MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

DATE:

APR 3 0 1991

FROM:

Medical Officer, HFD-733

TO:

Director, Division of OTC Drug Evaluation, HFD-210

THROUGH: Acting Director, Division of Epidemiology and Surveillance, HFD-730

SUBJECT:

Epidemiologic review of phenylpropanolamine safety issues

INTRODUCTION

This memo responds to your request for epidemiologic review of phenylpropanolamine (PPA) safety issues, particularly cerebrovascular accidents and hypertensive episodes reported in association with PPA ingestion.

The primary focus of this review is reporting of adverse drug experience (ADE) to the FDA Spontaneous Reporting System (SRS) and in the medical literature. Limitations of clinical trials and observational cohort studies for assessing PPA safety will also be considered.

Studies from Poison Control Centers and the Drug Abuse Warning Network¹, will not be addressed in this memo because ADE reporting more specifically addresses the possibility of toxicity in individuals who have taken a drug. PCC and DAWN data reflect more on the availability of substances³, and on trends in substance abuse⁴, than on issues of drug toxicity and misuse amongst persons taking drugs for their intended effects.

When evaluating spontaneous reports, there is no single drug or drug group that is ideally suited for comparison with diet products containing PPA. Cough/cold products containing PPA usually include an antihistamine, antitussive, or other agent, and reporting patterns for these combination products may reflect in part the presence of non-PPA ingredients. In recognition of this limitation, spontaneous reporting of cerebrovascular accidents in association with PPA has been studied through three approaches: (1) review of all SRS CVA reports for PPA-diet and PPA-cough/cold drugs, (2) comparison of SRS CVA reporting for PPA-diet, PPA-cough/cold, and all other (non-PPA containing) drugs reported to the SRS and (3) review of all direct reports of CVA received by the SRS since 1977 to identify the most frequently suspected agents. As a final consideration, (4) the expected number of hemorrhagic CVAs in PPA-diet pill users on the first day of diet-pill use by chance alone has been estimated.

METHODS

(1) Review of SRS CVA reports for PPA-diet and PPA-cough/cold products

In the first approach, the Spontaneous Reporting System (SRS) was initially screened for all possible reports of cerebrovascular accident wherein a product containing PPA was listed as the suspect drug. The following costarts were used to identify possible cases of CVA: cerebrovasc accid, cerebrovasc dis, emb carotid, emb cerebr, headache vasc, hem cerebr, hem intracran, hem subarachnoid, hemiplegia, infarct cerebr, occlus carotid, throm carotid, throm cerebr, and throm cerebr art. Domestic spontaneous reports from health professionals only were included in this search; thus study, literature, foreign, and consumer reports were excluded. Reports solicited by a 1983 questionnaire from the Center for Science in the Public Interest were also excluded since they represent 'stimulated' rather than 'spontaneous' reporting. After this initial screen, possible CVA cases were manually reviewed to remove duplicate reports and to confirm that the reported diagnosis had been correctly coded. Reports of CVA were further classified according to whether the suspect product was a PPA-cough/cold, PPA-diet or lookalike agent. Look-alike drugs are illicit stimulants containing a variety of OTC ingredients including PPA, caffeine and others. Reports of adverse reactions associated with a look-alike product were excluded from analysis and will be summarized separately. Amongst CVA reports, the type of CVA was classified as hemorrhagic if the report specified subarachnoid hemorrhage, intracerebral bleed, bloody (nontraumatic LP) or xanthochromic CSF, or if CAT scan or autopsy results confirmed cerebral bleeding.

The age, sex, and year of reporting of the PPA-associated CVA cases defined the search criteria for identifying non-CVA reports in the SRS. The search criteria for all non-CVA reports was restricted to reports of women between the ages of 10-59 years that were received between 1977 and January 1991, since this reflected the age and sex distribution of the CVA cases.

Hypertensive reactions (without CVA) were selected as a second outcome of interest. Amongst the non-CVA reports, hypertension cases were identified by the reporter's impression of significantly elevated blood pressure.

(2) Comparison of SRS CVA reporting for PPA-diet, PPA-cough/cold, and all other drugs

In the second analysis, the proportion of CVA reports among all direct adverse experience reports was calculated and compared for: (1) PPA-diet products, (2) PPA-cough/cold products and (3) all other (non-PPA) drugs reported to the SRS for women aged 10-59 years, from 1977 through January 1991. This was done by dividing the number of CVA reports by the total number of reports (for all adverse events) for each of the three drug categories. Direct reports, (i.e., reports mailed to the FDA by health professionals vs. the manufacturer), were used in this analysis to control for possible differences in individual manufacturer's reporting practices and for differences in reporting requirements for products covered by an NDA compared to those not covered. Calculation of these proportions used computer generated estimates of the number of CVA and non-CVA reports for each drug category. Computer generated frequencies were used for all three categories of products for this comparison only



because it was not feasible to screen the non-PPA, non-CVA reports manually for duplicates, due to the large number of reports involved. All other analyses on diet and cough/cold products reflect <u>unduplicated</u> manually reviewed reports.

Subsequent to the above analysis, all adverse event reports for PPA-diet and PPAcough/cold drugs for women aged 10-59 years, from 1977 through January 1991, were manually reviewed and categorized according to type of adverse event. Adverse event-specific reporting proportions were calculated in the manner previously noted, by dividing the number of reports for each event by the total number of reports for that product. For example, the proportion of CVA reporting for PPA-diet drugs equalled the number of CVA reports divided by the total number of PPA-diet reports (with all reports having been manually reviewed). This proportion would have differed slightly from the proportion calculated with computer-generated frequencies because of removal of duplicate and miscoded reports. The proportions of CVA reporting were compared for PPA-diet and PPA-cough/cold drugs. To test the hypothesis of no difference in the CVA reporting proportions of PPA-diet and PPA-cough/cold drugs, a chi-square test of significance (two-tailed) was calculated. A Fisher's exact test was calculated when an expected cell value was less than 5.5 In further analyses, odds ratios of the probability of CVA reports vs. other reports, for PPA-diet vs. PPA-cough/cold drugs were computed. Unlike a chi-square statistic, strata-specific odds ratios can be weighted and summarized to control for possible confounding variables, such as patient age, source of report, and year of report. For these analyses, possible confounding was controlled by a Mantel-Haenszel odds ratio⁶ to adjust individually for each of these variables.

