Adverse Event	amlodipine M=% (N=1218)	amlodipine F=% (N=512)	Placebo M=% (N=914)	Placebo F=% (N=336)
Edema	5.6	14.6	1.4	5.1
Flushing	1.5	4.5	0.3	0.9
Palpitations	1.4	3.3	0.9	0.9
Somnolence	1.3	1.6	0.8	0.3

The following events occurred in ≤1% but >0.1% of patients treated with amlodipine in controlled clinical trials or under conditions of open trials or marketing experience where a causal relationship is uncertain; they are listed to alert the physician to a possible relationship: **Cardiovascular:** arrhythmia (including ventricular tachycardia and atrial fibrillation), bradycardia, chest pain, hypotension, peripheral ischemia, syncope, tachycardia, postural dizziness, postural hypotension, vasculitis. **Central and Peripheral Nervous System:** hypoesthesia, neuropathy peripheral, paresthesia, tremor, vertigo. **Gastrointestinal:** anorexia, constipation, dyspepsia,** dysphagia, diarrhea, flatulence, pancreatitis, vomiting, gingival hyperplasia. **General:** allergic reaction, asthenia,** back pain, hot flushes, malaise, pain, rigors, weight gain, weight decrease. **Musculoskeletal System:** arthralgia, arthrosis, muscle cramps,** myalgia. **Psychiatric:** sexual dysfunction (male** and female), insomnia, nervousness, depression, abnormal dreams, anxiety, depersonalization. **Respiratory System:** dyspnea,** epistaxis. **Skin and Appendages:** angioedema, erythema multiforme, pruritus,** rash,** rash erythematous, rash maculopapular. **Special Senses:** abnormal vision, conjunctivitis, diplopia, eye pain, tinnitus. **Urinary System:** micturition frequency, micturition disorder, nocturia. **Autonomic Nervous System:** dry mouth, sweating increased. **Metabolic and Nutritional:** hyperglycemia, thirst. **Hemopoietic:** leukopenia, purpura, thrombocytopenia. The following events occurred in ≤0.1% of patients treated with amlodipine in controlled clinical trials or under conditions of open trials or marketing experience: cardiac failure, pulse irregularity, extrasystoles, skin discoloration, urticaria, skin dryness, alopecia, dermatitis, muscle weakness, twitching, ataxia, hypertonia, migraine, cold and clammy skin, apathy, agitation, amnesia, gastritis, increased appetite, loose stools, coughing, rhinitis, dysuria, polyuria, parosmia, taste perversion, abnormal visual accommodation, and xerophthalmia. Other reactions occurred sporadically and cannot be distinguished from medications or concurrent disease states such as myocardial infarction and angina. Amlodipine therapy has not been associated with clinically significant changes in routine laboratory tests. No clinically relevant changes were noted in serum potassium, serum glucose, total triglycerides, total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, uric acid, blood urea nitrogen, or creatinine. The following postmarketing event has been reported infrequently with amlodipine treatment where a causal relationship is uncertain: gynecomastia. In postmarketing experience, jaundice and hepatic enzyme elevations (mostly consistent with cholestasis or hepatitis) in some cases severe enough to require hospitalization have been reported in association with use of amlodipine. Amlodipine has been used safely in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, well-compensated congestive heart failure, peripheral vascular disease, diabetes mellitus, and abnormal lipid profiles. **The Atorvastatin Component of CADUET:** Atorvastatin is generally well-tolerated. Adverse reactions have usually been mild and transient. In controlled clinical studies of 2502 patients, <2% of patients were discontinued due to adverse experiences attributable to atorvastatin calcium. The most frequent adverse events thought to be related to atorvastatin calcium were constipation, flatulence, dyspepsia, and abdominal pain. Clinical Adverse Experiences: Adverse experiences reported in ≥2% of patients in placebo-controlled clinical studies of atorvastatin, regardless of causality assessment, are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Adverse Events in Placebo-Controlled Studies (% of Patients)

