

## **Dementia 2011 – Questions & Answers**

**Dr. Philip Lee**

### **1) Are you familiar with the new breakthrough drug “Rember”? How long until this drug is approved?**

Answer: rember (TM) is the proposed drug name for the compound methylene blue. It is being developed as a potential treatment for Alzheimer's disease. There was quite a bit of interest sparked about rember in 2008, when the results of a clinical trial were released. It is thought to help to prevent the accumulation of tau protein (one of the proteins causing Alzheimer's disease) Since 2008, there has been a newer generation of rember developed that are thought to be potentially more effective and tolerated better. This drug (known as LMTX) is currently under study in clinical trials. It is, therefore, more likely that we will see this newer form of the drug approved rather than rember. However, the clinical trials still need to be completed and the data needs to be analyzed to see if there truly is a benefit and if the medication is safe. Even if effective, it will likely take some time before we see this drug approved.

### **2) When asking to get prescription filled is it recommended to ask for generic or brand name?**

Answer: Essentially generic and brand name versions of the same medication are the same drug. Generic medications are required to have the same dosage, effects, side effects/safety, route of administration as the original drug. Generic drugs may, however, have different appearance or taste than brand name drugs. They may have different non-active ingredients. They will not look exactly alike and they may differ in size. The price of generic drugs are generally cheaper than the brand name. Anecdotally, there are individuals who have experienced what they consider to be a "different" result from generic versus brand name medications. Perhaps this may be a response to the different non-medicinal ingredients in the generic compared to the brand name, but this would be pretty rare. For the most part, if a generic is available of the drug, the generic is as effective and usually cheaper.

### **3) Are there any benefits of getting brand name vs. generic drug?**

**Answer: See above...**

### **4) Could memory problems be from over-medication? (asked from someone who described a friend on Elavil, PMS-Clonazepam, ratio-zopicione, bupropion, apo-gabapentin, + multiple personality disorder.)**

Answer: Yes, the cognitive effects of the use of medications must be considered as possible contributing factors to the presence of cognitive impairment. Most of the medications that are listed in the question above are psychoactive agents, which may have potential impact on memory and other cognitive function. Although there may be clinical reasons why these medications are being used, it is very reasonable to consider that these medications may be contributing to "memory" problems.