(3) Review of all direct SRS CVA Reports since 1977

In this analysis, <u>all</u> direct reports of CVA for women aged 10-59 years and received between 1977 and January 1991 were individually reviewed to exclude duplication and confirm the appropriateness of coding. The frequency of CVA by suspect drug category was then tabulated.

(4) Estimation of the expected number of hemorrhagic CVAs in PPA-diet pill uses by chance

The annual expected number of hemorrhagic CVAs in PPA-diet pill users on the first day of PPA-diet pill use, by chance, is the product of (a) the annual number of diet-pill users, (b) the annual incidence of hemorrhagic CVA, and (c) the probability of the hemorrhagic CVA occurring on any one day out of the year. The FDA does not have access to the marketing data of the annual number of new PPA-diet pill consumers; thus a literature estimate for the annual number of PPA-diet pill users has been used. It has been assumed that there are ten million PPA-diet users/year⁸ and that the annual incidence of hemorrhage stroke is 1 event/10,000 person-years (table 8). The median length of a course of PPA-diet pills is assumed to be 16 days⁷, although the expected number of first day events is not dependent on the length of the course.



(5) Estimation of PPA-Product Use

Use of PPA-containing cough/cold and diet products was estimated from the U.S. Pharmaceutical Market - Drug Stores (USD) and Hospitals (USH). The USD projects national estimates of purchases by pharmacies from the paid invoices of a panel of almost 840 drug stores and a near census of wholesalers and chain warehouses. The USH projects national estimates of drug purchases by nonfederal acute care and psychiatric hospitals with data collected from a panel of 380 hospitals and a near census of wholesalers. An important limitation of this database is that the USD data does not represent sales of OTC drugs through supermarkets, mail-order or other unaudited channels and thus are liable to seriously underestimate total national sales. An underlying assumption in the use of these databases is that trends in purchasing of drugs are reflective of trends in general regardless of the type of outlet.

The National Disease and Therapeutic Index (NDTT) was used to estimate usage of PPA-cough/cold drugs by women, as a percentage of all PPA-cough/cold PPA "mentions". NDTI collects data from a panel of 2100 office-based private physicians, and "mentions" reflect a prescribed, recommended, or administered drug. Again, it is assumed that trends in the use of drugs by these physicians are reflective of trends in general.

RESULTS

(1) Review of SRS CVA reports for PPA-diet and PPA-cough/cold products

Twenty-nine domestic spontaneous reports of CVA with a PPA-containing product (excluding look-alikes) have been reported to the FDA since 1969, the beginning of the computerized reporting system (table 1). Nineteen cases (19/29 or 65.5%) were reported in association with a PPA-diet product, and ten (10/29 or 34.5%) with a PPA-cough/cold product. Amongst CVA reports with PPA-diet pills, 18/19 (94.7%) occurred in women. The ages of the 18 women ranged from 16-59 years, with a mean of 31.8 years (median 27 years). Only one PPA-diet pill case was reported in a man, aged 40 years (patient 13). Of the 10 reports of CVA with a PPA-cough/cold product, the patient was female in 7 cases (70%), and male in three cases (30%). The women ranged in age from 14-59 years, with a mean of 34 years (median 35). The two men wherein age was specified were 46 and 55 years. The type of stroke was hemorrhagic in 16/19 (84.2%) of reports associated with PPA-diet pills and 6/10 (60%) with PPA-cough/cold pills.

When duration of use was specified, the CVA occurred after the first dose in 9/17 (53%) instances for PPA-diet product reports, and in 7/9 (77.8%) in PPA-cough/cold product reports. The dose preceding the reaction exceeded the recommended dose of one capsule in 12/18 (66.7%) reports with PPA-diet products, and 4/9 (44.4%) with PPA-cough/cold products (in the 24 reports with dose specified). The time to onset of the CVA was specified in 6 cases of PPA-diet pill users as being 1 hour (1 report), 1-2 hours (1 report), 2 hours (2 report) and within 3 hours (2 reports) of the ingestion. Time to onset was noted in only 1 report of a PPA-cough/cold product as 12 hours. Concomitant medication (Nardil^R) was implicated in 2/19 reports with PPA-diet products (10.5%) and 1/10 (10%) reports with PPA-cough/cold products. Other substances or medications which may have been factors were present in one case report



in a PPA-diet pill user (illicit substance abuse, patient 17) and in one case report of a PPA-cough/cold product user (oral contraceptive, patient 21). Two case reports with PPA-cough/cold products were potentially confounded by other explanations for the adverse event, specifically a recent radiocontrast procedure (patient 20), and history of a brain tumor (patient 23). Diagnosis of a CVA was confirmed by CAT scan, surgery and/or autopsy in 20 cases, and lumbar puncture in 2 of the remaining 9 cases. Two cases in PPA-diet pill users (2/19, 10.5%) and five cases in PPA-cough/cold users (5/10, 50%) had no documentation of radiological or anatomical (autopsy) evaluation. Documentation that aneurysm or arteriovenous malformation (AVM) was excluded as a predisposing factor by angiogram or autopsy was noted in 18/29 (62%) cases. Only one case, a PPA-cough/cold user, was found to have an AVM at surgery (patient 27).

Physicians were the reporting health professional in all but one instance (a PPA-cough/cold case). All PPA-diet cases were reported directly to the FDA in contrast to only 3/10 (30%) of PPA-cough/cold cases. The remaining seven were reported by the manufacturer, a difference which is likely ascribable to reporting requirements for manufacturers holding an NDA. A single physician reported 3 cases associated with PPA-diet pill use (patients 2,9, and 14) and one case with PPA-cough/cold use (patient 21). Another individual physician reported two cases in association with PPA-diet pill use (patients 8 and 10). All other cases came from unique reporters.

There were 7 reports of adverse reactions which occurred in women aged 10-59 years after having taken *look-alikes*. The specific reactions were stroke (1 report), seizure (1 report), and fatal overdose (5 reports).

(2) Comparison of SRS CVA reporting for PPA-diet, PPA-cough/cold, and all other drugs

CVA in women aged 10-59 years is an adverse event reported rarely in association with any drug, accounting for less than 1% of all direct or manufacturers' SRS reports for this age and sex group from 1977 through January 1991 (table 2). As noted previously, ADEs for PPA-diet products were reported directly almost exclusively. Although the data in Table 2 could not be verified by manual review because of the large number of direct non-CVA, non-PPA reports, the difference in CVA reporting proportions between PPA-containing and non-PPA containing products is striking.

