

## Guidelines, outcomes, cost effectiveness and valproate

There are a number of different treatment options for patients with epilepsy and there has been much debate about the most appropriate medicine. NICE recommends treatment with the older antiepileptic drugs such as sodium valproate or carbamazepine initially unless there are particular reasons why they may be considered unsuitable. More recent studies such as SANAD confirm good outcomes from the use of sodium valproate and its cost effectiveness.

Although valproate is an inexpensive option there can be considerable differences in price between different formulations and this has been accentuated by price increases of 20% to Epilim Chrono and Epilim Syrup in February 2008. The prices of Episenta have not increased and according to Beacon Pharmaceuticals are now 35% less than Chrono and 50% less than the syrup.

For more information T. 01892-600930.



## Nikon extends its diagnostics portfolio to include sample preparation

Nikon Instruments Europe and SLEE Medical GmbH have announced an agreement for a distribution partnership that appoints Nikon as the official European distributor of SLEE's pathology specimen preparation equipment. Nikon will distribute the full range of SLEE's precision-made instruments and consumables to the clinical market, including hospitals and academic medical centres within Europe.

Welcoming the new agreement, Peter Drent, General Manager, Biosciences at Nikon Instruments Europe said, "There is a synergy between us, making this an ideal partnership. SLEE has over 50 years' heritage in offering high quality instruments for histopathology sample preparation. Starting with the development of the first ever cryostat, SLEE has gained a reputation in this area for technological innovation and precision. With over 90 years' heritage, Nikon pioneers microscopy technology, using its advanced technologies to develop innovative imaging solutions. By offering these instruments alongside Nikon's microscopes and digital cameras, we are now able to offer the clinical laboratory the complete pathology solution."

For more information contact Nikon Instruments Europe, E. [info@nikoninstruments.eu](mailto:info@nikoninstruments.eu)  
[www.nikoninstruments.eu/slee](http://www.nikoninstruments.eu/slee)



## Invitrogen receives approval from Health Canada for system to help determine organ transplant compatibility

Invitrogen, a division of Life Technologies Corporation, has announced that its DynaChip® HLA Antibody Analysis System has received approval from Health Canada's Medical Device Bureau for the detection and identification of antibodies to human leukocyte antigen (HLA) markers, which is an essential step in determining the compatibility of organ donors.

HLA markers are proteins found on the surface of certain cells in the body. They are used by the body's immune system to identify material that is foreign, such as viruses or bacteria. HLA antibody identification is important for organ transplant donor-recipient matching because, in the case of organ donation, a patient's immune system may fight cells from the donor, causing organ failure or rejection.

The DynaChip HLA Antibody Analysis System, which received US Food and Drug Administration clearance in 2008, is the only automated chip-based system for HLA antibody detection and identification. It consists of the following three parts:

- The DynaChip Processor, which automates assay processing, including dispensing, incubation and washing to image detection and results analysis;
- The DynaChip protein array, which allows users to test for multiple antibodies at the same time;
- The DynaChip interpretation software, which provides rapid, efficient and automated analysis.

"Health Canada has joined a growing list of medical agencies that have approved the DynaChip HLA Antibody Analysis System to help make clinical transplant decisions," said Jim Janicki, Head of Clinical Diagnostics for Life Technologies. "This system is an important tool that can help doctors make transplant decisions more quickly and accurately."

For more information see [www.invitrogen.com](http://www.invitrogen.com)

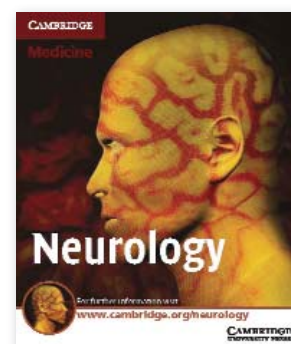
## 20% discount from Cambridge University Press

As the recession begins to bite, Cambridge University Press is offering a 20% discount on their full range of neurology titles to help your money go that bit further.

Just visit [www.cambridge.org/neurology](http://www.cambridge.org/neurology) and take a look at their 2009 catalogue, featuring publications which cover topics in neurology as diverse as dementia and dizziness, to stroke and sleep.

To claim your exclusive discount, just enter promotional code MED09ANCR when you "add to basket". Promotion ends 30th June 2009.

For more information E. [lfinn@cambridge.org](mailto:lfinn@cambridge.org)



If you would your news to feature in ACNR, please contact Rachael Hansford, T. 01747 860168, E. [rachael@acnr.co.uk](mailto:rachael@acnr.co.uk)

## Chelsea and Westminster Hospital enhances stroke services with new CT scanner

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in London has installed a SOMATOM® Definition AS+ CT scanner from Siemens Healthcare. This adaptive imaging solution is the first to be installed into a National Health Service hospital and is currently being used for a wide range of procedures as well as supporting the cardiac and stroke related services.

