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National pharmacovigilance programme

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The World Health Organization (WHO) defines pharmacovigilance as “the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse drug effects or any other drug related problem”. The Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC, WHO), Sweden is maintaining the international database of Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) reports received from several National Centres. Although, India is participating in this programme, its contribution to UMC database is very little. To improve the current state of functioning of pharmacovigilance activities, the central drug regulatory agency, The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), New Delhi, under the aegis of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India has initiated a nation-wide pharmacovigilance programme in July, 2010, with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi as the National Coordinating Centre (NCC) for monitoring ADRs in the country to safe-guard Public Health. In year 2010, 22 ADR monitoring centres (AMCs) had been set up under this Programme. The basic purpose of this programme is to collate, analyze and archive ADR data for making regulatory decisions regarding drugs marketed in India. Not only doctors but other healthcare providers, *viz.*, pharmacists and nurses can now actively participate in the programme. The vision of Pharmacovigilance programme of India (PvPI) is to improve patient safety and welfare in Indian population by monitoring drug safety and thereby reducing the risk associated with use of medicines. The success of this programme depends on the continuous active support by CDSCO and the dedicated work of the pharmacovigilance centers.

Biography

Geetha S is doing her 2nd year post graduation in S S Institute of Medical Sciences under Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka. Currently she is working on three more research projects: Antibacterial usage pattern in suspected neonatal sepsis in a tertiary care hospital, Anti depressant activity of Granisetron in albino mice and Drug utilization in MICU.

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