In contrast to the rarity of overall SRS reporting of CVA for women aged 10-59 years amongst all drugs (<1%), CVA was the single most commonly reported event (18/51 reports, or 35.3%) for PPA-diet products, and represented 7/120 (5.8%) of all PPA-cough/cold ADEs (table 3). CVA cases were a significantly larger proportion of PPA-diet reports than of PPA-cough/cold products (P < 0.001) and adjusting individually for patient age, year and source of report did not alter the association. Table 4 shows the observed reporting frequencies for CVA, hypertension and all other adverse events, compared to the frequencies expected under the null hypothesis of no difference in reporting proportions by drug type.

Since adjustment of the number of CVA reports for total reporting (reporting proportions) could be influenced by the effects of non-PPA ingredients in PPA-cough/cold products, relative usage is another way to adjust the reporting frequencies. Reporting rates (the number of reports divided by the number of prescriptions for that drug) are commonly used to adjust the frequency



of reporting for drug use but can not be calculated for OTC drugs. Purchases of extended units (kilograms) of PPA-containing drugs were used as an index of relative use. Unadjusted for use, the ratio of PPA-diet to PPA-cough/cold CVA reports was 18:7 or 2.6 for women aged 10-59 years, from 1977 through January 1991; the ratio was considerably higher, 18:3 or 6:1 when only direct reports were considered. If PPA-diet and PPA-cough/cold drugs were used by women at the same rate, one would have expected a similar number of reports for each type of drug. Total kilogram purchases (both sexes) of PPA-containing products sold through drug, discount, and proprietary stores, and through hospitals are indicated in figure 1. The relative use of PPA-diet and PPA-cough/cold drugs is estimated to be approximately 1:1.8 -1:4.2. If one assumes that approximately 90% of all PPA-diet products⁸ and 59% of PPA-cough/cold products⁹ are used by women, the ratio of PPA-diet:PPA-cough/cold use is reduced to approximately 1:1.2 - 1:2.7 in women. Therefore, differences in use of PPA-diet and PPA-cough/cold drugs amongst women does not explain the higher frequency of reporting with PPA-diet products.

Hypertension (without stroke) was the second most commonly reported reaction amongst PPA-diet reports (9/51 or 17.6%). Amongst PPA-cough/cold reports, hypertension accounted for 9.2% (11/120) of all reports. When stroke reports were excluded from the denominator, the adjusted frequencies were 9/33 (27.3% of PPA-diet non-CVA reports) and 11/113 (9.7% of PPA-cough/cold non-CVA reports).

(3) Review of all direct SRS CVA Reports since 1977

When all direct CVA reports from health professionals were manually reviewed, the most frequently reported suspect drugs were PPA-containing diet products (table 5).

(4) Estimation of the expected number of hemorrhagic CVAs in PPA-diet pill users by chance

Table 6 shows a calculation of the annual number of hemorrhagic strokes in PPA-diet pill users that would be expected to occur by chance on the first day of PPA-diet pill use. Fewer than 3 cases/year of a hemorrhagic CVA on the first day of PPA-diet pill use would be expected to occur by chance alone (i.e., assuming that there is no association between PPA-diet pills and hemorrhagic CVA).

DISCUSSION

There are several interesting features of the PPA-diet and PPA-cough/cold CVA reports, such as patient demographic characteristics and prior medical history, and the dose and duration of PPA-use. Young age and female gender were the primary demographic features of the reported patients; 10 of PPA-diet and 3 of PPA-cough/cold CVA reports were of women under the age of 30. The age and sex distribution of CVA reports is consistent with the expected usage of PPA-containing drugs.

Dose appeared to be a common risk factor for CVA independent of the type of PPA product. The dose exceeded labelled recommendations in two-thirds of CVAs associated with PPA-diet pill use and in slightly less than half of CVAs associated with PPA-cough/cold use.

This information suggests that exceeding the recommended dose may increase the risk of a CVA with any PPA-product. Stroke followed the first dose in half of PPA-diet pill cases and in over three-fourths of PPA-cough/cold cases, an observation which is consistent with tolerance to the pressor effects of PPA with repeated dosing.

Amongst CVA reports, predisposing factors were infrequently noted and the majority of patients had uncomplicated past medical histories. Concomitant medication or past medical history, when noted, (for example, MAO inhibitor use or hypertension) should be considered as a possible synergistic factor with PPA in addition to being considered as a potential "confounding" factor. Only two patients (of the nineteen reports with documentation of angiogram or autopsy) were found to have predisposing cerebral vascular abnormalities (AVM or aneurysm), making a causal association with the suspect PPA-drug more likely amongst the 17 patients with normal cerebral circulation.

Comparisons of spontaneously reported data between different drugs need to be cautiously interpreted in light of several potential sources of bias. Publicity in the lay and medical press may have influenced the reporting behavior of physicians confronted with an adverse event in a patient using a PPA-product. As an attempt to control for this bias, CVA reporting of PPA-diet products was compared to reporting of PPA-cough/cold products although this comparison would not have eliminated reporting bias if physicians had been more aware of safety issues with PPA-diet products than with PPA-cough/cold products.

Some differences in reporting were apparent between PPA-diet products and PPA-cold/cough products, most notably a higher volume of reporting with the latter. This higher volume may be due to the effects of antihistamine or antitussive agents in PPA-cough/cold combination products, or to differences in reporting requirements for PPA-cough/cold products covered by an NDA. 21 CFR 314.80 requires manufacturers of products with an NDA to report adverse events to the FDA. No similar requirement exists for OTC drugs without an approved NDA, such as PPA-containing diet products. There were no CVA reports from the manufacturers of PPA-diet pills; in contrast 7/10 CVA cases with PPA-cough/cold products were reported by their manufacturers. This suggests that the number of direct PPA-diet CVA reports received by the FDA may be an underestimate of the number of reported CVA events.

Reports of non-CVA adverse events attributed to an antihistamine or antitussive agent in the PPA-cough/cold product could have lowered the CVA proportion of reporting amongst total adverse events. We were unable to stratify our results to control for confounding by combination ingredients because of the infrequent use of PPA as the sole cough/cold drug. As an alternative method to control for possible confounding, the number of CVA reports was adjusted for relative proportions of PPA-diet and PPA-cough/cold use in women. A higher frequency of CVA reporting with PPA-diet pills was noted regardless of whether total ADE reports or relative drug use was used as an adjustment factor.