The new scanner is situated in a back-to-back CT suite that also contains a Siemens SOMATOM Definition AS. This setup has increased staffing efficiency whilst giving a greater degree of scanning flexibility. Whilst the AS+ is used in stroke imaging and cardiology, the AS has been equipped with an interventional modality for radiofrequency ablation and



The SOMATOM Definition AS at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. (Left to right): Alan Kaye, Radiology Services Manager, Gary Cook, Siemens Regional Sales Manager, Simon Padley, Consultant Radiologist, Olivia Egan, CT Superintendent Radiographer, Dan Gibbons, Siemens CT systems Applications Specialist.

oncology work. By having two adaptable CTs in place, patients can quickly be transferred from Accident and Emergency (A&E) for instant diagnostic scans on the AS+ whilst routine imaging needs are dealt with by the AS.

Chelsea and Westminster also offers a hyper acute stroke service for thrombolysis on the AS+. With its 'Adaptive 4D Spiral', this system goes beyond structural information to provide details on function. By providing whole organ coverage in 4D for stroke perfusion, clinicians can assess the complete picture instead of preselecting a narrow section to evaluate for perfusion defects.

For more information T. 01276 696317,  
E. [mike.bell@siemens.com](mailto:mike.bell@siemens.com)  
[www.siemens.co.uk/healthcare](http://www.siemens.co.uk/healthcare)

## Elekta delivers advanced 3D brain mapping tool for research

Elekta Neuromag, the world-leading equipment for non-invasive measurement of brain activity using magnetoencephalography (MEG) technology has been ordered by the Moscow Municipal University of Psychology and Education (Moscow, Russia) and the University of Trento (Trento, Italy).

MEG is a powerful tool for studying normal brain function and brain disorders. Elekta Neuromag is the world's most advanced and most used MEG system, providing real-time mapping of brain activity by non-invasively measuring the magnetic fields produced by the brain. Electrical activity in neurons in the brain produce magnetic fields that pass through brain tissue and the skull, which can then be recorded outside the head using Elekta Neuromag.

The first whole-head MEG in Russia, neuroscientists and those in related fields at the Moscow Municipal University of Psychology and Education, plan to use Elekta Neuromag for clinically oriented research applications, such as



autism in children. The University also plans to employ MEG technology for cognitive neuroscience and neuropsychology research such as the study of human emotion and brain abnormalities.

Dedicated to brain and cognitive neuroscience research, a large group of researchers at the University of Trento's Center of Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMeC) plan to use Elekta Neuromag to explore various fields of neuroscience such as sensory processing, attention and action control, language, formation of concepts and cognitive development.

For further information see [www.elekta.com](http://www.elekta.com)

## Fast FRET! Image capture at two wavelengths simultaneously

Faster, simpler imaging of cellular events is now possible as Nikon's Eclipse Ti Series inverted microscopes can capture images at two different wavelengths simultaneously, using dual cameras. Accelerating image acquisition while maintaining full frame resolution, the system is ideal for FRET and the capture of rapid dynamic cellular events using calcium or other ion-targeted probes, ratio probes, dual emission ratiometric dyes etc.

The two cameras are positioned on the Eclipse Ti's back and side ports. Perfect registration between the two cameras is assured on installation to ensure that no information is lost during imaging. No further realignment or specialised alignment software is required. Even when the intensity difference between wavelengths is large, high-quality images can be captured by adjusting camera sensitivity for each wavelength.



Nikon has partnered with Andor to offer their full range of high-performance iXon+ and Luca EMCCD cameras. The IxonEM+ 897 back-illuminated EMCCD camera offers high sensitivity, low noise and rapid frame rates giving distinct speed advantages in FRET applications. The cameras are optimised for use with Nikon's dedicated NIS-Elements software for image capture, processing and analysis. Unified integrated control of microscope and cameras offers significant benefits for cutting-edge live cell research. NIS-Elements C for confocal microscope applications includes FRET analysis software as standard.

For more information contact  
Nikon Instruments Europe,  
E. [info@nikoninstruments.eu](mailto:info@nikoninstruments.eu)  
[www.nikoninstruments.eu/ti/](http://www.nikoninstruments.eu/ti/)

## Revolutionary treatment option offers new hope to Russian cancer patients

Two of Russia's leading research centers, The Meshalkin Research Institute of Circulation Pathology (NRIBCP, Novosibirsk, Russia) and the Herten Moscow Oncology Research Institute (MORI, Moscow, Russia), have purchased Elekta Axesse systems which will, for the first time in Russia, allow clinicians to treat cancer tumours throughout the body with ultra-high precision while minimising damage to surrounding healthy tissue.

