## Ideas Raised for Softening the Stress of Medicine

BY PATRICE WENDLING

Chicago Bureau

TUCSON, ARIZ. — Medicine is a highrisk profession for psychiatric morbidities. But several strategies can help reduce the risk of hitting bottom, Dan Shapiro, Ph.D., said at a psychopharmacology conference sponsored by the University of Arizona.

'Physicians are like big ships," said Dr. Shapiro, a psychologist at the university who specializes in treating physicians. "By the time you can see that they are sinking, it's too late.'

One of his more radical solutions is the creation of a no-fault malpractice system in which physicians would be granted nofault judgments in exchange for disclosing mistakes. Physicians and patients would share the cost of reimbursing injured patients by contributing to a shared local fund. Serious mistakes would be voluntarily reported to a local commission, which would also have the duty of compensating injured patients according to preestablished guidelines. State boards would investigate physicians and nurses who failed to come forward.

The system would improve the dismal rate of medical error reporting and address one of the biggest stresses for physicians. "Many physicians who are defendants say that being sued was the worst experience of their life," said Dr. Shapiro, who is also an author and cancer survivor. Being lied about in court or characterized as an uncaring, negligent physician is emotionally traumatic to physicians. For those who did cause harm, the scars can last for years. His efforts to treat one such physician are detailed in his book "Delivering Doctor Amelia."

Medical errors are a common topic when Dr. Shapiro asks physicians to take 15 minutes to write openly and honestly to a patient about something left unresolved. The patient need not be living, and the letter is never sent. Most physicians start writing immediately, about 10% have trouble getting started, and 5% ultimately never write a letter. The letters are read aloud, which can be

**Studies note 80%** of physicians have worked while ill and 52% have selfprescribed—and they visit their doctors one-fourth as often as the national average.

cathartic for a group of people who in large part have been competing rather than relating with peers since school.

When a few excerpts were shared at this conference, the audience went silent and tearful faces filled

the room. The mood lifted only when a letter was read addressed to "Dear fibromyalgia patients" and when an audience member asked whether such a letter could be addressed to an administrator.

Other suggestions from Dr. Shapiro included improving the work environment and improving physician self-care, typically by reducing hours, increasing sleep and exercise, and improving diets. Hospitals often bring in experts to discuss the symptoms of depression and stress. But the key is to address the problem of self-care where it starts-in residency, he said. Administrators and staff should model and demand self-care among residents, and give up the "hazing" model of training. At Arizona, for example, residents in family practice are being asked to establish self-care goals that are followed for compliance.

Part of the problem is that physicians celebrate self-denial instead of self-care, said Dr. Shapiro, who recalled a physician patient who started their session by remarking that he had had to use the restroom for the past 6 hours, but hadn't. "I told him, 'Go pee. That will be more therapeutic than anything I'll do for you in my lifetime.' "Studies have shown that 80% of physicians worked when they were ill, that 52% prescribed for themselves, and that they visited their own doctors at a rate equal to one-fourth the national average.

The results of unchecked emotional exhaustion and depression on the medical profession can be devastating, as evidenced by the reported higher rate of suicide among physicians, compared with the general population. A metaanalysis reported an aggregated suicide rate ratio for male physicians, compared with the general population, of 1.41 and a ratio of 2.27 for female physicians (Am. J. Psychiatry 2004;161:2295-302). Single women physicians without social support seemed to be most at risk, he said.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Consult the Full Prescribing Information for complete product information.

ADDERALL XR\* CAPSULES

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CIT Rx'
AMPHETAMINES HAVE A HIGH POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE, ADMINISTRATION OF AMPHETAMINES FOR PROLONG
PERIODS OF TIME MAY LEAD TO DRUG DEPENDENCE, PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE POSSIBILI
OF SUBJECTS DBTAINING AMPHETAMINES FOR NON-THERAPEUTIC USE OR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHERS AND THE DRU
SHOULD BE PRESCRIBED OR DISPENSED SPARINGLY.
MISUSE OF AMPHETAMINE MAY CAUSE SUDDEN DEATH AND SERIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR ADVERSE EVENTS.

INDICATIONS
ADDERALL XR® is indicated for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).
The efficacy of ADDERALL XR® in the treatment of ADHD was established on the basis of two controlled trials in children aged 6 to 12 one controlled trial in adolescents aged 13 to 17, and one controlled trial in adults who met DSM-IV® criteria for ADHD, along with extrapolation from the known efficacy of ADDERALL®, the immediate-release formulation of this substance.
Advanced arteriosclaresic suppressed in activities.