When comparing adverse event reporting of two drugs, disparities in the initial year of marketing may be a potential source of bias because adverse events may be more frequently reported within the three years after initial marketing.¹¹ This consideration is an unlikely source of bias because both PPA-diet and PPA-cough/cold products were available in various forms prior to the inception of the current computerized SRS in 1969. Reporting of the two types of PPA-products was comparably distributed over the past decade and a half (figure 2b) thus the secular trend toward increased overall spontaneous reporting was excluded as a potential



bias. Figures 2a and 2b contrast the year of CVA with year of reporting to the FDA. The majority of events occurred and were reported during the years from 1981 to 1987. Five CVAs have been associated with PPA-diet pills since 1984 which is the year when caffeine was removed from PPA-diet pills.

The medical literature was reviewed to identify CVA reports associated with PPA-products (table 7). Reports submitted by non-North American authors were excluded from this table because different isomers or higher immediate release doses of PPA may be used in other parts of the world and their associated adverse events may differ from North American experience. CVA reports which had been submitted to the SRS¹², ¹³ and reports associated with look-alike products were also excluded. Thirteen North American published reports of stroke associated with PPA were identified; 10 reports followed use of a PPA-diet pill and 3 followed use of a PPA-cough/cold product. This observation is consistent with the larger number of SRS PPA-diet pill reports of CVA than SRS PPA-cough/cold product reports of CVA. The dose exceeded labelled recommendations in 8 cases. The CVA occurred after the first dose in 6/9 cases in which the author specified duration of use.

Since a similar dose of PPA is contained in many PPA-diet and sustained-release PPAcough/cold products, different risks of CVA according to PPA-product type may seem to be an implausible hypothesis. Differences in the characteristics of PPA-diet pill users may offer one possible explanation for the higher frequency of CVA reporting observed with PPA-diet pills. PPA-diet pills users may be at higher risk of adverse drug events because of their potential for misuse of PPA-products. This hypothesis may explain in part why previous large studies have found no statistically significant association between PPA-cough/cold products and cerebral hemorrhage. 14, 15, 16 The relative risk of adverse outcomes in prescription PPA-cough/cold users was studied using Medicaid and Group Health Cooperative databases. The two studies found no association between PPA-cough/cold use and cerebral hemorrhage; these results are not unexpected and are consistent with our finding of only a small increase in the reporting frequency for CVA associated with PPA-cough/cold products when compared to overall CVA reporting for all non-PPA drugs in the SRS. In addition to possible differences in misuse potential between persons taking PPA-diet vs. PPA-cough/cold products, persons self-medicated with OTC products may differ from those taking medications on the advice of a physician. Further scientific research on this issue is necessary to test these hypotheses. National estimates of the prevalence of diet pill use and misuse, particularly amongst young women, are important areas for future research.

Another way to evaluate the association between PPA-diet pills and hemorrhagic stroke is to compare the observed number of reports of hemorrhagic stroke with the expected number based on the incidence of hemorrhagic stroke in young persons. Fewer than 3 hemorrhagic strokes/year would be expected to occur on the first day of PPA-diet pill use if there were no association between PPA-diet pills and hemorrhagic stroke. The expected number of cases would be further reduced if the population at risk, as suggested by the ADE reports, is a small percentage of all users who exceed the labelled recommendations. The expected number of cases would be further reduced if one assumes that the incidence of hemorrhagic stroke amongst women with normal cerebral circulation (that is, without a predisposing AVM or aneurysm) is lower than 1 event/10,000 person-years. While data on the latter two factors is not available, the number of expected cases based on coincidental exposure appears to be extremely small.

Fewer than 5% of all recognized ADEs are reported to the FDA.¹⁷ Adverse events due to OTC agents may be even less likely to be reported due to lack of reporting requirements for drugs without an approved NDA, and a lower likelihood of inclusion of OTC products in drug histories. One would have to postulate unrealistically high rates of reporting with PPA-diet products to attribute the case reports of stroke to chance alone. In a circumstance analogous to the PPA-diet pill/cerebral hemorrhage issue, Inman and Vessey reported in 1968¹⁸ on the controversy regarding oral contraceptives (OC) and thromboembolic deaths. The number of events expected by chance and the actual number of reports of thromboembolic deaths associated with OC was similar. The hypothesis of lack of association between OCs and thromboembolic deaths. As one feature of their case-control study, they were able to determine that only 15% of thromboembolic deaths in women using OCs had been reported independently to the Committee on Safety of Drugs, despite a large amount of media publicity.

This analysis of reports to the SRS and in the literature suggests that PPA-diet pills increase the risk of CVA, although definitive hypothesis testing of this issue would be difficult. Clinical trials and observational cohort studies are unable to adequately test this hypothesis because of: (1) the required sample size and (2) the difficulty of exposure ascertainment.

The spontaneous rate of hemorrhagic stroke in the population of interest is a major determining factor in estimating the required sample size for a cohort study. Hemorrhagic stroke in young women is a rare event (table 8). Assuming an incidence of 10 events/100,000 person-years, a total sample size of 510,076 persons in a cohort study or clinical trial is necessary to have an 80% chance (power) of detecting a minimum relative risk of 2, at a significance level of P < 0.05. Changing the assumption of incidence to 30 events/100,000 persons-years reduces the total sample size requirement to 169,976 persons.

A second obstacle to (observational) epidemiological studies of OTC agents is exposure ascertainment. Exposure to OTC products, particularly when taken without recommendation by a physician, will not ordinarily be recorded in automated databases.

Thus, while it is not feasible to test the hypothesis of an association between PPA-diet pills and cerebral hemorrhage by clinical trials or cohort studies, a case-control study of cerebral hemorrhage in young women is a possible approach. A prerequisite to the design of a case-control study and sample size calculation is an estimate of diet pill exposure in the population intended for study.

In conclusion, a number of lines of evidence from spontaneous reporting suggest that PPA-containing diet products increase the risk of CVA. While any one of these analyses has methodological limitations when considered alone, the analyses taken together are consistent in their implications. A case-control study of hemorrhagic stroke in young women would be the most feasible approach to test the hypothesis.



Please contact me if I can clarify any issues in this report, or if you wish to review the actual '1639' report forms or any cited references.

Holson

Heidi M. Jolson, M.D., M.P.H.

