



Adverse drug reactions in Canada

Fluoroquinolones and warfarin: suspected interactions

As of January 15, 2004, Health Canada had received 57 reports of suspected coagulation disorders associated with fluoroquinolones and warfarin. Ten cases involved ciprofloxacin, 13 gatifloxacin, 16 levofloxacin, 12 moxifloxacin, and six norfloxacin. Forty-nine reports were considered serious; 16 involved adverse reactions resulting in hospital admission. Fluoroquinolones might enhance the effects of warfarin or its derivatives during concomitant administration of these drugs. Prothrombin time and international normalized ratio should be monitored closely, especially in elderly patients, and dose of anticoagulant adjusted accordingly.

Suspected warfarin–cranberry juice interaction

In September 2003 the United Kingdom's Committee on Safety of Medicines and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency highlighted a possible interaction between warfarin and cranberry

juice and advised patients taking warfarin to limit or avoid drinking cranberry juice. They had received eight reports since 1999 of a possible interaction that led to changes in the international normalized ratio or bleeding. Given warfarin's narrow therapeutic margin, patients should be aware of which drugs, natural health products, and food products might be associated with interactions.

Case presentations

- Tutoplast Dura graft: possible association with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
- Toxic shock syndrome and tampons: the risk remains

Summary of advisories

A summary of health professional and consumer advisories posted between February 10, 2004, and May 17, 2004, is available in this issue of the *Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter*. To consult the full listing, see http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/tpd-dpt/index_advisories_e.html.

Source: Health Canada. *Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter* 2004;14(3):1-3. For the complete text of any of these reports, check the website www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/tpd-dpt/index_adverse_newsletter_e.html.

