Indian J Physiol Pharmacol 2001; 45 (3): 386

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# FLUMAZENIL IS A BENZODIAZEPINE RECEPTOR ANTAGONIST

Sir,

#### (Received on March 25, 2001)

This refers to the review article entitled 'Antiepileptic Drug Therapy in the Twenty First Century' by Y. K. Gupta and Jatinder Malhotra (1). In this article, the authors have classified flumazenil as a benzodiazepine (BDZ) agonist (see Table IV). Flumazenil is in fact a specific BDZ antagonist with modest anticonvulsant activity (2-4).

### NARESH KHANNA

Department of Pharmacology, UCMS, Delhi – 110 095

# REFERENCES

- Gupta YK, Malhotra J. Antiepileptic drug therapy in the twenty first century. Indian J Physiol Pharmacol 2000; 44: 8-23.
- Schmidt-Mutter C, Pain L, Sandner G, et al. The anxiolytic effect of gamma-hydroxybutyrate in the elevated plus maze is reversed by the benzodiazepine receptor anatgonist, flumazenil. *Eur J Pharmacol* 1998; 342: 21-27.
- 3. Khan GM, Smolders I, Ebinger G, Michotte Y.

From Editor's Desk

Flumazenil prevents diazepam-elicited anticonvulsant action and concominant attenuation of glutamate outflow. *Eur J Pharmacol* 2000; 139-144.

 Przegalinski E, Tatarczynska E, Chojnacka-Wojcik E. The influence of the benzodiazepine receptor antagonist flumazenil on the anxiolytic-like effects of CGP 37849 and ACPC rats. Neuropharmacology 2000; 39: 1858–1864.

## We are thankful to Dr. Naresh Khanna for pointing out the error in the review article on 'Antiepileptic Drug Therapy in the Twenty First Century' published in Ind J Physiol Pharmacol 2000; 44: 8-23.