Epidemiology Branch

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443-2306

Concur:

Branch Chief:

CC:

HFD-100/Temple/Botstein

HFD-110/Lipicky/Dern

HFD-120/Leber/Laughren

HFD-150/Burke

HFD-700/Anello/Johnson

HFD-710/O'Neill

HFD-733/Stadel/Gross/Jolson/File chron, dru 1.7 phenylpropanolamine

HFD-735/Barash

HFD-737/Armstrong/Dreis





Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of patients with cerebrovascular accidents reported in association with PPA-containing products¹, to the Food and Drug Administration, from 1969 through January 1991².

#	Age Sex Year Source	Suspect drug Dose(capsules) Duration	Symptoms and type of CVA	Past medical history	Concomitant medications	Evaluation	Outcome
		R	eports associated	d with diet produc	cts containing PPA		
1	27 F 1977 Direct	Permathene-12 ^R 1 One dose	Left hemiplegia; non- hemorrhagic	*	Nardil ^R	Clear CSF, normal bilateral carotid angiogram	Slight return of function
2	19 F 1978 Direct	Dexatrim ^R 8 (50mg)	Intracerebral hemorrhage	"otherwise healthy"	*	Autopsy: normal vessels - no aneurysm or AVM	Death

¹Milligram content of product is indicated only when it was specified by reporter.

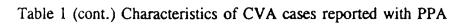
²Year refers to year of event.

^{*} indicated incomplete information on the '1639' reporting form.

Table 1 (cont.) Characteristics of CVA cases reported with PPA

#	Age Sex Year Source	Suspect drug Dose(capsules) Duration	Symptoms and type of CVA	Past medical history	Concomitant medications	Evaluation	Outcome
3	26 F 1981 Direct	Dexatrim ^R 2 One dose	Subarachnoid hemorrhage; BP 200/100	*	*	CSF (X2) 2000 RBCs all tubes, normal protein and glu, xanthochromia; normal bilat carotid and vertebral angiogram	Alive
4	27 F 1981 Direct	Ayds ^R 3 (75mg) one week at a dose of 1/day	Intracerebral hemorrhage 3 hours after dose	Wt 150-160 lbs, ht 63"; No history of hypertension; previously healthy	None	Bloody CSF; CAT scan- large left intracerebral hemorrhage. Autopsy: no congenital vascular malformations: toxicology: "phenylethylamine" in urine and caffeine in blood and urine, neg alcohol	Death





#	Age Sex Year Source	Suspect drug Dose(capsules) Duration	Symptoms and type of CVA	Past medical history	Concomitant medications	Evaluation	Outcome
5	39 F 1981 Direct	Dexatrim ^R "gradually increased dose" 2 weeks	Subarachnoid hemorrhage; BP 180/100	*	None	CAT scan positive; "large amts of PPA recovered from blood and urine"	Death
6	26 F 1982 Direct	Dietac ^R 2 One dose	It hemiplegia; Basal ganglia hemorrhage 2 hrs after dose	None	None	CAT scan positive; angiogram - no AVM or aneurysm	Cran- iotomy; residual hemipleg- ia
7	31 F 1982 Direct	Thinz ^R (25mg) 2 tabs taken 2hr apart 2 days	intracerebral hemorrhage in It parieto- occipital area; BP 150/90	None	None	CAT scan positive; angiogram - no AVM, aneurysm, or tumor	spastic hemipar- esis
8	32 F 1982 Direct	Dexatrim ^R 2 *	Intracranial bleed with hypertension	120 lbs., ht 61"	None	CAT scan; cerebral angiogram	Alive
9	45 F 1982 Direct	Dexatrim ^R 2 (75mg) 1 dose	Intracerebral hemorrhage	Healthy	Nardil ^R , prn Valium ^R	CAT scan - hemorrhage; autopsy with normal vessels, no aneurysm or AVM	Death

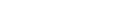


Table 1 (cont.) Characteristics of CVA cases reported with PPA

#	Age Sex Year Source	Suspect drug Dose(capsules) Duration	Symptoms and type of CVA	Past medical history	Concomitant medications	Evaluation	Outcome
10	47 F 1982 Direct	Dexatrim ^R 1 4 days	Intracranial bleed with hypertension	180 lbs., ht 63" hypertension off antihypertensives	None	LP, CAT scan, cerebral angiogram	Alive
11	56 F 1983 Direct	Thera-Trim ^R (75mg) 2 first dose	Bilat intracerebral hemorrhage; BP 140/100	None	None	CAT scan positive	Recovery
12	32 F 1982 Direct	Dexatrim ^R "as directed" 4 days	Occipital stroke causing rt quadrantanop-sia	15 pack-years smoking; toxemia with first pregnancy		"neurologic examination and testing"	Recovery
13	40 M 1984 Direct	Dexatrim ^R 1 1 year	Rt temporal lobe infarct	5-6 cigars/d, otherwise "no other cardiovascular risk factors"	None	*	Residual It arm weakness and It central 7th

Table 1 (cont.) Characteristics of CVA cases reported with PPA

#	Age Sex Year Source	Suspect drug Dose(capsules) Duration	Symptoms and type of CVA	Past medical history	Concomitant medications	Evaluation	Outcome
14	59 F 1984 Direct	Dexatrim ^R 1 (75mg) "chronic"	Intracerebral hemorrhage	Hydrocephalus- 1970 (stable)	None	CSF "bloody", CAT scan - hemorrhage, Agram-beading, no AVM or aneurysm	Alive with disability
15	16 F 1986 Direct	Dexatrim ^R , Acutrim II ^R (mixture) 12 6 weeks	It hemiparesis and homonymous hemianopia; intraparenchymal hematoma and BP 172/108 within 3 hours of dose	134 lb., ht 66"	None	CAT scan - rt posterior parietal intraparenchymal hematoma with mild mass effect	Alive with sequelae
16	20 F 1986 Direct	Dexatrim ^R 6 1 dose	rt hemiparesis, lt parietal hematoma	*	None	CAT scan - It parietal hematoma; cerebral angiography negative	Alive with disability



