The Carlat Report

LAMICTAL (lamotrigine) Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: GlaxoSmithKline

Indications:

- Epilepsy in adults and children
- Delaying relapse to a mood episode in bipolar disorder in adults
- Off-label use as an antidepressant

Mechanism: Unknown.

Dosing:

- Supplied in 25 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, and 200 mg scored, breakable tablets; also in 2 mg, 5 mg, and 25 mg chewable tablets.
- Usual dosing is 25 mg QD X 1 week, then increase by 25 mg per week.
- Dosing with Depakote or in patients with a history of any drug rash: 12.5 mg X 1 week, then increase by 12.5 mg per week.

Side Effects:

- Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (a blistering flat rash that may affect the mucous membranes) occurs in about 1/5,000 patients, a risk not greater than with other anticonvulsants. In controlled trials for mood disorders, no cases of Stevens-Johnson occurred out of 1198 patients.
- Benign rash occurs in about 8% of patients, no more than placebo in most trials.
- Other side effects that occur at a rate greater than placebo, from most to least common: dizziness, headache, nausea, sedation.

Drug-drug interactions:

- Depakote doubles Lamictal levels
- Tegretol, Dilantin, Phenobarbital all decrease Lamictal levels by 40%

Laboratory monitoring:

- None Required