WARNINGS
Serious Cardiovascular Events
Sudden Death and Pre-existing Structural Cardiac Abnormalities or Other Serious Heart Problems
Children and Adolescents
Sudden Death and Pre-existing Structural Cardiac Abnormalities or Other Serious Heart Problems
Children and Adolescents
Sudden death has been reported in association with CNS stimulant treatment at usual doses in children and adolesce
structural cardiac abnormalities or other serious heart problems. Although some serious heart problems alone carry an in
risk of sudden death, stimulant products generally should not be used in children or adolescents with known serious st
cardiac abnormalities, cardiomyopathy, serious heart rhythm abnormalities, or other serious cardiac problems that may
them at increased vulnerability to the sympathomimetic effects of a stimulant drug (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).
Adults

In deaths, stroke, and myocardial infarction have been reported in adults taking stimulant drugs at usual doses for ADHD. In the role of stimulants in these adult cases is also unknown, adults have a greater likelihood than children of having serious ral cardiac abnormalities, cardiomyopathy, serious heart rhythm abnormalities, coronary artery disease, or other serious car-bolbems. Adults with such abnormalities should also generally not be treated with stimulant drugs (see CONTRAINDICATIONS), ension and other Cardiovascular Conditions and medications cause a modest increase in average blood pressure (about 2-4 mmHg) and average heart rate (about m) [see ADVERSE EVENTS], and individuals may have larger increases. While the mean changes alone would not be

pm) [see ADVERSE EVENTS] and individuals may have larger increases. While the mean changes alone would not be ted to have short-term consequences, all patients should be monitored for larger changes in heart rate (about une. Caution is indicated in treating patients whose underlying medical conditions might be compromised by uses in blood pressure or heart rate and blood wases in blood pressure or heart rate and, those with me-existing hypertension, heart failure, recent myocardial rition, or ventricular arriythmia (see CONTRAINDICATIONS). Sing Cardiovascular Satus in Patients being treated with Simulant Medications ren, adolescents, or adults who are being considered for treatment with stimulant medications should have a careful y (including assessment for a family history of sudden death or ventricular arrhythmia) and physical exam to assess for resence of cardiac disease, and should receive further cardiac evaluation if findings suggest such disease, and should receive further cardiac evaluation if findings suggest such disease, and should receive further cardiac evaluation if findings suggest such disease, and should supplement of the properties of the propert

onitored for the appearance of or worsening of aggressive behavior or hostility.

Ing-Term Suppression of Growth in children ages 7 to 10 years who were randomized to either methylphenidate or nor-medication treatment groups over 14 months, as well as in naturalistic subgroups of newly methylphenidate-treated and nor-medication treatment groups over 14 months, as well as in naturalistic subgroups of newly methylphenidate-treated and nor-medication treatment or 7 days per week throughout the year) have a temporary slowing in growth rate (on average, atol of about cm less growth in height and 2.7 kg less growth in weight over 3 years), without evidence of growth rebound during this riod of development. In a controlled trial of ADDEFALL XFR in adolescents, mean weight change from baseline within the tital 4 weeks of therapy was -1.1 lbs. And -2.8 lbs., respectively, for patients receiving 10 mg and 20 mg ADDEFALL XFR in the first of the proper associated with greater weight loss within the initial 4 weeks of treatment. Published data and adequate to termine whether chronic use of amphetamines may cause a similar suppression of growth, however, it is anticipated that they il likely have this effect as well. Therefore, growth should be monitored during treatment with stimulants, and patients who enot growing or gaining weight as expected may need to have their treatment interrupted.

will likely have this effect as the second of the second o patients with prior Eco adverse. In the presence of seizures, the coop and the composition of EEG evidence of seizures. In the presence of seizures, the coop and the composition and blurring of vision have been reported with stimulant treatment.

proximately 2.4, 1.5, and 0.8 times, respectively, the maximum recommended human dose of 30 mg/day [child] on a mg/m² dyd surface area basis.

nphetamine, in the enantiomer ratio present in ADDERALL® (immediate-release) [d- to I- ratio of 3.1), was not clastogenic on enouse bone marrow micronucleus test in vivo and was negative when tested in the E. colf component of the Ames test in tro. d.I-Amphetamine (1.1 enantiomer ratio) has been reported to produce a positive responses in the Meme arrow micronucleus test, and equative responses in the marrow ratio change and chromosomal aberration assays.

mphetamine, in the enantiomer ratio present in ADDERALL® (immediate-release) (d- to I- ratio of 3:1), did not adversely affect ratify or early embryonic development in the rat at doses of up to 20 mg/kg/day (approximately 5 times the maximum commended human dose of 30 mg/day on a mg/m² body surface area basis).

genancy: Pregnancy Category C. Amphetamine, in the enantiomer ratio present in ADDERALL® (d- to I- ratio of 3:1), had no parent effects on embryofetal morphological development or survival when orally administered to pregnant rats and rabbits roughout the period of organogenesis at doses of up to 6 and 16 mg/kg/day, respectively. These doses are approximately at a maximum recommended human dose of 30 mg/day (child) on a mg/m² body surface area basis. Lat maiformions and death have been reported in mice following parenterial administration of d-amphetamine doses of regnance for the pregnant mass, and the prognant interest of studies in rodents indicate that prenatal or early postnatal exposure to amphetamine (d- or d.I-), at doses similar to ose used clinically, can result in long-term neurochemical and behavioral alterations. Reported behavioral effects include arming and memory deficits, altered locomotor activity, and changes in sexual function.