Table 1 (cont.) Characteristics of CVA cases reported with PPA

#	Age Sex Year Source	Suspect drug Dose(capsules) Duration	Symptoms and type of CVA	Past medical history	Concomitant medications	Evaluation	Outcome
17	22 F 1986 Direct	Dexatrim ^R 2 1 dose	Rt frontal parietal hemorrhage 1-2 hours after dose	Cocaine used 3 weeks prior	alcohol, marijuana	CAT scan - hemorrhage; cerebral angiography negative	Alive
18	23 F 1987 Direct	Dexatrim ES plus vit C ^R (75mg) 4 1 dose	Intracerebral hemorrhage	None	None	CAT scan; 4 vessel angiogram	Alive with sequelae
19	25 F 1987 Direct	Dexatrim ^R 2 1 dose	Subarachnoid hemorrhage 2 hours after ingestion	2 weeks post- partum	*	Bloody CSF; CAT scan - subarachnoid blood; normal angiogram X2	Alive
		Repo	rts associated wi	th cold/cough pro	ducts containing l	PPA	
20	* M 1974 Manuf	Ornade ^R 1 bid 2-3 days	Stroke following vertebral artery angiogram, 12 hours after dose	*	* ·	*	*



Table 1 (cont.) Characteristics of CVA cases reported with PPA

#	Age Sex Year Source	Suspect drug Dose(capsules) Duration	Symptoms and type of CVA	Past medical history	Concomitant medications	Evaluation	Outcome
21	23 F 1981 Direct	Comtrex ^R 2 1 day	Intracerebral hemorrhage, rt hemiparesis	*	ВСР	CAT scan - intracerebral hemorrhage, angiogram- beading, normal on repeat 1 month later; normal ESR, ANA, SPEP	Good recovery
22	55 M 1982 Manuf	Ornade ^k 1 bid 3 days	Stroke causing rt sided partial paralysis	Hypertension	Dyazide ^R , Keflex ^R , Aristocort ^R	CAT scan - cerebral infarct, EEG and cerebral angiogram normal except 1 or 2 small aneurysms but no bleeding.	Returned to work
23	39 F 1984 Manuf	Dimetapp ^R 1 1 dose	Brain hemorrhage	Brain tumor removed 3 years prior	None	*	Alive



Table 1 (cont.) Characteristics of CVA cases reported with PPA

#	Age Sex Year Source	Suspect drug Dose(capsules) Duration	Symptoms and type of CVA	Past medical history	Concomitant medications	Evaluation	Outcome
24	14 F 1984 Direct	Coricidin ^R 11 1 dose	Deep capsular infarct with It hemiplegia	previous suicide attempt with OTC decongestant	None	Normal CAT scan and agram initially; at 1 week deep capsular infarct on CT; drug screen positive for PPA, chlorpheniramine, and ASA (non- toxic)	Alive
25	50 F 1985 Manuf	Contac ^R 1 1 dose	Intracranial hemorrhage	depression	Nardil ^R	*	Alive with residual cognitive deficit
26	59 F 1986 Manuf	Ornade ^R *	Subarachnoid hemorrhage	143 lbs, ht 66"	*	Urine PPA level 156 ng/l (therapeutic range)	Death
27	46 M 1988 Manuf	Tavist-D ^R 1 1 dose	Subarachnoid bleed due to AVM; BP 160/80 from baseline of 90/60	None	None	Surgery	Recovered with residual effects

Table 1 (cont.) Characteristics of CVA cases reported with PPA

#	Age Sex Year Source	Suspect drug Dose(capsules) Duration	Symptoms and type of CVA	Past medical history	Concomitant medications	Evaluation .	Outcome
28	35 F 1989 Manuf	Tavist-D ^R more than 10 1 dose	CVA	*	*	serum PPA level: 1090 ng/ml	Death
29	17 F 1990 Direct	Contac R 6 1 dose	Intracerebral hemorrhage	*	None ·	Autopsy: massive intracerebral hemorrhage	Death

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Table 2. Computer generated frequencies of domestic spontaneous reporting of CVA and all other adverse drug experiences which occurred in women aged 10-59 years, from 1977 through January 1991, according to phenylpropanolamine presence in product and source of report.

	Direct .	Reports	
Product		Adverse event	
	CVA ² (%)	Non-CVA (%)	Total
PPA-Diet	20 (40.8)	29 (59.2)	49
PPA- Cough/cold	4 (5.7)	66 (94.3)	70
All non-PPA	78 (0.5)	14168 (99.5)	14246
Total	102 (0.7)	14263 (99.3)	14365
		·	

Manufacturer Reports **Product** Adverse event CVA (%) Non-CVA (%) Total **PPA-Diet** 0 (0) 3 (100) 3 PPA-4 (5.1) 74 (94.9) 78 Cough/cold All non-PPA 643 (0.9) 72799 (99.1) 73442 Total 647 (0.9) 72876 (99.1) 73523

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¹Duplications were not excluded and the appropriateness of costart terminology was not confirmed for this table due to sample size considerations.

²CVA denotes cerebrovascular accident.



Table 3. Frequency, type and severity of all adverse drug experiences associated with phenylpropanolamine-containing products, in women aged 10-59 years, reported to the FDA Spontaneous Reporting System, from 1977 through January 1991.

Adverse event

Type of PPA-containing product

			AJPC .	OI	Julamin	g produc		
		Cough	/cold	•		D	iet	
	Seve	erity	T	otal	Seve	erity	T	otal
	Fatal	Non- fatal	N	%	Fatal	Non- fatal	N	%
Allergic	1	23	24	20.1	-	1	1	2.0
Anaphylaxis.	1	4	5	4.2	-	-	-	_
Arthralgia	-	3	3	2.5	· -	-	-	-
Rash	-	11	11	9.2	-	-	-	-
Urticaria	-	5	5	4.2	-	1	. 1	2.0
Cardiovascular	1	17	18	15.0	-	12	12	23.5
Arrhythmia	1	4	5	4.2	-	3	3	5.9
Cyanosis	-	1	1	0.8	-	-	-	-
Hypertension	-	11	11	9.2	-	9	9	17.6
Myocardial injury/infarction	-	1	1	0.8	-	*	-	-
Gastrointestinal	1	7	8	6.6	-	1	1	2.0
Gastritis	-	1	1	0.8	-		-	-
Pancreatitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2.0
Perforation	-	1	1	0.8	-	-	-	-
Vomiting and/or diarrhea	-	4	4	3.3	-	-	-	-
Other	1	1	2	1.7	-	-	-	-
_					\			