Body System/ Adverse Event	Placebo N=270	atorvastatin 10 mg N=863	atorvastatin 20 mg N=36	atorvastatin 40 mg N=79	atorvastatin 80 mg N=94
BODY AS A WHOLE					
Infection	10.0	10.3	2.8	10.1	7.4
Headache	7.0	5.4	16.7	2.5	6.4
Accidental Injury	3.7	4.2	0.0	1.3	3.2
Flu Syndrome	1.9	2.2	0.0	2.5	3.2
Abdominal Pain	0.7	2.8	0.0	3.8	2.1
Back Pain	3.0	2.8	0.0	3.8	1.1
Allergic Reaction	2.6	0.9	2.8	1.3	0.0
Asthenia	1.9	2.2	0.0	3.8	0.0
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM					
Constipation	1.8	2.1	0.0	2.5	1.1
Diarrhea	1.5	2.7	0.0	3.8	5.3
Dyspepsia	4.1	2.3	2.8	1.3	2.1
Flatulence	3.3	2.1	2.8	1.3	1.1
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM					
Sinusitis	2.6	2.8	0.0	2.5	6.4
Pharyngitis	1.5	2.5	0.0	1.3	2.1
SKIN AND APPENDAGES					
Rash	0.7	3.9	2.8	3.8	1.1
MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM					
Arthralgia	1.5	2.0	0.0	5.1	0.0
Myalgia	1.1	3.2	5.6	1.3	0.0

Anglo-Scandinavian Cardiac Outcomes Trial (ASCOT): In ASCOT involving 10,305 participants treated with atorvastatin 10 mg daily (n=5,168) or placebo (n=5,137), the safety and tolerability profile of the group treated with atorvastatin was comparable to that of the group treated with placebo during a median of 3.3 years of follow-up. The following adverse events were reported, regardless of causality assessment, in patients treated with atorvastatin in clinical trials. The events in italics occurred in ≥2% of patients and the events in plain type occurred in <2% of patients. **Body as a Whole:** *Chest pain*, face edema, fever, neck rigidity, malaise, photosensitivity reaction, generalized edema. **Digestive System:** *Nausea*, gastroenteritis, liver function tests abnormal, colitis, vomiting, gastritis, dry mouth, rectal hemorrhage, esophagitis, eructation, glossitis, mouth ulceration, anorexia, increased appetite, stomatitis, biliary pain, cheilitis, duodenal ulcer, dysphagia, enteritis, melena, gum hemorrhage, stomach ulcer, tenesmus, ulcerative stomatitis, hepatitis, pancreatitis, cholestatic jaundice. **Respiratory System:** *Bronchitis, rhinitis*, pneumonia, dyspnea, asthma, epistaxis. **Nervous System:** *Insomnia, dizziness*, paresthesia, somnolence, amnesia, abnormal dreams, libido decreased, emotional lability, incoordination, peripheral neuropathy, torticollis, facial paralysis, hyperkinesia, depression, hypesthesia, hypertonia. **Musculoskeletal System:** *Arthritis*, leg cramps, bursitis, tenosynovitis, myasthenia, tendinous contracture, myositis. **Skin and Appendages:** Pruritus, contact dermatitis, alopecia, dry skin, sweating, acne, urticaria, eczema, seborrhea, skin ulcer. **Urogenital System:** *Urinary tract infection*, urinary frequency, cystitis, hematuria, impotence, dysuria, kidney calculus, nocturia, epididymitis, fibrocystic breast, vaginal hemorrhage, albuminuria, breast enlargement, metrorrhagia, nephritis, urinary incontinence, urinary retention, urinary urgency, abnormal ejaculation, uterine hemorrhage. **Special Senses:** Amblyopia, tinnitus, dry eyes, refraction disorder, eye hemorrhage, deafness, glaucoma, parosmia, taste loss, taste perversion. **Cardiovascular System:** Palpitation, vasodilatation, syncope, migraine, postural hypotension, phlebitis, arrhythmia, angina pectoris, hypertension. **Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders:** *Peripheral edema*, hyperglycemia, creatine phosphokinase increased, gout, weight gain, hypoglycemia. **Hemic and Lymphatic System:** Ecchymosis, anemia, lymphadenopathy, thrombocytopenia, petechia. ***Postintroduction Reports with Atorvastatin:*** Adverse events associated with atorvastatin therapy reported since market introduction, that are not listed above, regardless of causality assessment, include the following: anaphylaxis, angioneurotic edema, bullous rashes (including erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, and toxic epidermal necrolysis), and rhabdomyolysis. ***Pediatric Patients (ages 10-17 years):*** In a 26-week controlled study in boys and postmenarchal girls (n=140), the safety and tolerability profile of atorvastatin 10 to 20 mg daily was generally similar to that of placebo (see **PRECAUTIONS, Pediatric Use**).

