

## Special Interest Articles:

- Voraxaze
- Quillivant XR
- Xigduo XR

### Did you know?

In a national 2004 study published in *Circulation*, researchers at UC San Diego and Tufts examined 53 million U.S. death certificates from 1973 to 2001. They discovered an overall increase of 5% in heart-related deaths during the holiday season.

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## Voraxaze for Methotrexate Toxicity

Voraxaze (glucarpidase) is indicated for the treatment of toxic plasma methotrexate concentrations (>1 micromole per liter) in patients with delayed methotrexate clearance due to impaired renal function.

Voraxaze breaks down methotrexate into inactive metabolites which are then eliminated from the body by routes other than the kidney (primarily the liver).

Voraxaze is the first and only drug available to reduce toxic plasma methotrexate levels.

Voraxaze is not indicated for use in patients who exhibit the expected clearance of methotrexate or those with normal or mildly impaired renal function because of the potential risk of subtherapeutic exposure to methotrexate. Other supportive care measures, including leucovorin, hydration, and alkalinization, should be continued until concentrations are maintained below appropriate treatment thresholds for 3 days.

## Quillivant XR for ADHD

Quillivant XR (methylphenidate HCl) is the first and only once-daily, extended-release liquid medicine for ADHD. Quillivant XR comes in a 5 mg/mL suspension. Quillivant XR is clinically proven to work in 45 minutes and last 12 hours. Quillivant XR is taken once daily in the morning, with or without food. No refrigeration is needed. Quillivant XR is part of the long acting group of ADHD

medicines which also include: Adderall XR, Concerta, Daytrana, Focalin XR, Metadate CD, Ritalin LA, and Vyvanse. These once-daily meds eliminate midday doses at school. Don't forget, there is also an oral methylphenidate solution called Methylin, also 5 mg/ 5 ml, but it is not sustained release and is given 2-3 times daily.

## New Antiepileptics

There are three new antiepileptic drugs - Qudexy XR (cue-DEKS-ee), Fycompa (fi-COM-puh), and Aptiom (AP-tee-om). Qudexy XR is a once a day alternative to topiramate immediate release. Qudexy XR can be opened and sprinkled on food. Fycompa (permpanel) is the first glutamate receptor antagonist. It is Schedule III due to possible euphoria and abuse. Observe for possible mood changes. Aptiom

(eslicarbazepine) is a sodium channel blocker similar to carbamazepine and oxcarbazepine but it is used just once daily. Aptiom can cause hyponatremia, especially during the first 8 weeks. Both Aptiom and Fycompa can reduce the efficacy of oral contraceptives.

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## Xigduo XR Approved for Type 2 Diabetes

The US Food and Drug Administration has approved once-daily Xigduo XR (dapagliflozin and metformin hydrochloride extended-release) for the treatment of adults with type 2 diabetes.

Xigduo XR (zig-doo-oh) combines two anti-hyperglycaemic agents with complementary mechanisms of action, dapagliflozin (trade name in the US, Farxiga), an inhibitor of sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2), and metformin hydrochloride (HCl) extended-release, a biguanide, in a once-daily oral tablet. SGLT2 inhibitors are a relatively new class of medicines that remove glucose from the body via the kidneys.

Patients should be warned not to get up too fast while taking dapagliflozin because it can cause dizziness. Extra glucose in the urine can cause mild diuresis, leading to increased urination and potentially dehydration. Dapagliflozin can also cause urinary tract infections and genital yeast infections. Metformin overdose can cause lactic acidosis. Common side effects may include diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, headache, and rash. Signs of lactic acidosis may include feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, and trouble breathing. Dosage strengths are: 5 mg/500 mg of dapagliflozin and metformin, 5 mg/1000 mg, 10 mg/500 mg, and 10 mg/ 1000 mg extended release.

