

86. How Many Adverse Drug Reactions are Preventable?

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Background: Preventable adverse drug reactions (ADRs) have been studied in the USA but few studies have been published in France.

Objective: The aims of this study were to estimate the incidence of preventable ADRs in our area and to analyse the cause and level of preventability.

Methods: The study was prospective. All ADRs reported to the Regional Pharmacovigilance Centre of Tours over 1 year were analysed. ADR was defined as "definitely preventable" if the drug causing the ADR was incorrectly used (defined by use beyond the recommendations of the Summary of Product Characteristics) and if this misuse totally explains the ADR. ADR was defined as "potentially preventable" if the drug causing the ADR was incorrectly used and if this misuse partially explains the ADR.

Results: Three hundred sixty ADRs concerning 292 (81%) adults (55 y +/- 19) and 66 (19%) children were included. For 161 (45%) patients, the ADR involved at least one "incorrectly" used drug. Sixty (17%) patients had an ADR which was "potentially preventable" (n = 28) or "definitely preventable" (n = 32). The most frequent cause of "definitely preventable" ADRs was no taking into account contraindications (n = 10), special warnings (n = 8) or reduction of the kidney function (n = 5). The most frequent drug involved in "definitely preventable" ADR was allopurinol (n = 4), which dosage was not adapted to renal function.

Discussion/Conclusion: A meaningful number of ADRs could probably be avoided if Summary of Product Characteristics guidelines for a safe and effective drug use are carefully followed.