

Our committee as a whole rejected the concept that amphetamines should be used as a form of maintenance therapy for the treatment of amphetamines dependence. In this regard there was thought to be a problem regarding separation of the diagnosis of "dependence" against "dependence with depression" in view of the fact that withdrawal of amphetamines almost invariably cause a period of rebound depression.

It was agreed that in virtually every diagnosis for which amphetamines are indicated the drug is adjunctive to other measures. Although gentleman your present interest concerns the use of amphetamines and amphetamine derived drugs as anti-obesity agents, it may interest you to know that our committee attempted to carry out a systematic review of the medical literature, and within this discussed a number of conditions in addition to obesity where some authorities have recommended the use of amphetamines.

For example our committee was of the opinion that the use of amphetamines for neuromuscular disorders was unjustified. Hypothalamic or post traumatic brain syndrome which is, at best, an ill-defined condition may on very rare occasions be an indication for amphetamines. The condition however is sufficiently rare in Canada, that it was a unanimous opinion of our committee not to include it as an approved indication.

Reports of idiopathic edema which proved responsive to amphetamines engendered considerable skepticism on the part of our members. While the committee was unanimous in believing that there was no rationale for this use, it is recognized that there have been a few anecdotal accounts of improvement in idiopathic edema after empirical use of amphetamines. Whether there is any specific pharmacological reason for this, or it is simply the result of increased physical mobility was quite unclear. We agreed that this condition should not be added to the list of approved medical conditions for which amphetamines are indicated, but remain a condition for which special authority from time to time could perhaps be given.