Table 3. (cont.) Frequency of all adverse drug events associated with PPA

Adverse event

Type of PPA-containing product

		Cough	/cold			D	iet	
	Seve	erity	T	otal	Seve	rity	T	otal
	Fatal	Non- fatal	N	%	Fatal	Non- fatal	N	%
Neurological	3	38	41	34.1	4	17	21	49.0
Cerebrovascular accident	3	4	7	5.8	4	14	18	35.3
Headache	-	4	4	·3.3	-	2	2	3.9
Lethargy	-	6	6	5.0	-	-	-	-
Mental status depression or coma	-	6	6	5.0	-	2	2	3.9
Paresthesia	-	5	5	4.2	-	1	1	2.0
Seizure	-	5	5	4.2	-	2	2	3.9
Syncope	-	4	4	3.3	-	-	-	-
Other	-	4	4	3.3	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmic	-	. 5	5	4.1	-	1	1	2.0
Amaurosis fugax	-	1	1	0.8	-	-	-	•
Diplopia	-	1	1	0.8	-	-	-	-
Iritis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2.0
Visual acuity	-	1	1	0.8	-	-	-	-
Other	-	2	2	1.7	-	-	-	-



Table 3. (cont.) Frequency of all adverse drug events associated with PPA

Adverse event

Type of PPA-containing product

	Cough/cold				Diet			
	Severity		Total		Severity		Total	
•	Fatal	Non- fatal	N	%	Fatal	Non- fatal	N	%
Psychiatric	-	13	13	10.7	-	7	7	13.8
Addiction	-	1	1	0.8	-	1	1	2.0
Aggitation	-	2	2	1.7	-	-	-	-
Anxiety	-	1	1	0.8	-	-	-	-
Depression	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3.9
Emotional lability	-	1	1	0.8	-	•	-	-
Hallucination	-	1	1	0.8	-	1	1	2.0
Mania	-	-	. -	-	-	2	2	3.9
Nervousness NOS	-	7	7	5.8	-	1	1	2.0
Urological	-	3	3	2.5	-	1	1	2.0
Frequency		1	1	0.8	-	-	-	-
Retention	-	2	2	1.7	-	1	1	2.0
Other	-	8	8	6.7	3	-	3	5.9
Total	6	114	120	100	7	44	51	100

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Table 4. Observed and expected frequencies of cerebrovascular accident, hypertension, and other reporting for PPA-containing diet and cough/cold products under the null hypothesis of no difference in SRS reporting patterns by product, for women aged 10-59 years, from 1977 through January 1991.

Observed Frequencies of Reporting								
Product	CVA ¹	Htn²	Other	Total				
PPA-diet	18	9	24	51				
PPA- cough/cold	7	11	102	120				
Total	25	20	126	171				

Expected Frequencies of Reporting							
Product	CVA	Htn	Other	Total			
PPA-diet	7	6	38	51			
PPA- cough/cold	18	14	88	120			
Total	25	20	126	171			

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¹ CVA denotes cerebrovascular accident.

² Htn denotes hypertension.



Table 5. Direct, domestic spontaneous reports¹ of cerebrovascular accidents in women aged 10-59 years received by the FDA, from 1977 through January 1991, according to suspect drug category.

Product Category	Number of reports	% of total reports	
PPA-diet ²	19	26%	
Oral contraceptive	15	20%	
Thrombolytic agent ³	7	10%	
Lactation suppressive4	6	8%	
Chemotherapeutic ⁵	5	7%	
Radiocontrast ⁶	4	5%	
Anticoagulant ⁷	3	4%	
PPA-cough/cold ²	3	4%	
Miscellaneous ⁸	11	15%	
Total direct reports	73	100%	

¹Duplicate reports were excluded from frequency counts. Reports were individually reviewed to confirm appropriateness of diagnosis. Direct reports from health professionals only were included.



²See table 1 for specific product identities.

³Suspect products were Urokinase^R, Streptokinase^R, and Activase^R.

⁴All reports refer to Parlodel^R (bromocriptine).

⁵Multiple chemotherapeutic agents were reported, including Nolvadex^R (tamoxifen).

⁶Suspect agents included Hexabrix^R, Isovue^R, and Pantopaque^R.

⁷Suspect agents included heparin and warfarin.

⁸The following products were each reported once: unspecified diet pill, Provera^R (medroxyprogesterone acetate), Zantac^R (ranitidine), Chymopapain, DDAVP^R (desmopressin acetate), glycerin, Accutane^R (isotretinoin), oxytocin, Parnate^R (tranylcypromine sulfate), Clomipramine^R (anafranil), and pseudoephedrine.

Table 6. Calculation of the expected number of hemorrhagic strokes in PPA-diet pill users on the first day of A-diet pill use, due to chance.

1. In a population of 10,000,000 persons¹ with an annual incidence of hemorrhagic stroke² of 1 event/10,000 person-years, a total of 1000 hemorrhagic strokes/year would be expected to occur.

(10,000,000 persons)(1 stroke/10,000 person-years) = 1000 strokes/year.

2. If each of the 10,000,000 persons took diet pills anytime during a given year, and the average course of diet pill use lasted for 16 days, then 44 hemorrhagic strokes/year would occur by chance during any day of a 16 day course³ of diet pills.

(10,000,000 persons)(1 stroke/10,000 person-years)(16 days/365 days) = 44 strokes/year.

3. The probability of a chance stroke on the first day of 16 days of diet pill use is 1/16. The annual number of expected strokes on the first day of diet pill use amongst 10,000,000 users is 2.7 cases/year.

(10,000,000 persons)(1 stroke/10,000 person-years)(16 days/365 days)(1 day/16 days)= 2.7 strokes/year.

¹See reference number 8.

²See table 8.

³See reference number 7.

Table 7. Literature adverse experience reports of stroke associated with phenylpropanolamine ingestion which were not reported to Spontaneous Reporting System, FDA. (U.S. reports only)

