

# The Medical Letter®

## On Drugs and Therapeutics

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### IN THIS ISSUE

#### UPDATE

##### Influenza Resistance to Amantadine and Rimantadine

Our article on Antiviral Drugs for Prophylaxis and Treatment of Influenza ([Med Lett Drugs Ther 2005; 47:93](#)) mentioned possible use of amantadine (*Symmetrel*, and others) and rimantadine (*Flumadine*, and others), but warned that the incidence of resistance has increased substantially. The CDC recently issued a Health Alert ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) saying that current evidence indicates that a high proportion of circulating influenza A viruses in the US are now resistant to amantadine and rimantadine and they should not be used for this indication, at least this year.

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