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. There has been one report of severe congenital bony deformity, tracheo-esophageal fistula, and anal atresia (vater association) in a baby born to a woman who took dextroampher amine sulfate with lovastatin during the first trimester of pregnancy. Amphetamines should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

\*\*Nonteratogenic Effects: Infants born to mothers dependent on amphetamines have an increased risk of premature delivery and low birth weight. Also, these infants may experience symptoms of withdrawal as demonstrated by dysphoria, including agitation, and significant lassitude.

\*\*Usage in Nursing Mothers:\*\* Amphetamines are excreted in human milk. Mothers taking amphetamines should be advised to refrain from nursion.

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Pediafric Use: ADDERALY R\* is indicated for use in children 6 years of age and older.

Use in Children Under Six Years of Age: Effects of ADDERALL XR\* in 3-5 year olds have not been studied. Long-term effects of amphetamines in children have not been well established. Amphetamines are not recommended for use in children under 3 years of age.

Gerätric Use: ADDERALL XR\* has not been studied in the geriatric population.

ADVERSE EVENTS

Hypertension: [See WARNINGS section] In a controlled 4-week outpatient clinical study of adolescents with ADHD, isolated systolic blood pressure ≥ 6 mmHg were observed in 764 (11%) placebo-treated patients and 77/100 (7%) patients receiving ADDERALL XR\* 10 or 20 mg. Isolated elevations in diastolic blood pressure ≥ 6 mmHg were observed in 1664 (25%) placebo-treated patients and 227/100 (22%) ADDERALL XR\* 1 treated patients. Similar results were observed in 1664 (25%) placebo-treated patients and 227/100 (22%) ADDERALL XR\* 1 treated patients. Similar results were observed in 1664 (25%) placebo-treated patients and 227/100 (27%) ADDERALL XR\* 1 treated patients. Similar results were observed at higher does in a single-dose pharmacokinetic study in 23 adolescents, isolated increases in systolic blood pressure (above the upper 95% of 1 or age, gender and stature) were observed in 27/17 (12%) and 82/3 (35%), subjects administered 10 mg and 20 mg ADDERALL XR\*, respectively. Higher single doses were associated with a greater increase in systolic blood pressure. All nurceases were transient, appeared maximal at 2 to 4 hours post dose and not associated with symptoms. The premarketing development program for ADDERALL XR\* included exposures in a total of 13/5 participants in clinical trials (35 pediatric patients, 350 adolescent patients, 248 adult patients, 28 behalthy adult subjects). Of these, 635 patients (ages 6 to 12) were evaluated in two controll

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Adverse event	% of pediatric patients discontinuing (n=595)		
Anorexia (loss of appetite) Insomnia Weight loss Emotional lability Depression	2.9 1.5 1.2 1.0 0.7		

Body System	Preferred Term	ADDERALL XR® (n=374)	Placebo (n=210)
General	Abdominal Pain (stomachache)	14%	10%
	Accidental Injury	3%	2%
	Asthenia (fatigue)	2%	0%
	Fever	5%	2%
	Infection	4%	2%
	Viral Infection	2%	0%
Digestive	Loss of Appetite	22%	2%
System	Diarrhea	2%	1%
•	Dyspepsia	2%	1%
	Nausea	5%	3%
	Vomiting	7%	4%
Nervous System	Dizziness	2%	0%
	Emotional Lability	9%	2%
	Insomnia	17%	2%
	Nervousness	6%	2%
Metabolic/Nutritional	Weight Loss	4%	0%

Table 2 Adverse Events Reported by 5% or more of Adolescents Weighing ≤ 75 kg/165 lbs Receiving ADDERALL XR® with Higher Incidence Than Placebo in a 287 Patient Clinical Forced Weekly-Dose Titration Study*					
Body System	Preferred Term	ADDERALL XR® (n=233)	Placebo (n=54)		
General	Abdominal Pain (stomachache)	11%	2%		
Digestive System	Loss of Appetite b	36%	2%		
Nervous System	Insomnia <sup>b</sup> Nervousness	12% 6%	4% 6%ª		
Metabolic/Nutritional	Weight Loss b	9%	0%		

*Included doses up to 40 mg					
Table 3 Adverse Events Reported by 5% or More of Adults Receiving ADDERALL XR® with Higher Incidence Than on Placebo in a 255 Patient Clinical Forced Weekly-Dose Titration Study*					
Body System	Preferred Term	ADDERALL XR® (n=191)	Placebo (n=64)		
General	Asthenia Headache	6% 26%	5% 13%		
Digestive System	Loss of Appetite Diarrhea Dry Mouth Nausea	33% 6% 35% 8%	3% 0% 5% 3%		
Nervous System	Agitation Anxiety Dizziness Insomnia	8% 8% 7% 27%	5% 5% 0% 13%		
Cardiovascular System	Tachycardia	6%	3%		
Metabolic/Nutritional	Weight Loss	11%	0%		
Urogenital System	Urinary Tract Infectio	n 5%	0%		

ote: The following events did not meet the criterion for inclusion in Table 3 but were ported by 2% to 4% of adult patients receiving ADDERALL XR® with a higher inci-nce than patients receiving placebo in this study: infection, photosensitivity reaction, reclipation to do disorder employed by this light decreased and applications to the complete of the complete