

Photosensitivity reactions

New Zealand

Reminder: to all health-care professionals of the risk of photosensitivity reactions with a number of topical and systematic medicines. The Prescriber Update indicates the ten most commonly reported medicines associated with photosensitivity reactions in New Zealand. They are:

1. Doxycycline
2. Hydrochlorthiazide
3. Amiodarone
4. Piroxicam
5. Chlorpromazine
6. Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole (co-trimoxazole)
7. Captopril
8. Enalapril
9. Bendroflumethiazide
10. Carbamazepine

Photosensitivity reactions typically appear as unexpected sunburn or a dry or blistering rash on sun-exposed skin. The most commonly affected areas are the face, neck, arms, backs of hands and often lower legs and feet.

Health-care professionals are advised to identify the photosensitizing agent and withdraw it if possible. Patients are recommended to take the sun protection measures when using a medicine which has been associated with photosensitivity reactions, such as covering up with closely-woven clothing.

Reference:

1. WHO Pharmaceuticals Newsletter No. 2, 2010 Page 11
2. Prescriber Update Vol. 31, No. 1 February 2010 (www.medsafe.govt.nz)

Any such reports in your practice? Have you noted the same or similar Adverse Drug Reactions? If yes, please report to:

The Pharmacovigilance Department, Pharmacy and Poisons Board.

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Remember...



***"You need not be certain...
Just be suspicious"
Report all suspected cases of
ADRs and Poor Quality Medicines***