Common adverse drug reactions with psychiatric medications and an approach to their management

Adverse drug reactions are as important in psychiatric practice as they are in any other branch of medicine.

CHRISTOPHER P SZABO, MB BCh, MMEd, FCPsych, PhD, MSc Med (Bioethics & Health Law)
Professor and Head, Division of Psychiatry, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and Chief Specialist and Head, Department of Psychiatry, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Johannesburg

Professor Szabo recently published a book entitled Eating Disorders and is currently editing a book on HIV and mental health (funded through proceeds of the sale of Eating Disorders). He has contributed chapters on eating disorders and publishing in Africa and is co-editing a book on contemporary African psychiatry – both books are due for publication in 2011. In addition, he is editor-in-chief of the African Journal of Psychiatry (www.ajop.co.za).

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References
Antiretroviral adverse drug reactions and their management

How to recognise, manage and avoid adverse effects of antiretrovirals.

Catherine Orrell, MB CHB, MMed, MSc, DCH Dip HIV Man
Project Leader, Treatment Division, Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town

Catherine Orrell is a clinical pharmacologist and HIV clinician who has been working with HIV-infected patients since 1997. She has been involved in several of the first programmes to deliver antiretroviral therapy in South Africa. Her particular interests are in HIV pharmacology, adherence to ART and long-term retention in care.

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References

Cutaneous adverse drug reactions

Idiosyncratic and potentially serious cutaneous adverse drug reactions (CADRs), although relatively rare, account for significant morbidity and mortality.

Rannakoe J Lehloeny, BSc, MB ChB, FCDerm (SA)
Consultant Dermatologist, Groote Schuur Hospital and University of Cape Town

Rannakoe is a consultant dermatologist at Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town as well as a PhD candidate attached to the Lung Infection and Immunity Unit in the Department of Medicine of the University. His interests include adverse drug reactions and their immunology, with a particular focus on antituberculous drugs.

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References
Drug-induced liver injury is a significant cause of liver disease, including chronic liver disease.

MARK W SONDERUP, BPharm, MB ChB, FCP (SA)
Senior Specialist, Division of Hepatology, Department of Medicine, University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town

Dr Sonderup trained as a pharmacist before studying medicine at UCT. He obtained his FCP (SA) in 2002 and trained in the UCT/MRC Liver Research Centre. He has been a Senior Specialist and Lecturer in the Department of Medicine and Hepatology Division since 2006. His interests include HIV-associated liver disease, viral hepatitis and liver disease associated with porphyria.

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References

Pharmacovigilance: the devastating consequences of not thinking about adverse drug reactions

The burden of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) on patient care has been found to be high globally and is particularly high in South Africa.

USHMA C MEHTA, Pharm D DrPH
Independent Pharmacovigilance Consultant and Consultant for WHO Tropical Diseases Research

Dr Mehta has been involved in pharmacovigilance since 1996. She served, until recently, as the Chairperson of the Medicines Control Council’s Pharmacovigilance Committee and is currently assisting WHO in developing a global pregnancy registry for identifying birth defects and their potential drug-related causes.

Correspondence to: Ushma Mehta (ushmaza@yahoo.com)

References
Drug-induced renal injury

The kidney plays an important role in the elimination of many drugs and their metabolites.

ERIC DECLOEDT, MB ChB, BSc Pharmacology (Honours)
Registrar, Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Department of Medicine, Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town
Eric is a final-year registrar in clinical pharmacology at the University of Cape Town. He has an interest in drug-induced renal injury and recently wrote about the incidence of drug dose adjustment in renal impairment in the SAMJ.

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Head, Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Department of Medicine, Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town
Gary is head of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology. He has published widely in the field of HIV and tuberculosis research.

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Egg allergy and immunisation in children

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Further reading
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