

15454 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

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.