



Adverse drug reactions in Canada

Telithromycin and warfarin: suspected interaction

Telithromycin (Ketek) is a novel antimicrobial that belongs to a new chemical family, the ketolides. Between May 29, 2003 (the date of marketing in Canada), and September 15, 2004, Health Canada received 25 reports of suspected adverse reactions involving telithromycin. Seven described coagulation disorders, six of which involved interactions with warfarin and one an interaction with an unspecified oral anticoagulant. Although it has been stated that telithromycin does not interact with warfarin, prothrombin time and international normalized ratio should be monitored closely in patients taking warfarin.

Linezolid and neuropathy

Linezolid (Zyvoxam), a synthetic antibacterial agent in a new class of antibiotics, the oxazolidinones, has been marketed in Canada since April 6, 2001. The safety and efficacy of linezolid given for longer than 28 days have not been evaluated in controlled clinical trials. Because of its activity against resistant organisms that cause osteomyelitis and prosthetic joint infections, linezolid has been used in clinical practice

for longer than the recommended treatment course. Long-term use of linezolid has been associated with severe peripheral and optic neuropathy. Health Canada received a report of a 71-year-old woman who received 600 mg of linezolid twice daily. Linezolid was stopped when she was admitted to hospital with anemia, pure red cell aplasia, and severe peripheral neuropathy. Health care professionals must be aware of the potential for serious adverse reactions, including neuropathy, when linezolid is used beyond its recommended duration.

Caffeine-containing natural weight-loss product and myopathy

A 47-year-old woman experienced muscle twitching over 4 months while taking Hydroxycut (ephedra free by MuscleTech) for weight loss. Examination indicated fasciculations of the calf muscles and a creatine kinase level of 1021 U/L (normally ≤ 190 U/L). Although Hydroxycut is not authorized for sale in Canada, it is used for weight loss or body building. The association between caffeine intoxication and rhabdomyolysis has been documented. Natural health products used for weight loss and body building might contain caffeine from a variety of natural sources, including guarana, green tea, kola nut, and yerba maté. Consumers might unknowingly substantially increase their intake of caffeine and thereby increase their risk of caffeine-related adverse reactions, including rhabdomyolysis.

Ceftriaxone and immune hemolytic anemia in children

Ceftriaxone (Rocephin), marketed in Canada since December 31, 1987, is a third-generation cephalosporin. From January 1, 1988, to September 15, 2004, Health Canada received one report of acute hemolysis thought to be associated with ceftriaxone involving a young child with sickle cell anemia. Nine pediatric cases of immune hemolytic anemia (IHA) associated with exposure to ceftriaxone were identified in the literature, six of which were fatal. Drug-induced IHA is associated with a high mortality rate. Development of signs and symptoms of IHA, including hemoglobinuria or unexplained anemia, should prompt health care professionals to consider this diagnosis and to discontinue the suspect drug.

Case presentation

Olanzapine (Zyprexa): suspected association with pulmonary embolism

Summary of advisories

A summary of health professional and consumer advisories posted from September 1, 2004, to November 16, 2004, is available in this issue. To consult the full listing, see www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/tpd-dpt/index_advisories_e.html.

Source: Health Canada. *Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter* 2005;15(1):1-6. 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.



Effets indésirables des médicaments au Canada

Télithromycine et warfarine: interaction soupçonnée

La télithromycine (Ketek) est un nouvel antimicrobien qui appartient à une nouvelle famille chimique, les kétolides. Du 29 mai 2003 (date de la mise en marché au Canada) au 15 septembre 2004, Santé Canada a reçu 25 notifications d'effets indésirables soupçonnés d'être associés à la télithromycine. Sept notifications portaient sur des troubles de la coagulation, dont six interactions avec la warfarine

et une interaction avec un anticoagulant oral non spécifié. Bien qu'il soit mentionné que la télithromycine ne réagit pas avec la warfarine, il faudrait surveiller attentivement le temps de prothrombine et le RIN chaque fois que l'on administre un nouveau médicament à un patient qui prend de la warfarine.

Linézolide et neuropathie

Antibactérien synthétique qui fait partie d'une nouvelle classe d'antibiotiques, les oxazolidinones, le linézolide (Zyvoxam) est commercialisé au Canada depuis le 6 avril 2001. L'innocuité et l'efficacité du linézolide administré pendant plus de 28 jours n'ont pas été évalués au cours des essais cliniques contrôlés. Comme il agit contre les micro-organismes résistants qui causent l'ostéomyélite et l'infection