

# The Medical Letter<sup>®</sup>

## On Drugs and Therapeutics

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### IN BRIEF

#### **Natalizumab (*Tysabri*) Withdrawn**

The February 14th issue of *The Medical Letter* reviewed natalizumab (*Tysabri* – Biogen Idec), a new monoclonal antibody that was granted accelerated approval because it decreased the number of relapses in patients with multiple sclerosis. On February 28th, the FDA issued a Public Health Advisory announcing that marketing of the drug had been suspended because 2 patients who had been treated with natalizumab for more than 2 years had developed progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, a rare, often fatal disease ([www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)).

#### **Martin A. Rizack, M.D., Ph.D.**

Martin Rizack died on March 7, 2005. He was 78 years old. Martin was an integral part of *The Medical Letter* for many years, beginning in 1966 as a member of our Editorial Board. He was the creator of our Drug Interactions Handbook. In recent years, Martin served as Consulting Editor. We will miss him.

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