OVERDOSAGE: There is no information on overdosage with CADUET in humans. **Information on Amlodipine:** Single oral doses of amlodipine maleate equivalent to 40 mg amlodipine/kg and 100 mg amlodipine/kg in mice and rats, respectively, caused deaths. Single oral amlodipine maleate doses equivalent to 4 or more mg amlodipine/kg in dogs (11 or more times the maximum recommended clinical dose on a mg/m² basis) caused a marked peripheral vasodilation and hypotension. Overdosage might be expected to cause excessive peripheral vasodilation with marked hypotension and possibly a reflex tachycardia. In humans, experience with intentional overdosage of amlodipine is limited. Reports of intentional overdosage include a patient who ingested 250 mg and was asymptomatic and was not hospitalized; another (120 mg) was hospitalized, underwent gastric lavage and remained normotensive; the third (105 mg) was hospitalized and had hypotension (90/50 mmHg) which normalized following plasma expansion. A patient who took 70 mg amlodipine and an unknown quantity of benzodiazepine in a suicide attempt developed shock which was refractory to treatment and died the following day with abnormally high benzodiazepine plasma concentration. A case of accidental drug overdose has been documented in a 19-month-old male who ingested 30 mg amlodipine (about 2 mg/kg). During the emergency room presentation, vital signs were stable with no evidence of hypotension, but a heart rate of 180 bpm. Ipecac was administered 3.5 hours after ingestion and on subsequent observation (overnight) no sequelae were noted. If massive overdose should occur, active cardiac and respiratory monitoring should be instituted. Frequent blood pressure measurements are essential. Should hypotension occur, cardiovascular support including elevation of the extremities and the judicious administration of fluids should be initiated. If hypotension remains unresponsive to these conservative measures, administration of vasopressors (such as phenylephrine) should be considered with attention to circulating volume and urine output. Intravenous calcium gluconate may help to reverse the effects of calcium entry blockade. As amlodipine is highly protein bound, hemodialysis is not likely to be of benefit. **Information on Atorvastatin:** There is no specific treatment for atorvastatin overdosage. In the event of an overdose, the patient should be treated symptomatically, and supportive measures instituted as required. Due to extensive drug binding to plasma proteins, hemodialysis is not expected to significantly enhance atorvastatin clearance.

*Based on patient weight of 50 kg.

**These events occurred in less than 1% in placebo-controlled trials, but the incidence of these side effects was between 1% and 2% in all multiple dose studies.

℞ **only**

Manufactured by:
Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals
Dublin, Ireland

Distributed by:
Pfizer Labs
Division of Pfizer Inc., NY, NY 10017

Rev. 1 October 2004

Antidepressant Use Dropped 10% in Youth

BY CHRISTINE KILGORE
Contributing Writer

A recently reported 10% decline in the percentage of children and adolescents taking antidepressants last year is alarming but not surprising, given all the controversy and publicity leading up to the Food and Drug Administration's black box requirement for these drugs, leading experts say.

