/> before prescribing. **Information about adverse event reporting can be found at www.imb.ie** Adverse events should be reported to the sanofi-aventis Drug Safety Department. **Date of preparation:** October 2008

Reference: 1. Refer to Summary of Product Characteristics.

Date of preparation: October 2008
IE.EPI.08.10.06



sanofi-aventis 9667000001X

Published online by Cambridge University Press

Because health matters

Editor-in-Chief: Brian A Lawlor,
Professor of Old Age Psychiatry,
St Patrick's Hospital, Dublin 8

Deputy Editor: Brendan D Kelly,
Consultant Psychiatrist, Department of
Adult Psychiatry, The Mater
Misericordiae Hospital, Dublin 7

Production Editors:
Anne Henrichsen, Patrick Gleeson

Advertising Manager:
Leon Ellison

Administrator: Andrea McAdam

Founding Editor: Mark Hartman

Associate Editor: Ted Dinan (Cork)

Editorial Board: Patricia Casey
(Dublin), Stephen Cooper (Belfast),
Michael Fitzgerald (Dublin),
Brian Leonard (Galway),
Roy McClelland (Belfast),
Eadbhard O'Callaghan (Dublin),
Brian O'Shea (Wicklow), Ian Pullen
(Edinburgh), Philip Snaith (Leeds),
John Waddington (Dublin),
Richard Williams (Victoria)

Submissions & correspondence to:
The Editor,
Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine,
25 Adelaide Street, Dun Laoghaire,
Co Dublin, Ireland.

Telephone: 00-353-1-2803967

Fax: 00-353-1-2807076

Email: psychological@medmedia.ie

Website: www.ijpm.org

Publisher 
MedMedia Ltd,
25 Adelaide Street,
Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin, Ireland.
www.medmedia.ie

Printing: W&G Baird Ltd

Subscriptions

Rates per volume of four issues
(Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec): €170
Incl. airmail postage internationally.

Subscription enquiries, orders and cheques made payable to:

MedMedia Ltd,
25 Adelaide St, Dun Laoghaire,
Co Dublin, Ireland
Tel: + 353 1 280 3967
Email: psychological@medmedia.ie
www.medmedia.ie

Circulation

2,200 to 54 countries. The Journal
participates in the World Health
Organisation project to improve
distribution of scientific materials on
mental health. Publication does not
imply endorsement. Limited photo-
copying authorisation granted for a fee
to Copyright Clearance Center,
27 Congress Street, Salem, MA
01970, USA, or to appropriate
Reproduction Rights Organisation;
isolated non-profit, academic
photocopying excepted.

Editorial

3 Electroconvulsive therapy, capacity and the law in Ireland

Ross Dunne, Adam Kavanagh, Declan M McLoughlin

Original Papers

6 Factors that influence patients' attitudes to antipsychotic medication

Farhan Haq, Caragh Behan, Nicola McGlade, Una Mulkerrin, Eadbhard O'Callaghan, Anthony Kinsella, Aiden Corvin, Gary Donohoe, Michael Gill

12 Psychopathology, insight and compliance in schizophrenia

Vikrant Bajaj, Somnath Sengupta, Dhanesh Kumar Gupta

Brief reports

16 Psychiatric illness and driving: Irish psychiatrists' documentation practices

Camilla Langan

20 Non-attendance at new appointments at St James's Child Guidance Clinic

Norbert Skokauskas, Tom Moran, Sarah Buckley

Survey

23 Consultant psychiatrists' experiences and attitudes following the introduction of the Mental Health Act 2001: a national survey

Brian O'Donoghue, Paul Moran

27 Drug users' failure to modify alcohol consumption in response to hepatitis C

Angela Noonan, Paul Kavanagh, Brion Sweeney

Reviews

32 Insight in mental illness: an educational review

John McFarland, Colm McDonald, Brian Hallahan

37 Mental capacity: legislation and medical treatment decisions in Ireland

Vincent IO Agyapong, Maria Wrigley

Historical

41 Philip Crampton (1777-1858) and his description of nominal aphasia

Caoimhghin S Breathnach

19 Subscriptions

36a John Dunne Medal

40a Guidelines for Authors

43 Letters to the Editor

47 Book Reviews

Indexed and abstracted by BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (BIOSIS Previews); CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE/INIST: PASCAL; EXCERPTA MEDICA/EMBASE; INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION: CURRENT CONTENTS/ Social & Behavioural Sciences (Social Science CITATION INDEX, Research Alert); PSYCHOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (PsycINFO/PsycLIT); Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature, Current AIDS Literature (CAB Abstracts), International Pharmaceutical Abstracts, Linguistics & Language Behaviour Abstracts, Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews, (CAB Abstracts), Referativnyi Zhurnal, Social Planning/Policy & Development Abstracts, Social Work Research & Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts.

Microfilm, microfiche & article copies from **University Microfilms International**, 300 North Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106, USA. Journal included in the **Adonis** service, whereby article copies can be printed out from compact disks (CD-ROM) on demand; explanatory leaflet available from ADONIS BV, PO Box 639, 1000 AV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Journal listed in **Ulrich's** International Periodicals Directory (**Bowker** International Serials Database), **EBSCO's** Selected Periodicals for the Medical and Health Sciences, & **EBSCO's** Librarians' Handbook.

