Vraylar® (cariprazine) – New indication

- On December 16, 2022, AbbVie announced the FDA approval of Vraylar (cariprazine), as adjunctive therapy to antidepressants for the treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD) in adults.

- Vraylar is also approved for:

  - Treatment of schizophrenia in adults
  - Acute treatment of manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder in adults
  - Treatment of depressive episodes associated with bipolar I disorder (bipolar depression) in adults.

- The approval of Vraylar for the new indication was based on two studies in adult patients with MDD, with or without symptoms of anxiety, who had an inadequate response to 1 to 3 courses of prior antidepressant therapy (ADT). In each study, the primary endpoint was change from baseline to week 6 (Study 10) or week 8 (Study 11) in the Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS) total score, a 10-item clinician-rated scale used to assess the degree of depressive symptomatology, with 0 representing no symptoms and 60 representing worst symptoms.

  - In Study 10 (N = 751) involving two fixed doses of Vraylar (1.5 mg per day or 3 mg per day) + ADT, Vraylar 1.5 mg + ADT was superior to placebo + ADT at end of week 6 on the MADRS total score. The treatment effect in the Vraylar 3 mg per day + ADT group (vs. placebo + ADT) was not statistically significant.
  - In Study 11 (N = 808) involved flexible doses of Vraylar 1 to 2 mg per day + ADT or 2 to 4.5 mg per day + ADT. Vraylar 2 to 4.5 mg (mean dose was 2.6 mg) + ADT was superior to placebo + ADT at end of week 8 on the MADRS total score. The treatment effect in the Vraylar 1 to 2 mg per day + ADT group (vs. placebo + ADT) was not statistically significant.

- Vraylar carries a boxed warning for increased mortality in elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis and suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

- The most common adverse reactions (incidence ≥ 5% and at least twice the rate of placebo) with Vraylar use for adjunctive treatment of MDD were akathisia, restlessness, fatigue, constipation, nausea, insomnia, increased appetite, dizziness, and extrapyramidal symptoms.

- The starting dose of Vraylar for the adjunctive treatment of MDD is 1.5 mg orally once daily. Depending upon clinical response and tolerability, the dosage can be increased to 3 mg once daily on day 15. In clinical trials, dosage titration at intervals of less than 14 days resulted in a higher incidence of adverse reactions. The maximum recommended dosage is 3 mg once daily.

- Refer to the Vraylar drug label for dosing for all its other indications.