What is surprising, they say, is the finding that psychiatrists as well as primary care physicians might be writing fewer prescriptions.

The data were released last month by the pharmacy benefit manager Medco Health Systems Inc. Medco reported that antidepressant prescriptions for patients younger than 18 years fell 10% in 2004 after rising by almost the same percentage in 2003.

The steepest declines occurred in the second half of 2004, Medco said. In the third quarter, prescription use fell more than 19% from a year earlier. In the fourth quarter, prescription use fell by 16% from a year earlier.

'We looked at both primary care physicians and psychiatric specialists, and we saw no difference in the drop-off rate [in prescribing].'

Medco did not break down use patterns among specific antidepressants or diagnoses, nor did it release data on use by prescribing physicians. However, "we looked at both primary care physicians and psychiatric specialists, and we saw no difference in the drop-off rate [in prescribing]," said Ann Smith, a spokesperson for the company, which manages drug benefits for about 60 million Americans. "We're looking more at that [trend]."

The drop in antidepressant use among patients of primary care physicians is likely a physician-driven trend, but the drop among patients of psychiatrists is more likely a result of parents' concern, sources said.

"If that's the case [that psychiatrists are prescribing less], then that indicates to me that there's greater concern among parents… It's a result of the scare that has gone through the community and the misinterpretation that there's an increase in suicide [with use of the drugs]," said Darrel Regier, M.D., director of research for the American Psychiatric Association.

Like Dr. Regier, David Fassler, M.D., an American Medical Association delegate to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, said he was surprised by Medco's report of cross-specialty declines.

"It was my impression that most of the change is taking place among [family physicians] and [pediatricians], both from my experience locally and from talking with physicians anecdotally," said Dr. Fassler, also with the University of Vermont, Burlington.

Indeed, said Lynn Wegner, M.D., who chairs the American Academy of Pediatrics' section on developmental and behavioral pediatrics, said, "I think we've tapped into a segment of doctors who were uncomfortable [with prescribing the drugs], anyway. I think the [physicians] who have stopped are those who were leery to begin with or in very litigious areas."

When the FDA announced last October its requirement for antidepressant labels to carry a black box warning about the risks of suicidal behavior, the APA immediately issued a statement of concern that the warning would have "a chilling effect on appropriate prescribing" for patients.

As expected, "this is a very significant change in prescribing patterns over a relatively short period of time," Dr. Fassler said.

Just as alarming as the data from Medco, sources said, are anecdotal reports that primary care doctors renewing their malpractice insurance policies are being asked whether they prescribe antidepressants and are being told that they face higher premiums if they answer yes.

The APA has received such reports, Dr. Regier said, and "we're afraid this will have an additional chilling effect" on prescribing these drugs.

Adelaide Robb, M.D., medical director of inpatient psychiatry at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, said she has also heard of prescribers being told that their malpractice insurance premiums will rise.

Add this problem to primary care physicians' "feeling that they're not trained to handle suicidal ideation," as well as the difficulty in complying with FDA recommendations for monitoring patients on antidepressants, and "I'm afraid the suicide rates will rise," Dr. Robb said.

"New patients are going without care. It's getting harder and harder to see someone," she said. "In our area, many pediatricians are now reluctant to initiate antidepressant drug treatment, whether for depression or other disorders. They're also reluctant to take stable patients."

Dr. Regier said health insurers and managed behavioral health companies in particular "are going to have to loosen some of their restrictions on psychiatric disorder management" so that physicians can follow the FDA's guidelines for patient monitoring.

The black box says, "patients who are started on therapy should be observed closely for clinical worsening, suicidality, or unusual changes in behavior."

Dr. Regier said the APA hopes to learn more about "which groups of patients are most affected" by the declining prescriptions trend, and why.

In the next few months, the APA will also evaluate use of its Web site, www.ParentsMedGuide.org. The site was launched recently with other organizations to provide information for parents of children and adolescents with depression, Dr. Regier said. ■