

The Medical Letter®

On Drugs and Therapeutics

Published by The Medical Letter, Inc. • 145 Huguenot Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801 • A Nonprofit Publication

IN THIS ISSUE (starts on next page)

In Brief: Ezogabine (*Potiga*) Toxicity p 96

Important Copyright Message

The Medical Letter® publications are protected by US and international copyright laws. Forwarding, copying or any distribution of this material is prohibited.

Sharing a password with a non-subscriber or otherwise making the contents of this site available to third parties is strictly prohibited.

By accessing and reading the attached content I agree to comply with US and international copyright laws and these terms and conditions of The Medical Letter, Inc.

**For further information click: [Subscriptions, Site Licenses, Reprints](#)
or call customer service at: 800-211-2769**

FORWARDING OR COPYING IS A VIOLATION OF US AND INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT LAWS

The Medical Letter®

On Drugs and Therapeutics

Published by The Medical Letter, Inc. • 145 Huguenot Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801 • A Nonprofit Publication

Volume 55 (Issue 1430)
November 25, 2013

www.medicalletter.org

IN BRIEF

Ezogabine (*Potiga*) Toxicity

The FDA recently announced changes in the labeling of ezogabine (*Potiga* – GSK/Valeant) to warn about the risks of retinal abnormalities, possible vision loss, and bluish skin discoloration, all of which could be permanent.¹

Ezogabine was approved in 2011 for adjunctive treatment of partial-onset seizures in adults.² The FDA first warned about these risks in April 2013.³ At that time, skin discoloration had developed in 38 of an estimated 605 patients (6.3%) who had taken the drug (most for ≥ 2 years) in various studies. Retinal pigment abnormalities were found in 11 of 36 patients who had eye examinations; some of these patients had impaired visual acuity, but baseline visual acuity assessments were not available.

The new label recommends limiting the use of ezogabine to patients who have not responded adequately to several alternative antiepileptic drugs. Patients taking the drug should have a baseline eye exam and follow-up exams every 6 months.

1. FDA Drug Safety Communication: FDA approves label changes for anti-seizure drug Potiga (ezogabine) describing risk of retinal abnormalities, potential vision loss, and skin discoloration. Available at www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm372774.htm. Accessed November 18, 2013.
2. Ezogabine (*Potiga*) for epilepsy. *Med Lett Drugs Ther* 2012; 54:65.
3. FDA Drug Safety Communication: Anti-seizure drug Potiga (ezogabine) linked to retinal abnormalities and blue skin discoloration. Available at www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm349538.htm. Accessed November 18, 2013.

The Medical Letter®

On Drugs and Therapeutics

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Mark Abramowicz, M.D.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Gianna Zuccotti, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., Harvard Medical School

EDITOR: Jean-Marie Pflomm, Pharm.D.

ASSISTANT EDITORS, DRUG INFORMATION: Susan M. Daron, Pharm.D., Corinne Z. Morrison, Pharm.D., Michael P. Viscusi, Pharm.D.

CONSULTING EDITORS: Brinda M. Shah, Pharm.D., F. Peter Swanson, M.D.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:

Carl W. Bazil, M.D., Ph.D., Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Vanessa K. Dalton, M.D., M.P.H., University of Michigan Medical School

Eric J. Epstein, M.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Jane P. Gagliardi, M.D., M.H.S., F.A.C.P. Duke University School of Medicine

Jules Hirsch, M.D., Rockefeller University

David N. Juurlink, BPhm, M.D., Ph.D., Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Richard B. Kim, M.D., University of Western Ontario

Hans Meinertz, M.D., University Hospital, Copenhagen

Sandip K. Mukherjee, M.D., F.A.C.C., Yale School of Medicine

Dan M. Roden, M.D., Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Esperance A.K. Schaefer, M.D., M.P.H., Harvard Medical School

F. Estelle R. Simons, M.D., University of Manitoba

Neal H. Steigbigel, M.D., New York University School of Medicine

Arthur M. F. Yee, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.R., Weill Medical College of Cornell University

SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Amy Faucard

EDITORIAL FELLOW: Jennifer Y. Lin, M.D., Harvard Medical School

MANAGING EDITOR: Susie Wong

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR: Liz Donohue

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR: Cheryl Brown

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SALES: Gene Carbona

FULFILLMENT & SYSTEMS MANAGER: Cristine Romatowski

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS: Joanne F. Valentino

VICE PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER: Yosef Wissner-Levy

Founded in 1959 by

Arthur Kallet and Harold Aaron, M.D.

Copyright and Disclaimer: The Medical Letter is an independent nonprofit organization that provides health care professionals with unbiased drug prescribing recommendations. The editorial process used for its publications relies on a review of published and unpublished literature, with an emphasis on controlled clinical trials, and on the opinions of its consultants. The Medical Letter is supported solely by subscription fees and accepts no advertising, grants or donations. No part of the material may be reproduced or transmitted by any process in whole or in part without prior permission in writing. The editors do not warrant that all the material in this publication is accurate and complete in every respect. The editors shall not be held responsible for any damage resulting from any error, inaccuracy or omission.

Subscription Services

Mailing Address:

The Medical Letter, Inc.
145 Huguenot St. Ste. 312
New Rochelle, NY 10801-7537

Customer Service:

Call: 800-211-2769 or 914-235-0500
Fax: 914-632-1733
Web Site: www.medicalletter.org
E-mail: custserv@medicalletter.org

Permissions:

To reproduce any portion of this issue, please e-mail your request to: permissions@medicalletter.org

Subscriptions (US):

1 year - \$98; 2 years - \$189;
3 years - \$279. \$49.00 per year for students, interns, residents and fellows in the US and Canada.

E-mail site license inquiries to:

info@medicalletter.org or call 800-211-2769 x315.
Special fees for bulk subscriptions. Special classroom rates are available. Back issues are \$12 each. Major credit cards accepted.

Copyright 2013. ISSN 1523-2859

