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Diploma in Pharmacy 2nd Year

Community Pharmacy & Management

Experiment

Identification of drug-drug interactions in the prescription and follow-up actions.

Aim:

Identification of drug-drug interactions in the prescription and follow-up actions.

Reference :

‘ Dr. Gupta G.D. , Dr. Sharma Shailesh, Dr. Gupta Richa, “Practical Manual of Community Pharmacy and Management” Published by Nirali Prakashan, Page no 4 - 8

Theory :

A situation in which a substance affects the drug activity (ie, either increases or decreases the effects) or produce a new effect that does not produces on its own is termed as drug interaction.

Interaction between drugs (ie, drug-drug interaction) occurs most commonly However, interactions also occur between drugs and foods (ie, drug food interactions), and drugs and herbs (ie, drug-herb interactions).

Drug-drug interactions between the following classes of drugs have been discussed below:

| Analgesics | Interacting Drugs | Possible Effects |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 1) Opioids | Phenoxybenzamine | The depressor effect of opioids is exaggerated. |
| 2) Salicylates | Alkalinisers and antacids | The serum levels of salicylate decreases as the renal reabsorption of salicylate from alkaline urine reduces. |
| 3) Salicylates | Indomethacin | The serum level of indomethacin decreases due to inhibition of gastrointestinal absorption. |
| 4) Salicylates | Acidifiers, ascorbic acid, and ammonium chloride | The serum levels of salicylate increases due to enhancement in the renal absorption of salicylate from acidic urine. |
| 5) Salicylates | Heparin and warfarin | Aspirin inhibits platelet aggregation, thus giving rise to additive effect which causes bleeding. |
| 6) Salicylates | Probenecid | The uricosuric activity of probenecid decreases as both compete for the same binding site (albumin molecule) on plasma. |
| 7) Phenylbutazone | Tolbutamide | The hypoglycaemic response increases as tolbutamide metabolism is inhibited. |

| Diuretics | Interacting Drugs | Possible Effects |
|---|---|---|
| 1) Furosemide, thiazides, and ethacrynic acid | Sulfonylureas | The effect of sulfonylureas antagonises due to depression of islets of Langerhans. |
| 2) Thiazides | Methyldopa, guanethidine, and reserpine | The antihypertensive effects are increased by thiazides and this may cause hypotension. |
| 3) Furosemide, thiazides, and ethacrynic acid | Digoxin | The cardiac effect and toxicity due to potassium depletion enhances. |
| 4) Furosemide | Phenytoin | Response of furosemide decreases due to increase in sodium absorption. |
| 5) Acetazolamide | Quinidine | The serum level of quinidine increases. |
| 6) Spironolactone | Potassium chloride | Hyperkalaemia occurs as spironolactone is a potassium sparing diuretic. |

| Cardiovascular Drugs | Interacting Drugs | Possible Effects |
|---|--|--|
| 1) Digitalis glycosides | Magnesium, calcium, and aluminium salts containing antacid | Absorption of cardiac glycosides decreases in GIT. |
| 2) Digitoxin | Barbiturates | Digitoxin effect decreases due to induction of hepatic microsomal enzymes (responsible for digitoxin metabolism). |
| 3) Quinidine | Digitalis glycoside | The clearance of digitalis glycosides is decreased and also displaced from the binding site by quinidine, thus the cardiac effect and toxicity of cardiac glycoside increases. |
| 4) β -blockers (propranolol and atenolol) | Anti-diabetic agents | The release of glucose from the liver glycogen is inhibited by β -blockers and this causes hypoglycaemia. |
| 5) Guanethidine | Tricyclic antidepressant | The antihypertensive effect antagonises as guanethidine uptake is inhibited. |

| Gastrointestinal Drugs | Interacting Drugs | Possible Effects |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| 1) Antacids | Aspirin | The absorption of aspirin decreases. |
| 2) Magnesium carbonate and magnesium trisilicate | Digitalis glycoside | The absorption of cardiac glycosides decreases. |
| 3) Aluminium hydroxide gel | Isoniazid | The absorption of isoniazid decreases. |
| 4) Metoclopramide (antiemetic) | Levodopa | The absorption rate of levodopa decreases due to decrease in GIT motility. |
| 5) Kaolin-pectin mixture | Digoxin | The absorption of digoxin decreases. |

| Vitamins | Interacting Drugs | Possible Effects |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 1) Vitamin B ₁₂ | Chloramphenicol | Vitamin B ₁₂ effect decreases due to interference in erythrocyte maturation. |
| 2) Vitamin A | Mineral oil | Mineral oil impairs Vitamin A absorption. |
| 3) Pyridoxine (Vitamin B ₆) | Levodopa | Pyridoxine increases levodopa metabolism, thus decreases its effectiveness. |
| 4) Vitamin D | Phenytoin and phenobarbital | Vitamin D metabolism is stimulated which reduces calcium serum level. |
| 5) Vitamins | Oral contraceptives | Oral contraceptives cause deficiency of Vitamin B ₁₂ , Vitamin C, Vitamin B ₆ , and folic acid by inhibiting enzyme required for their absorption. |

Follow-up Actions

1. Pharmacists should be familiar with all of their patients' current medications, including OTC medications, herbal remedies, and dietary supplements as well as medications prescribed by other physicians
2. He/she should ask relevant questions about diet and alcohol consumption to the patient
3. He/she should prescribe a few drugs in the low doses for short period of time.
4. He/she should determine the desired and undesired effects because they frequently result in a range of drug interactions.
5. He/she should facilitate drugs with a wide safety margin to prevent any unanticipated interactions from causing toxicity.
6. He/she should observe and monitor the patient for adverse effect especially after a therapy change because some interactions (such as those influenced by enzyme induction) may take 1 week to manifest.
7. He/she should consider drug interaction as a possible cause of any unexpected problems.
8. He/she should determine serum concentrations of specific medications being taken when unexpected clinical responses arise and consult

relevant literature or expert in drug interactions, and adjust the dosage until the intended effect is achieved.

9. He/she should replace the drug that does not interact with any others if adjusting the doses does not work.

Result :

Identification of drug-drug interactions was done in the prescription and follow-up actions were taken.



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