Editorial note: Pharmacovigilance

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Dear Readers,

Season’s greetings!

Pharmacovigilance (PV or PhV), also referred to as drug safety, is that the pharmacological science concerning the gathering, detection, assessment, monitoring, and prevention of adverse effects with pharmaceutical products. The etymological roots for the word "pharmacovigilance" are: pharmakon (Greek for drug) and vigilare (Latin for to stay watch). As such, pharmacovigilance heavily focuses on adverse drug reactions, or ADRs, which are defined as any response to a drug which is noxious and unintended, including lack of efficacy (the condition that this definition only applies with the doses normally used for the prophylaxis, diagnosis or therapy of disease, or for the modification of physiological disorder function was excluded with the newest amendment of the applicable legislation).

Medication errors like overdose, and misuse and abuse of a drug also as drug exposure during pregnancy and breastfeeding, also are of interest, even without an adverse event, because they'll end in an adverse drug reaction.

The role of pharmacovigilance is to determine which adverse events cross the line of a drug's efficacy. In other words, analyzing which side effects is worth the risk to patients compared with how effective they are at treating a disease.

Pharmacovigilance, as defined by the World Health Organization, comprises the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding, and prevention of adverse effects and other drug-related problems. Pharmacovigilance ensures the rigorous testing of clinical drugs to improve patient care and reduce the risk of negative side effects. Present throughout the drug lifecycle, PV certifies whether a drug works and if it is safe to use.

Stay Safe & Healthy…!

Thank you!

With kind regards, John
Wayne,
Associate Managing Editor,
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