Lamotrigine History and Information

Lamotrigine (Lamictal) is marketed throughout the world as Lamotrigine, an anticonvulsant drug used for epilepsy and bipolar and off-label for depression, anxiety and other issues. Lamictal was the first drug (other than Lithium) approved for bi-polar. Approximately 10% of patients taking Lamotrigine suffer what is deemed a 'safe rash' that is actually an allergic reaction. Lamotrigine prescribing information has a black-box warning regarding life-threatening skin reactions that primarily occur in the first 2-8 weeks of therapy, or during withdrawal if Lamotrigine is stopped too quickly.

In December 1994 Lamictal / Lamotrigine was approved by the FDA as a treatment for partial seizures in adult patients; in 1998 it was approved for pediatric patients over 2 years of age; and in 2003 Lamictal was approved for Bipolar disorder.

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Evidence has shown that women are more likely to have side effects from Lamicital than men. Female hormones decrease serum levels of Lamictal while there is a significant increase in the follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) and luteninizing hormone (LH) from Lamictal. FSH is secreted by the pineal gland and regulates estrogen and progesterone within the ovaries in women and the sperm count in men.

Approximately 7% of patients experience a 'alerting effect' that causes intolerable insomnia. More severe side effects include aseptic meningitis and Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Meningitis is an inflammation of the protective membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord and Stevens Johnson syndrome is a serious condition where the skin of the patient literally burns from the inside out. Additionally, Lamictal binds to melanin-containing (pigment) tissues such as the iris of the eye. Long-term consequences of this are unknown at this time.

In 2010 the FDA warned doctors and patients regarding Lamictal's serious side effects, yet the drug remains on the market today.

Unless a life-threatening reaction to Lamictal is occurring, the drug should be tapered slowly due to the risk of seizure and debilitating withdrawal symptoms. Yet many find that even with a slow taper, Lamictal withdrawal symptoms interfere with every aspect of life.
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*The statements on this website have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The products and labels mentioned / sold are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease or illness.
*Because prescription medications can cause severe withdrawal reactions, do not stop taking any medication without first consulting your physician. The decision to taper any medication should be discussed with your doctor and done with their consent and support.