Reference Age/Sex Product² No. tablets Time to Reaction RP responses Combant

Reference Year	Age/Sex	Product ² Indication	No. tablets Duration of use	Time to onset	Reaction	BP response	Cerebral vasculature
20 1982	18/F	Comtrex ^R cold	2 tablets	2.5 hours	subarachnoid and intravent hemorrhage	210/130	normal
²¹ 1983	24/M	Dexatrim ^R (50mg) Diet	8-10 tablets 3 months	•	lt frontal parietal infarct	•	normal
1984	25/M	• Diet	"five times the recom- mended dose"	0.5 hours	Subarachnoid hemorrhage	180/120	normal
1984	24/M	Danbade ^R (75mg) Cold	40-50 Danbade ^R and 20 Drixoral ^R	2 hours	lt frontoparietal intracerebral hematoma with mass effect	182/96	normal
1985	20/F	Dexatrim ^R Diet	2 tablets 6 months	*	rt frontal intracerebral hemorrhage	210/130	abnormal - arterial narrowing
85	45/F	Dexatrim ^R (50mg) Diet	1 tablet none in months	1 hour	subarachnoid hemorrhage	120/80	normal
25 1987	20/F	* (75mg) Diet	1 tablet none in 6 mo	"shortly after"	lacunar infarct of lt internal capsule	130/70	normal
²⁶ 1987	35/F	Dexatrim ES ^R (75mg) Diet	1 tablet none in mo	1.5 hours	rt frontal intracerebral hemorrhage	*	vasculitis
27 1987	27/M	Entex ^R (45mg) Cold	13 tablets	1 hour	rt lenticular hemorrhage	210/110	segmental narrowing and dilatation
24 1987	39/F	Dexatrim ^R (75mg) Diet	1 tablet first dose	2-3 hours	rt putaminal hemorrhage and bilateral hematomas in the frontal poles	160/104	multifocal beading
s.	32/M	Dexatrim ES ^R Diet	two tablets first dose	8 hours	rt putaminal- capsular hemorrhage	130/90	normal

Table 7. Literature review of stroke associated with PPA

Reference Year	Age/Sex	Product ² Indication	No. tablets Duration of use	Time to onset	Reaction	BP response	Cerebral vasculature
1987	30/F	Dexatrim ES ^R Diet	one tablet none in 10 mo	0.5 hours	intra-axial hematoma with subarachnoid extension	110/80	diffuse beading
x 1989	17/F	Diet-Aid ^R (75mg) Diet	5 tablets intermittently for 1 mo	3-5 hours	rt parieto- occipital hemorrhage	90/50	beading

Reports of ADRs with look-alikes were excluded.

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²PPA content (mg) of product is noted only when specified by author.

^{*}indicates unspecified information.

Table 8. Annual incidence of hemorrhagic stroke per 100,000 population according to age at diagnosis, diagnostic type and muunity.

Community	Year	Age (years)	Sex M/F	Total hemorrhagic	SAH²	ICH,
Rochester, Minn. ³¹	1945-54	15-29 30-39 40-49	F	0 4.1 23.0	0 0 9.2	0 4.1 13.8
		15-49		6.6	2.2	4.4
	1955-1966	15-29 30-39 40-49		4.5 6.2 38.0	3.0 3.1 34.5	1,5 3.1 3.5
·		15-49		12.4	10.1	2.3
Goteborg, Sweden ³²	1970-75	15-44 45-54	F	7.4 47.2	5.9 30.1	1.5 17.1
		15-54		17.4	12.0	5.4
Stockholm Co., Sweden ³³	1973-1977	0-24 25-34 35-44 45-54	F	4.3 9.4 22.7 46.4	2.5 7.3 17.3 27.9	1.7 2.1 5.4 18.5
United States (National Survey of Stroke) ³⁴	1975-1976	0-44 45-54 0-54	M/F	2.8 40.4 8.0	2.1 23.4 5.0	0.7 17.0 3.0
Florence, Italy ³⁵	1983-1985	15-34 35-44	M/F ⁴	3.1 8.8	1.7	1.4 2.7
		15-44		5.1	3.2	1.9
Lund-Orup, Sweden ³⁶	1983-1985	15-54	M/F	7.4	3.6	3.8

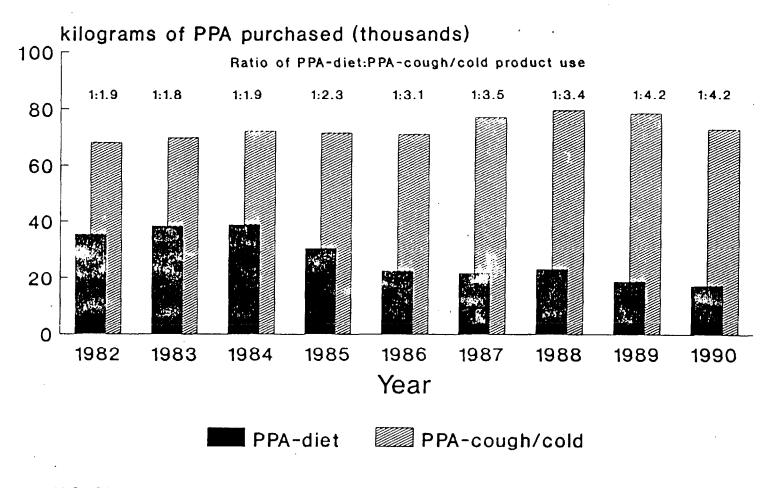
¹Sex-specific incidence for women is given when published data were stratified by sex.

²SAH denotes subarachnoid hemorrhage.

³ICH denotes intracerebral hemorrhage.

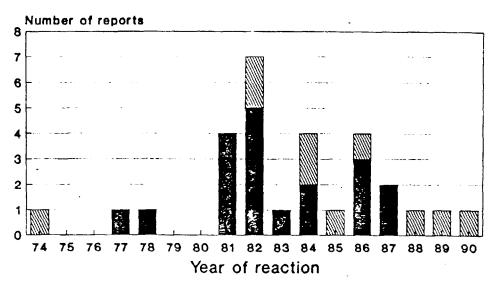
⁴Authors noted no difference in the frequency of types of stroke by sex except for a non-significant higher frequency of ICH in men.

Purchases of Phenylpropanolamine by Type of PPA-product, 1982-1990



Source: U.S. Pharmaceutical Market-Drug Stores and Hospitals, IMS America, Ltd. Plymouth Meeting, PA.

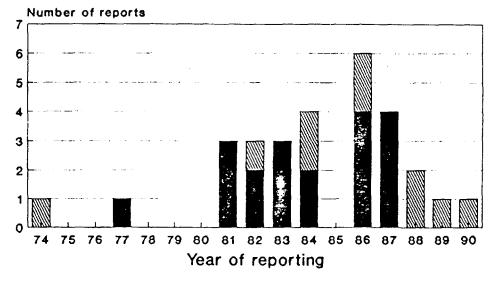
Reports of CVA Associated with PPA By Product and Year of Reaction



Diet Cold/cough

Figures 2a and 2b

Reports of CVA Associated with PPA by Product and Year of Report

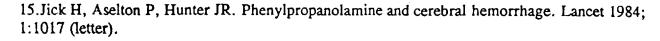


Diet Cold/cough

source: Spontaneous Reporting System,FDA



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