

reason for use was lack of appetite and cancer pain and in two cases headache. In 15 cases concomitant use of drugs was reported.

Psychiatric reactions were reported (dysphoria, panic attack, visual hallucinations, stupor, drowsiness, major depression...); lack of efficacy; dermatological symptoms (itchiness, redness and swelling of eyelids and face); laryngospasm. Causality assessment was performed for all reactions and the association between cannabis use and the reaction was always probable. Cannabis was assumed almost in all cases but one by decoction. In one case cannabis was extracted in oil.

Conclusion: Cannabis for medicinal use is usually well tolerated. The adverse effects collected are mainly due to dosage errors, mode of administration or individual differences in THC absorption and metabolism. However, it is important to monitor cannabis medical use in the population and to continually evaluate its safety.

Further sources of information/References

1. Haney M, et al. Dronabinol and marijuana in HIV-positive marijuana smokers. Caloric intake, mood, and sleep. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* 2007; 45: 545-54
2. Koppel BS, et al. Systematic review: efficacy and safety of medical marijuana in selected neurologic disorders: report of the Guideline Development Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology* 2014; 82: 1556-63
3. Smith LA, et al. Cannabinoids for nausea and vomiting in adults with cancer receiving chemotherapy. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2015; 12: CD009464

68 Tailoring signal detection methodologies in a global database to focus on safety concerns reported by patients

R. Chandler¹, S. Watson¹, B. Grundmark¹, L. Härmak², K. Star¹, H. Taavola¹, F. van Hunsel²

¹Uppsala Monitoring Centre—WHO Collaborating Centre For International Drug Monitoring, Uppsala, Sweden, ²Netherlands Pharmacovigilance Centre Lareb, 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands

Introduction: A recent systematic review summarized the current evidence on the value of patient reporting into pharmacovigilance systems. [1] There is literature to suggest that patient reports contribute to signal detection [2–3]. However, descriptions of methodologies for using patient reports in signal detection are scarce, and published experiences of how patient reports are used in national pharmacovigilance centers are limited to a few countries [4–6].

Aim: To explore the contribution of patient reports to signal detection in an international database of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs).

Methods: Data was retrieved from the WHO global database of individual case safety reports (ICSRs), VigiBase, in September 2016. Suspected duplicate reports and reports from studies were excluded. Drug-ADR combinations were generated and restricted to report series with at least 50% patient ICSR. Further, only combinations with at least one report received after 2014, from ≥ 2 countries, and with ≤ 30 patient ICSR were included. *vigiRank*, an algorithm using multiple-strength-of-evidence aspects, was used to prioritize combinations for assessment. In the assessment of each combination, the product information for health care providers as well as patient information leaflets were reviewed for information on ADRs.

Results: A total of 212 combinations were assessed; 20 (9%) combinations resulted in 8 signals communicated within the WHO program

for international drug monitoring. Five signals described new, unlabeled suspected ADRs; 3 described new aspects of known ADRs. An example of the former is the signal of panic attacks with levothyroxine; an example of the latter is the signal of severe genital pruritus leading to non-compliance with SGLT-2 inhibitors. Reviews of patient information leaflets were performed; examples of poor consistency with product information for physicians were found, such as placement of ADR terms and descriptions of ADRs. Patient narratives were confirmed to provide details regarding the experience of the ADR and its impact on the quality of life of the reporter; furthermore, there is evidence in narratives that patients make causality and benefit/harm assessments themselves.

Conclusions: Safety concerns described in patient reports can be identified in a global database including previously unknown ADRs as well as new aspects of known ADRs. Patient reports provide unique information valuable in signal assessment, and they should be included in signal detection as far as is possible. Novel methodologies to highlight patient reports in statistical signal detection can further improve the contribution of patient reports to pharmacovigilance.

Further sources of information/References:

1. Inácio P, Cavaco A, Airaksinen M. The value of patient reporting to the pharmacovigilance system: a systematic review. *Br J Clin Pharmacol* 2017; 83: 227-46
2. van Hunsel F, Talsma A, van Puijenbroek E, de Jong-van den Berg L, van Grootheest K. The proportion of patient reports of suspected ADRs to signal detection in the Netherlands: case-control study. *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf* 2011;20(3):286-91
3. Hazell L, Cornelius V, Hannaford P, Shakir S, Avery AJ; Yellow Card Study Collaboration. How do patients contribute to signal detection? : A retrospective analysis of spontaneous reporting of adverse drug reactions in the UK's Yellow Card Scheme. *Drug Saf* 2013;36(3):199-206
4. de Langen J, van Hunsel F, Passier A, de Jong-van der Berg L, van Grootheest K. Adverse drug reaction reporting by patients in the Netherlands: three years of experience. *Drug Saf* 2008; 31:515-24
5. Aagaard L, Nielsen LH, Hansen EH. Consumer reporting of adverse drug reactions: a retrospective analysis of the Danish adverse drug reaction database from 2004 to 2006. *Drug Saf* 2009; 32: 1067-74
6. Avery AJ, Anderson C, Bond CM, Fortnum H, Gifford A, Hannaford PC et al. Evaluation of patient reporting of adverse drug reactions to the UK "Yellow Card Scheme": literature review, descriptive and qualitative analyses, and questionnaire surveys. *Health Technol Assess* 2011; 15: 11–234

69 Adverse Drug Reactions Notifications by Patients

M. T. Herdeiro^{1,2}, P.C. Mastroianni³, F.R. Varallo^{3,4}, F. Roque^{1,5}

¹Institute for Biomedicine, Medical Sciences Department, University of Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal, ²Institute of Research and Advanced Training in Health Sciences and Technologies, Gandra, Portugal, ³São Paulo State University, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Araraquara, Brazil, ⁴Americo Brasiliense State Hospital, Araraquara, Brazil, ⁵Research Unit for Inland Development, Guarda Polytechnic, Guarda, Portugal

Introduction: Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are an important public problem in terms of patient morbidity, mortality and costs for health systems. Therefore, reporting of suspected ADRs is fundamental to drug safety surveillance. Substantial underreporting exists and is the system's