A stitch in time...



Ebixa

Continuous treatment for Alzheimer's Disease from the moderate stage onwards¹

- Ebixa: Now Once Daily¹
Easier Administration = Convenience + Compliance Benefits^{2,3}
- Ebixa: Stabilises symptoms of AD*. Fewer Ebixa treated patients worsened versus placebo⁴



Ebixa[®]
memantine

*Moderate AD onwards

Abbreviated Prescribing Information: For full prescribing information refer to the Summary of Product Characteristics. **Name:** Ebixa **Active Substance:** Memantine Hydrochloride. **Indication:** Treatment of patients with moderate to severe Alzheimer's disease. **Dosage & Administration:** Treatment should be initiated and supervised by a physician experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's dementia. Therapy should only be started if a caregiver is available who will regularly monitor the intake of the medicinal product by the patient. Treatment is orally either as tablets (10 mg) or solution (10 mg/g) taken with or without food at the same time every day. Maintenance dose is 20mg/day (two tablets or 40 drops once a day). Treatment starts with 5mg/day (half a tablet or 10 drops once a day) for the first week; the 2nd week 10mg/day (one tablet or 20 drops once a day); the 3rd week 15mg/day (one and a half tablets or 30 drops once a day) and the 4th week 20mg/day (two tablets or 40 drops once a day). Moderate renal impairment 10mg/day (one tablet or 20 drops once a day), if well tolerated after 7 days the dose can be titrated up to 20mg/day (two tablets or 40 drops once a day). Severe renal impairment- dose is 10 mg/day. Mild-moderate hepatic impairment- no dose adjustment. Severe hepatic impairment- no data available. Children & Adolescents: Not recommended. **Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity to the active substance or any of the excipients. **Pregnancy and Lactation:** Pregnancy: Memantine should not be used in pregnant women unless clearly necessary. Lactation: Memantine

should not be used in women who are breastfeeding. **Special Warnings and Precautions for use:** Caution is recommended in patients with epilepsy. Caution is advised in patients with raised urine pH as this may elevate plasma levels. Clinical trial data are limited on patients with myocardial infarction, uncompensated congestive heart failure and uncontrolled hypertension and patients with these conditions should be closely supervised. Avoid concomitant use of NMDA antagonists (see also interactions). Patients with sugar intolerance should not take Ebixa. Patients should be warned to take special care if driving and using machines as Ebixa has minor to moderate influence on these tasks. **Interactions:** Effects of L-Dopa, dopaminergic agonists and anticholinergics may be enhanced. Effects of barbiturates and neuroleptics may be reduced. Effect of concomitant treatment with antispasmodic agents e.g. dantrolene and baclofen may be modified. Plasma levels of cimetidine, ranitidine, procainamide, quinidine, quinine and nicotine may be increased. Co-administration with hydrochlorothiazide (HCT) may lead to a reduced serum level of HCT. Concomitant use of NMDA antagonist- amantadine, ketamine, dextromethorphan or phenytoin should be avoided. Close monitoring of prothrombin time or INR is advisable for patients treated concomitantly with oral anticoagulants. **Adverse reactions:** Common (>1/100 and <1/10) headache, somnolence, hypertension, constipation and dizziness. Uncommon reactions (>1/1000 and <1/100); fatigue, fungal infections,

confusion, hallucinations (mainly in severe Alzheimer's disease), venous thrombosis/thromboembolism, vomiting, gait abnormal. Very rare (<1/10,000): seizures. Not known: Isolated cases of pancreatitis and psychotic reactions have been reported post-marketing. Alzheimer's disease has been associated with depression, suicidal ideation and suicide. In post-marketing experience these events have been reported in patients treated with memantine. **Overdose:** Symptomatic treatment. **Elimination:** Mainly in unchanged form via the kidneys. **Legal Category:** POM. **Marketing Authorisation Holder:** H.Lundbeck A/S, 9 Ottiliavej, DK-2500, Valby, Denmark. **Marketing Authorisation Numbers:** EU/1/02/219/005 Ebixa 10mg/g Oral drops solution-50g bottle. EU/1/02/219/006 Ebixa 10mg/g Oral drops solution-100g bottle. EU/1/02/219/007 Ebixa Tablets 10mg, 28 pack size. EU/1/02/219/008 Ebixa Tablets 10mg, 56 pack size. Further information may be obtained from Lundbeck (Ireland) Ltd., 7 Riverwalk, Citywest Business Campus, Citywest, Dublin 24. **References:** 1. Ebixa Summary of Product Characteristics 2. Claxton et al. Clin Ther. 2001; 23:1296-1310 3. Shi et al. Exp Rev of Pharm Res. 2007;7: 187-2002 4. Wilkinson et al. Dement Geriatr Cogn Disord. 2007;24(2) 138-145 **Date of Preparation:** May 2008. **References:** 1. Ebixa Summary of Product Characteristics 2. Claxton et al. Clin Ther. 2001;23:1296-1310 3. Shi et al. Exp Rev of Pharm Res. 2007;7:187-2002 4. Wilkinson et al. Dement Geriatr Cogn Disord. 2007; 24(2) 138-145