



EnhanceMed™ Quarterly Clinical Update

Highlighting Current Research and Market Updates Affecting Behavioral Health Medical Practitioners

5/9/2010 Publication of the article “*Proton pump inhibitor use, hip fracture, and change in bone mineral density in postmenopausal women: results from the Women's Health Initiative*” has caused the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to revise the prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) labels for proton pump inhibitors (PPI). The new safety information is based on the FDA's data collected from a federally-funded study which included 161,806 postmenopausal women without history of hip fracture who received high doses of PPIs or had been on PPI treatment for a duration of more than a year. These women are at greatest risk of fractures of the hip, wrist, and spine with the use of these medications. *Arch Intern Med.* 2010 May 10;170(9):765-71.

4/14/2010 Study shows certain anticonvulsants, particularly gabapentin, lamotrigine, oxcarbazepine, tiagabine, and valproate are associated with higher risks of suicide and violent deaths compared to topiramate (Topamax®). This study's research team compared the listed anticonvulsants to topiramate because of its popularity in the US market for treating multiple ranges of medical conditions. This recent research as documented in “*Anticonvulsant medications and the risk of suicide, attempted suicide, or violent death*” mirrors a meta-analysis of 200 clinical trials performed by the FDA in 2008 which found that anticonvulsants, as a class, roughly doubled the risk of suicidal thoughts and attempts. At that time, the FDA had instructed manufacturers to include a label warning about the increased suicidal risk associated with this class of drug. Based on the results, Dr. Paterno, a lead researcher in this recent study advised patients to continue taking their medications but noted that there is a need to be closely monitored by healthcare professionals, and that practitioners should consider risk vs. benefit prior to treatment initiation. *JAMA.* 2010 Apr 14;303(14):1401-9.

4/12/2010 Increased suicidality is not dependent on any specific drug within the class of selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRI). An article titled “*Comparative safety of antidepressant agents for children and adolescents regarding suicidal acts*” highlights the increase in suicidal behavior in children and adolescents. Moreover, this new long-term study supports the US FDA's decision to mandate a “black-box” warning on all antidepressants for an increased suicidal risk in children and adolescents. *Pediatrics.* 2010 May;125(5):876-88. Epub 2010 Apr 12.

4/6/2010 Hospitalization caused by accidental and intentional abuse of controlled prescription drugs (sedatives, tranquilizers and opioids) has risen by 65 percent from 1999 to 2006. According to Dr. Jeffrey Cohen, one of the authors of the study *Hospitalizations for poisoning by prescription opioids, sedatives, and tranquilizers*, “Deaths and hospitalization associated with prescription drug misuse have reached epidemic proportions, and it's essential that healthcare providers, pharmacists, insurance providers, state and federal agencies, and the general public all work together to address this crisis.” *Am J Prev Med.* 2010 May;38(5):517-24.

This is a compilation of some recent news and research that may be of interest to providers. It is for informational and educational purposes only. Although we make every effort to ensure that this material is accurate and up-to-date, it is provided for the convenience of the user and should not be considered definitive. Magellan does not participate in or endorse any of the particular studies contained herein.