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Valium advertisement.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1966

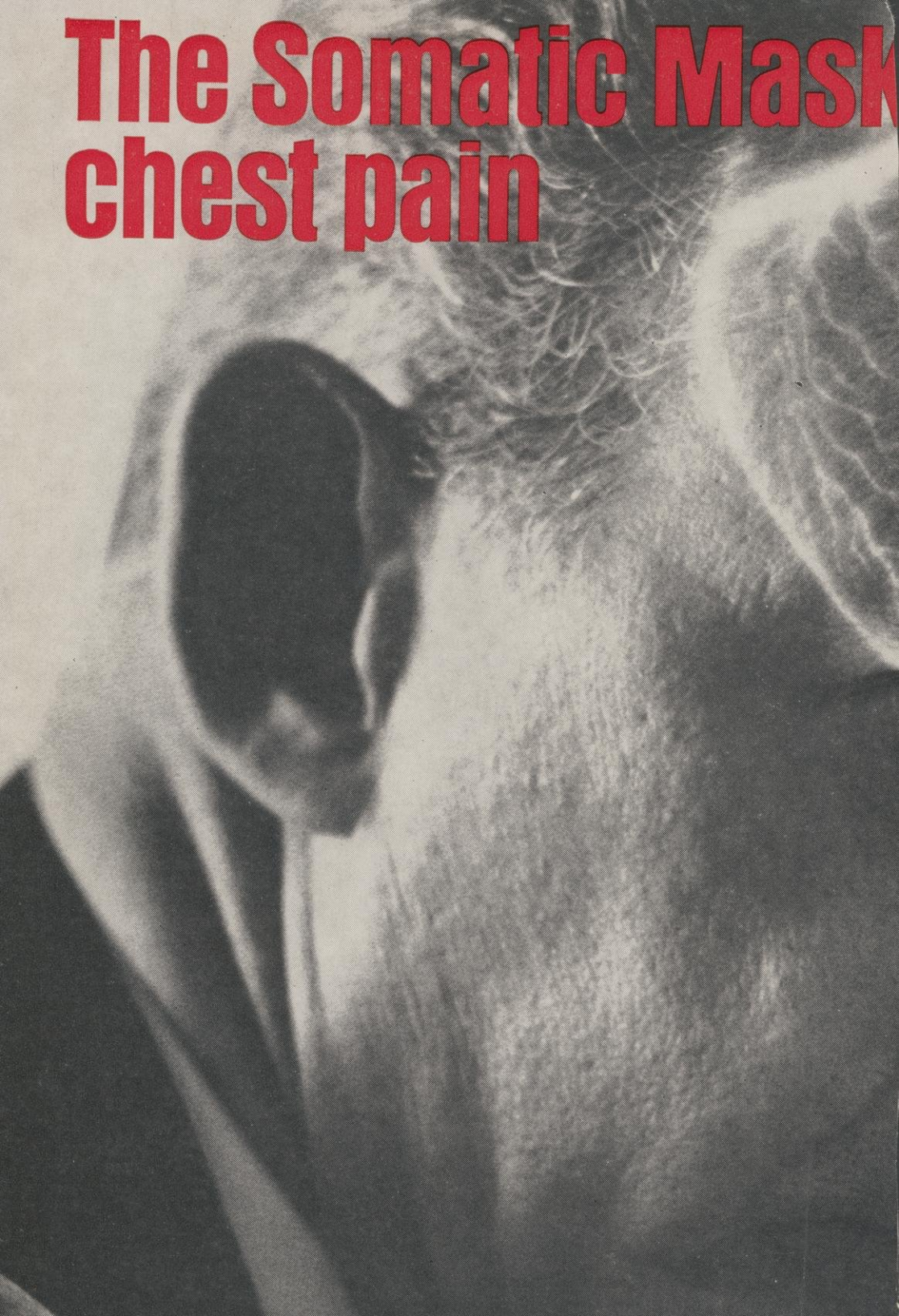
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The Somatic Mask chest pain





heart disease or psychic tension?

“Heart symptoms”—chest pain, tachycardia, arrhythmia—invariably alarm and preoccupy the patient, though they may be completely without organic basis. Such symptoms often are somatic masks of psychic tension, arising from constant encounters with stressful situations.

When the problem is diagnosed as emotionally produced, consider Valium (diazepam) as adjunctive therapy. Valium (diazepam) acts rapidly to calm the patient, to reduce his psychic tension and relieve associated cardiovascular complaints.

Neurotic fatigue—the chronic tiredness resulting from emotional strain which so often accompanies psychogenic “heart” symptoms—also can be controlled by this highly useful agent. Valium (diazepam) often achieves results where other psychotherapeutic agents have failed.

Valium (diazepam) is generally well tolerated, and usually does not impair mental acuity or ability to function. If side effects such as ataxia and drowsiness occur, they usually disappear with dosage adjustment.

In prescribing: Dosage—Adults: Mild to moderate psychoneurotic reactions, 2 to 5 mg b.i.d. or t.i.d.; severe psychoneurotic reactions, 5 to 10 mg t.i.d. or q.i.d.; alcoholism, 10 mg t.i.d. or q.i.d. in first 24 hrs, then 5 mg t.i.d. or q.i.d. as needed; muscle spasm with cerebral palsy or athetosis, 2 to 10 mg t.i.d. or q.i.d. Geriatric patients: 1 or 2 mg/day initially, increase gradually as needed.

Contraindications: Infants, patients with history of convulsive disorders or glaucoma.

Warning: Not of value in the treatment of psychotic patients, and should not be employed in lieu of appropriate treatment.

Precautions: Limit dosage to smallest effective amount in elderly patients (not more than 1 mg, one or two times daily) to preclude ataxia or oversedation. Advise patients against possibly hazardous procedures until correct maintenance dosage is established; driving during therapy not recommended. In general, concurrent use with other psychotropic agents is not recommended. Warn patients of possible combined effects with alcohol. Safe use in pregnancy not established. Observe usual precautions in impaired renal or hepatic function and in patients who may be suicidal; periodic blood counts and liver function tests advisable in long-term use. Cease therapy gradually.

Side Effects: Side effects (usually dose-related) are fatigue, drowsiness and ataxia. Also reported: mild nausea, dizziness, blurred vision, diplopia, headache, incontinence, slurred speech, tremor and skin rash; paradoxical reactions (excitement, depression, stimulation, sleep disturbances and hallucinations) and changes in EEG patterns. Abrupt cessation after prolonged overdosage may produce withdrawal symptoms similar to those seen with barbiturates, meprobamate and chlordiazepoxide HCl.

Supplied: Tablets, 2 mg, 5 mg and 10 mg; bottles of 50 for convenience and economy in prescribing.

Valium[®]

(diazepam)