"Elekta Axesse will help us to build one of the most advanced cancer centres in Russia," says Professor Alexander M. Karaskov, Director of the Meshalkin

Research Institute. "The system combines speed and accuracy with the ability to target tumours throughout the body."

Elekta Axesse will be delivered with the latest technology, Elekta VMAT (Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy), which enables faster treatment time and more accurate targeting of the dose. Herten MORI will be the first clinic in Russia to provide this technology to patients.

For further information  
E. rolf.kjellstrom@elekta.com



## Point-of-care ultrasound hits the mark for orthopaedics



The latest point-of-care ultrasound technology from SonoSite has been chosen for its easy portability and excellent image quality by consultant orthopaedic surgeon Harry Brownlow, at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading, to help in the diagnosis and treatment of a whole range of shoulder and elbow injuries.

"I have used ultrasound for several years and was just bowled over by how good the images from SonoSite's M-Turbo system are compared to those from similar systems," explained Mr Brownlow. "I routinely work at different hospital sites so it is important for me to have a light, truly portable system that is easy to carry round and is, at the same time, robust enough to withstand any knocks or bumps. With the M-Turbo system I can also export images onto USB which is really important for me." He added, "My anaesthetist colleagues frequently borrow the system to guide nerve blocks and they are achieving excellent results."

Mr Brownlow said, "If you can show a patient exactly what's going on, it gives them a great deal of confidence in my abilities and the diagnosis I'm giving. It often saves on the need for MRI scans and is also great for guiding needles for injections."

For more information about SonoSite products contact Alexander House, 40A Wilbury Way, Hitchin SG4 0AP. T. 01462 444 800, F. 01462 444 801, E. europe@sonosite.com www.sonosite.com

## National Guidelines for botulinum toxin in the management of adult spasticity

New national guidelines are available to provide clinicians with the knowledge and tools to use botulinum toxin in the management of spasticity. Produced with the assistance of an educational grant from Ipsen Ltd and published by the Royal College of Physicians, the guidelines entitled 'Spasticity in Adults: Management using Botulinum Toxin: National Guidelines' are aimed at doctors and health professionals involved in the management of spasticity, and also the providers and purchasers of rehabilitation services.

Commenting on the new guidelines, Professor Lynne Turner-Stokes, the chair and lead editor said "A substantial evidence-base exists for the overall effectiveness of botulinum toxin in the treatment of spasticity. It is important to use it correctly and these updated guidelines detail patient



selection, the establishment of clear goals for treatment and appropriate follow-up therapy - all essential for successful intervention."

Botulinum toxin should only be injected by clinicians experienced in the diagnosis and management of spasticity.

The mainstay of spasticity management is stretching and correct positioning. Botulinum toxin should therefore not be used in isolation, but as

part of a co-ordinated multidisciplinary approach involving physical handling and therapy to achieve the desired effect.

For copies of 'Spasticity in Adults: Management using Botulinum Toxin: National Guidelines' T. 01753 627609, E. access.coordinator@ipson.com

## VIMPAT<sup>▼</sup> (lacosamide), given SMC approval

UCB's new treatment for epilepsy has been accepted for use in Scotland by the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) for adults with partial onset seizures, as an add-on to patients' current therapy. All NHS health boards in Scotland will now consider the SMC's advice and ensure that this new treatment is made available where there is a clinical need. The SMC advise use in patients with refractory epilepsy.

The efficacy of VIMPAT<sup>▼</sup> as adjunctive therapy at recommended doses (200 mg/day, 400 mg/day) was established in 3 multicentre, randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trials with a 12-week maintenance period. Overall the proportion of patients with a 50% reduction in seizure frequency was 23%, 34%, and 40% for placebo, Vimpat 200 mg/day and 400 mg/day, respectively. In addition, results from an open-label extension

study demonstrate long-term retention; of the 370 patients enrolled, 77% were still taking Vimpat after one year.

Between, 20,000 – 40,000 adults in Scotland have epilepsy. In the UK, it is estimated that around a third of people with epilepsy still experience seizures despite treatment with these medications. Commenting on the SMC approval, Dr. John Paul Leach, Southern General Hospital, Glasgow said, "This acceptance by the SMC means that specialists have another therapeutic choice to offer those patients in Scotland not achieving adequate seizure control."

For further information contact Dr Ian Weatherhead, T. 01753 447 950, E. ian.weatherhead@ucb-group