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Commentary

Note on Veterinary Pharmacovigilance

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DESCRIPTION

Veterinary pharmacovigilance is important for drugs used to treat animal diseases. It will be even more important to use these animals for food production. Side effects (ADRs) have a direct effect on animals and an indirect effect on humans. For example, it affects through dairy products and other animal-based foods. Currently, the Indian PV program plays an important role in assessing the safety of medicines for Indian people. The safety of medicines in animals can be assessed by veterinary PV.

Research institutes and veterinary clinics involved in animal experiments have become a problem as ADR monitoring agencies for assessing the safety of medicines in animals. Pharmacovigilance is a science related to the detection, evaluation, understanding and prevention of side effects and other drug-related problems and has emerged to monitor side effects throughout the life of a drug. In India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) and the Government of India (GOI) launched the National PV Program (NPVP) in 2010 to monitor the safety of medicines. The Indian pharmacopoeia commission under MOHFW will serve as the National Coordinating Center (NCC) for PVPI. The NCC has identified 202 ADR monitoring centers nationwide to monitor, identify and report to the NCC.

The mission of PVPI is "to safeguard the health of the Indian population by ensuring that the benefits of the use of medicine outweigh the risks associated with their use." The vision of PVPI is "to improve patient safety and welfare of Indian population by monitoring drug safety and thereby reducing the risk associated with the use of medicines." The medicines which are used for the treatment of animals shall be observed for their short and longterm effects on animals and the effect on the environment because they may affect the ecosystem in one or other way. Unfortunately, there is an acute lack of information on veterinary PV in India.

Drug regulatory authority of India banned the diclofenac sodium for animal use because of reducing number of vulture population and also regulates the use of injection oxytocin for animal use. Veterinary PV is same like PV, but it is related to use of medicines in animals. As per European Medicine Agency veterinary (EMA) PV concerns "monitoring, evaluating, and improving the safety of veterinary medicines, with particular reference to adverse events in animals and human beings related to the use of these medicines." It also involves the collection of information on adverse events due to offlabel use and investigations of the validity of the withdrawal period and of potential environmental problems. Recent studies have shown that animal ADR is very important to animal health. ADR affects the animals directly and indirectly to humans.

The mortality rate of animals in India due to the lack of veterinary PV is very high compared to other developed countries. The concept of veterinary PV is relatively new in India, but many other countries such as the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan and China have established veterinary PV policies and systems. Due to the recommendations of such a system, very few drugs are banned by their respective regulatory agencies. The UK veterinary department states that adverse events with NSAID's are similar in different animal species.

A french study identified eight signals from received reports or regularly updated security reports. They have led to revisions to product information in sections dealing with contraindications, side effects or latency. Adverse events of medicines in animals should be assessed according to international standards such as the United States and European Union veterinary international harmony conference. There are many other countries that take veterinary PN very seriously and are conducting research to understand the incidence of ADR in different animal species. Veterinary drugs in India are regulated by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). The definition of an adverse event in an animal drug is "any side effect, injury, toxicity, or susceptibility reaction associated with the use of an animal drug, whether or not it is determined to be related to the drug veterinary medicine center.

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