

Positive results for new seizure medication



The pharmaceutical company UCB has reported positive results after testing two new epilepsy drugs. UCB said its franchise of epilepsy medication would be strengthened by the Phase II clinical data on the two drugs, brivaracetam and seletacetam. UCB hopes to make brivaracetam available before the patent for its current anti-epileptic drug Keppra ends in 2009. Seletacetam, the company says, may take longer to develop. ✂ EPILEPSY ACTION

Topiramate increases risk of kidney stones

Researchers at the University of Southwestern Texas Medical Center have discovered that topiramate, a drug commonly prescribed to treat seizures, can increase the risk of kidney stones. {Topiramate is commonly sold under the brand name Topamax.} 32 people already being treated with topiramate and 50 other volunteers enrolled in the study. Their blood and urine were tested for risk of kidney stones. 7 other patients were assessed for risk before taking topiramate and three months afterwards. The researchers found that taking topiramate on a long-term basis – for around a year or more – increased the acidity of urine and lowered the levels of urine citrate, making it easier for kidney stones to form. The study appears in the October issue of the American Journal of Kidney Diseases. ✂ EPILEPSY ACTION



"Need to Work" Keeps Individuals with Uncontrolled Seizures Behind the Wheel



According to researchers from the University of Florida, nearly 1 in 5 people with poorly controlled seizures drive despite the risks, because they consider it the only way they can get to work.

Study co-author Dr. Ramon Bautista, an assistant professor of neurology at the University's College of Medicine, said, "I thought the statistics would be lower

than that and was surprised that so many with poorly controlled epilepsy continue to drive."

"This has always been a problem for epilepsy patients because driving serves both a social and a practical purpose. And if motorists with epilepsy are caught driving when they're not supposed to be, their license can be taken away," he said. "We fail to consider the more practical things – like how they're going to get to work," Bautista said.

"These folks are not bad folks. They're not (driving) because they want to hurt someone. They're doing it because they need to work," he said. The study appears in the current issue of *Epilepsy & Behavior*.

In Kansas, state law requires a person who has experienced a seizure, to be seizure free for 6 months before they can legally resume driving. ✂ EPILEPSY ACTION



BRAIN STORMS:
Bringing Epilepsy
Stigma out of
the Shadows



Via Christi CEO, Larry Schumacher, addressed the impact of epilepsy in the community.



Dr. Liow with Kansas Epilepsy professionals and patient advocates.

Adult Epilepsy Support Group

Meets Second Tuesday of Month, 6:30 PM • 2919 W. 2nd Street, Wichita

Nov. 8th: "Stress & Seizure Triggers"
Dec. 12th: ERC Lights TOUR & Dinner


 and



host a monthly luncheon
 presentation on
VNS Therapy®
 11:30 - 12:30
Third Wednesday of the month
RSVP is required to attend. (316) 268-8562
 Via Christi St. Francis Hospital in Wichita

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Holiday Lights TOUR
December 12th
5:30 PM

