

American physicians as useful to increase weight, appetite, and strength. Such indications are not listed in PDR.

What is disclosed in PDR is the risk of such adverse reactions as stunting the growth of children, jaundice, interference with normal sexual development in children, and undesirable sexual changes in adults. Few of these are disclosed in Mexico and Brazil, still fewer in Central America, and none in Colombia and Ecuador.

TRANQUILIZERS

Among the so-called major or antipsychotic tranquilizers included in our study were Sandoz's Mellaril and SKF's Stelazine. As with other drug classes, the approved indications for use are few in the United States and numerous in Latin America. Among the indications not approved in this country but listed for the Sandoz product in Central America is use of the drug for the treatment of children with behavioral disorders, hostility reactions, inability to adapt in school, insomnia, sleep walking, bed-wetting, and nail-biting. Many adverse reactions for Mellaril are disclosed in the United States, a few in Mexico, but none in Central America, Colombia, or Ecuador.

In the case of Stelazine, physicians in the United States are warned of the risk of the development of tardive dyskinesia—a disorder marked by involuntary movements of the lips, tongue, hands, fingers, and feet. Speech may be seriously affected, the face distorted, and maintenance of body position impossible. In some patients, the condition may become irreversible. No effective treatment is known.

In the promotion of Stelazine, the danger of this development is disclosed to physicians in the United States. It is not listed in the reference works in Mexico, Central America, or Brazil. In fact, no adverse reactions are listed for Stelazine in the Central American countries or Brazil.

ANTIDEPRESSANTS

With the antidepressants, the story is the same—rigorously limited indications for use in the United States, with full disclosure of hazards. The reverse is obvious in Latin America—many recommendations, but few hazards disclosed. This holds for Ciba-Geigy's Tofranil and Lakeside's Norpramin. In the case of Lilly's Aventyl, however, indications for use are limited in both the United States and Mexico, and the disclosure of hazards is similar in the two countries.

With Warner-Chilcott's Nardil, a member of the particularly dangerous group of MAO-inhibitor antidepressants, a long list of contraindications, warnings, and adverse reactions is disclosed to physicians in the United States, only relatively minor dangers are noted in Mexico, and none is disclosed in the Central American countries.

ANTICONVULSANTS

Our last group includes three anticonvulsants widely used for the control of epilepsy. One is diphenylhydantoin, or phenytoin, marketed by Parke-Davis as Dilantin and by McKesson as Kessodantin. The promotion of the Parke-Davis product discloses only a few hazards in Mexico, fewer still in Colombia and Ecuador, and none in Central America. Only one warning is presented for the McKesson product in