

An Overview on Pharmacovigilance and Adverse Drug Reactions

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Abstract

Pharmacovigilance (PV) plays a key role in the healthcare system through assessment, monitoring and discovery of interactions amongst drugs and their effects in human. Pharmacovigilance has been defined by the WHO (2002) as the 'science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects or any other drug related problems. It is the method of collecting information from healthcare providers and patients on the adverse effects of medications, biological products, blood products, herbals, vaccines, medical devices and traditional medicines with a view of identifying new information about hazards associated with products and preventing harm to patients. Adverse drug reactions are drug responses that are noxious, unintended and which occurs at doses normally used for the prophylaxis, diagnosis or therapy of diseases. Pharmacovigilance helps in generate information about the possible undesirable effects of the drug administration. The adverse events reported by PV system will potentially benefit to the community due to their proximity to both the population & public health professionals. Its main purpose is to reduce the risk of drug-related harm to the patient. Pharmacovigilance could help detect safety hazards & prevent the development of new complications which may arise due to the poor quality of a drug. Pharmacovigilance activities should indeed be included in all phases of the drug manufacturing & distribution process, regardless of their chemical complexity to detect quality-related matters in good time and reduce the risk of

safety concerns to a minimum.

Keywords: Pharmacovigilance, Adverse drug reactions, Noxious effects, Drug interaction

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