

Innovative Parkinson's therapy now available for patients with late-stage disease

There is a new alternative for sufferers of the later stages of Parkinson's disease. With the European approval of Neupro® (rotigotine transdermal patch) as an adjuvant to levodopa therapy, late-stage Parkinson's patients in the UK now have access to this novel therapy.

Developed by SCHWARZ PHARMA, Neupro® provides stable plasma concentrations



of rotigotine, a new and effective dopamine agonist. The elimination of the peaks and troughs associated with traditional oral dopaminergic therapy is thought to produce continuous stimulation of the dopamine receptors in the brain. This steady state may translate into reductions in disruptive 'on-off' fluctuations associated with long-term levodopa administration in late-

stage Parkinson's patients.

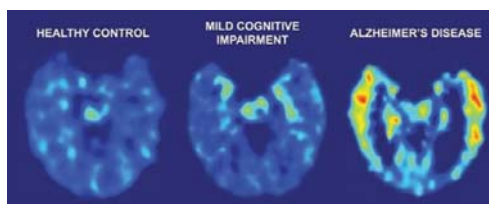
In more than 20 clinical trials, more than 2000 patients with early or advanced Parkinson's disease have been treated with Neupro®. Following the UK launch of Neupro® in April 2006, many Parkinson's patients have experienced the symptom control and ease of administration provided by the once-daily dopamine agonist patch.

For further information on Neupro®, please contact Fiona Eggleston, Tel: +44 (0)20 8326 3135, Email: fiona.eggleston@chameleon-uk.com

Siemens and UCLA researchers get FDA 'green light' for clinical study of Alzheimer's-specific imaging agent

Siemens Medical Solutions has announced that it will begin clinical trials for a breakthrough imaging biomarker that could potentially identify Alzheimer's disease prior to the onset of noticeable symptoms.

Siemens will collaborate with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to launch the study, which will employ a new diagnostic technique that combines a new imaging biomarker and positron emission tomography (PET) to identify Alzheimer's disease pathology specifically.



"With this imaging biomarker, we may not only have better early diagnosis of the disease but also the possibility of treating people to

delay the onset of symptoms," said Dr. Gary Small, Researcher, Professor of Psychiatry and Bio-behavioural Sciences, UCLA and co-inventor of the biomarker.

After the Phase I study, depending on its outcome, the company will initiate a larger multi-centre clinical trial.

Further information can be found at: Siemens Medical Solutions, Tel: +44 (0)1344 396000, Email: medmarketing.med.gb@siemens.com Web: www.siemens.co.uk/medical

Innovative Siemens system provides new views of blood vessels, tissue and organs

Siemens has introduced the AXIOM Artis dBA Twin biplane radiography system, its latest imaging system for universal angiography and neuroradiology. Together with the new flat detector technology and syngo DynaCT software, the system delivers unique acquisitions thanks to its extremely high contrast and soft tissue differentiation. The flexible system enables fast display of anatomy in two planes, and also supports the physician's workflow through programmable detector positioning and intelligent collision protection.

With the optional syngo DynaCT, Axiom Artis dBA Twin achieves soft tissue differentiation comparable to computed tomography



(CT) acquisitions. As a result, intracranial bleeding can be detected faster and brain tissue can be displayed in greater detail than ever before.

Physicians using the latest version of syngo DynaCT receive clinically relevant results within one minute, supporting therapy decision-making without subjecting the patient to an additional CT or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) examination.

For further information about Siemens, Tel: +44 (0)1344 396000, Email: medmarketing.med.gb@siemens.com Web: www.siemens.co.uk/medical and www.siemens.com/DynaCT

Epilepsy Action campaigns to save epilepsy specialist nurses

Epilepsy Action is campaigning to save the jobs of the many epilepsy specialist nurses who have been threatened with redundancy, reduced working hours, or spending less time on specialist duties due to cuts in NHS funding.

Epilepsy Action has written to its members and local MPs in areas where there is a threat to epilepsy specialist nurses, asking them to write to local health trusts requesting that they review these changes. They have also generat-



ed publicity through the media and a number of MPs have asked questions in Parliament.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Epilepsy met on 4 December 2006 to discuss

the threats to specialist nurses. An Early Day Motion (number 541) has been tabled in Parliament to gather signatures from MPs who support the issue. Healthcare professionals can support the campaign by contacting their local MP to request that they sign the Early Day Motion.

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