

Pharmacovigilance of drug interactions in patients of Colombia

Jorge E. Machado-Alba

Universidad Tecnologica de Pereira, Colombia

Objectives: to determine the possible drugs interactions in data bases of patients of Health Insurance System of Colombia

Methods: From data bases of about 3.7 million users of Colombia, a systematic review of statistics of drugs dispensation was made to identify drug interactions of risk or irregular dispensation.

Results: Of all patients with omeprazole was found that 12.3% were concomitantly taking aluminum and magnesium hydroxide, 1.7% received ranitidine, 1.0% sucralfate; 0.3% received simultaneously sucralfate, omeprazole, plus aluminum and magnesium hydroxide, and 0.4 % received ranitidine, omeprazole plus aluminum and magnesium hydroxide which does not enhance the anti-acid effect and may antagonize its actions. Also found that 0.2% of patients taking verapamil were receiving digoxin or methyl-digoxin. All cases were notified to those responsible for their health care

Conclusions: Drug interactions represent a potential hazard which must be taken into account by the prescribing physician. Active pharmacovigilance allows optimizing resources, to prevent adverse events that can potentially cause to morbidity or lethality. It is recommended to consider data base reviews to reinforce the programs of monitoring of drug use in the country.

machado@utp.edu.co