Informed Consent Important With Lamotrigine

Miami Beach — Adequate informed consent is a key point in discussing and managing patients prescribed lamotrigine at increased risk of malpractice liability, Dr. Neelam Varshney said.

She said that it is important to inform patients about the risk of a rare but life-threatening rash that can develop with lamotrigine. Dr. Varshney said in a plenary poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law.

In an interview, Dr. Varshney pointed out that although such cases are rare, these rashes can progress to Stevens-Johnson syndrome or toxic epidermal necrolysis. Severe rashes can result in hospitalization, permanent disability, or even death. "That is why it is so important to give adequate informed consent," she said.

Dr. Varshney, a resident in the department of psychiatry at Elmhurst (N.Y.) Hospital, said it is a good idea to have solid therapeutic rapport with each patient. She also spoke about the importance of using appropriate and unstructured clinical judgment.

According to Dr. Varshney, the incidence of Stevens-Johnson syndrome in patients taking lamotrigine is 0.08%. Patients may experience rash with a mean time of 16 (range, 1 to 512) days from the first dose to the development of the rash. According to the FDA, the average time for the development of Stevens-Johnson syndrome is 13 days.

Dr. Varshney said the easiest way to tell if patients are at risk of developing Stevens-Johnson syndrome is to explain to them the key features of the rash, including popular involvement, fever, malaise, and diarrhea. She emphasized the importance of monitoring patients who are at risk of developing Stevens-Johnson syndrome for other signs of the condition.

She also emphasized the importance of following up with patients who have developed the rash and ensuring that they continue to receive appropriate care and monitoring.

Dr. Varshney also emphasized the importance of using solid therapeutic rapport with patients, which involves building trust and rapport with patients, in order to ensure the best possible care.

She also emphasized the importance of using appropriate and unstructured clinical judgment, in order to ensure that patients receive the best possible care and that they are treated in a manner that is consistent with their needs and preferences.

She also emphasized the importance of using appropriate and unstructured clinical judgment, in order to ensure that patients receive the best possible care and that they are treated in a manner that is consistent with their needs and preferences.

She also emphasized the importance of using appropriate and unstructured clinical judgment, in order to ensure that patients receive the best possible care and that they are treated in a manner that is consistent with their needs and preferences.

She also emphasized the importance of using appropriate and unstructured clinical judgment, in order to ensure that patients receive the best possible care and that they are treated in a manner that is consistent with their needs and preferences.

She also emphasized the importance of using appropriate and unstructured clinical judgment, in order to ensure that patients receive the best possible care and that they are treated in a manner that is consistent with their needs and preferences.

She also emphasized the importance of using appropriate and unstructured clinical judgment, in order to ensure that patients receive the best possible care and that they are treated in a manner that is consistent with their needs and preferences.

She also emphasized the importance of using appropriate and unstructured clinical judgment, in order to ensure that patients receive the best possible care and that they are treated in a manner that is consistent with their needs and preferences.

She also emphasized the importance of using appropriate and unstructured clinical judgment, in order to ensure that patients receive the best possible care and that they are treated in a manner that is consistent with their needs and preferences.