CLINICAL ANALYSIS OF ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS

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Disclaimer

The views in this presentation on clinical analysis of adverse drug reactions are my own opinion and do not necessarily represent the views of the FDA.
Objectives

- Define adverse drug reactions
- Discuss epidemiology, classification and causes of ADRs
- Describe basic methods to detect, assess, manage and document ADRs in the clinical setting
- Describe postmarketing drug safety surveillance, the FDA MedWatch program, and FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS)
- Discuss FDA adverse drug reaction initiatives and mitigation strategies
Definitions

WHO – Adverse Drug Reaction
- Response to a drug that is noxious and unintended and that occurs at doses used in humans for prophylaxis, diagnosis, or therapy of disease, or for the modification of physiologic function.

FDA – Adverse Drug Experience
- Any adverse event associated with the use of a drug in humans, whether or not considered drug related, including the following: An adverse event occurring in the course of the use of a drug product in professional practice; an adverse event occurring from drug overdose whether accidental or intentional; an adverse event occurring from drug abuse; an adverse event occurring from drug withdrawal; and any failure of expected pharmacological action.

Requirements for adverse drug reaction reporting. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 1975

Epidemiology

• In 2006 an average of 82% of American adults take at least one medication and 29% take five or more*

• In 2004 and 2005 an estimated 700,000 emergency department visits and 120,000 hospitalizations were due to ADEs annually**

• $3.5 billion is spent on extra medical costs of ADEs annually (per 2006 yr cost estimates)***

http://www.cdc.gov/MedicationSafety/basics.html

*Slone Epidemiology Center at Boston Univ. Patterns of medication use in the United States 2006;  
ADEs Projected to Increase

- Development of new medications
- Discovery of new uses for older medications
- Aging American population
- Increase in the use of medications for disease prevention
- Increased coverage for prescription medications

http://www.cdc.gov/MedicationSafety/basics.html
Classification

• Severity
• Type
Classification – Severity of Event

• Minor
• Moderate
• Serious
• Serious life-threatening
• Serious lethal

Classification
FDA Serious Adverse Drug Experience

Any adverse drug experience occurring at any dose that results in any of the following outcomes:

- Result in death
- Life-threatening
- Hospitalization (new or prolonged)
- Disability or incapacity
- Congenital anomaly, birth defect
- Other: require intervention to prevent any of the above

http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b79d08f290d0fe79d912bd82e97bd16f&node=21:5.0.1.1.4.2.1.11&rgn=div8
Classification - Type

Type A (dose related)
- extension of pharmacologic effect
- often predictable and dose dependent
- Generally reversible
- e.g., propranolol and heart block, anticholinergics and dry mouth

Type B (not dose related)
- idiosyncratic or immunologic reactions
- rare and unpredictable
- e.g., chloramphenicol and aplastic anemia
- Rash caused by beta lactam antibiotics

ADR Risk Factors

• Age (children and elderly)
• Multiple medications
• Multiple co-morbid conditions
• Inappropriate medication prescribing, use, or monitoring
• End-organ dysfunction
• Altered physiology
• Prior history of ADRs
• Extent (dose) and duration of exposure
• Genetic predisposition
ADR Detection

- Subjective report
  - patient complaint
- Objective report:
  - direct observation of event
  - abnormal findings
    - physical exam
    - laboratory test
    - diagnostic procedure
ADR Detection

- Medication order screening
  - abrupt medication discontinuation
  - abrupt dosage reduction
  - orders for “tracer” or “trigger” substances
  - orders for special tests or serum drug concentrations
- Spontaneous reporting
- Medication utilization review
  - Computerized screening
  - Chart review and concurrent audits
- Decision Support systems
  - Physician order entry, pharm info system
ADR Detection in Clinical Trials

• Methods
  • Standard laboratory tests
  • Diagnostic tests
  • Complete history and physical
  • Adverse drug event questionnaire
    • Extensive checklist of symptoms categorized by body system
    • Review-of-systems approach
    • Qualitative and quantitative
ADE Reporting in Clinical Trials
21 CFR 312.32 IND Safety Reporting

- Changes to safety information reporting during clinical trials began in March 2011 and enforcement on September 28, 2011
- Clarifies definitions (adverse event, suspected adverse reaction, unexpected adverse event)
- Suspected adverse reaction
  - Reasonable possibility the drug caused the event
- Revised requirements for expedited reporting

IND Safety Reporting Issues

• Adverse events that were likely to have been a manifestation of the underlying disease
• Adverse events that commonly occurred in the study population
• Adverse events that were study endpoints
Limitations of Premarketing Clinical Trials

- Size of the patient population studied
- Narrow population - often not providing sufficient data on special groups
- Narrow indications studied
- Short duration
ADR Assessment
Preliminary Assessment

- Preliminary description of event:
  - Who, what, when, where, how?
  - *Who* is involved?
  - *What* is the most likely causative agent?
    - Is this an exacerbation of a pre-existing condition?
    - Alternative explanations / differential diagnosis
  - *When* did the event take place?
  - *Where* did the event occur?
  - *How* has the event been managed thus far?
Preliminary Assessment

- Determination of urgency:
  - What is the patient’s current clinical status?
  - How severe is the reaction?

- Appropriate triage:
  - Acute (ER, ICU, Poison Control)
Detailed Description of Event

- History of present illness
- Signs / Symptoms:
  - Provoking or palliative factors
  - Quality (character or intensity)
  - Response to treatment,
  - Severity / extent, Site (location)
  - Temporal relationship (onset, duration, frequency)
  - Other associated signs and symptoms
Pertinent Patient/Disease Factors

- Demographics
  - age, race, ethnicity, gender, height, weight
- Medical history and physical exam
  - Concurrent conditions or special circumstances
    - e.g., dehydration, autoimmune condition, HIV infection, pregnancy, dialysis, breast feeding
  - Recent procedures or surgeries and any resultant complications
    - e.g., contrast material, radiation treatment, hypotension, shock, renal insufficiency
Pertinent Patient/Disease Factors

- End-organ function
- Review of systems
- Laboratory tests and diagnostics
- Social history
  - tobacco, alcohol, substance abuse, physical activity, environmental or occupational hazards or exposures
- Pertinent family history
- Nutritional status
  - special diets, malnutrition, weight loss
Pertinent Medication Factors

- Medication history
  - Prescription medications
  - Non-prescription medications
  - Alternative and investigational therapies
  - Medication use within previous 6 months
  - Allergies or intolerances
  - History of medication reactions
  - Adherence to prescribed regimens
  - Cumulative medication dosages
Pertinent Medication Factors

- Medication
  - Indication, dose, diluent, volume

- Administration
  - Route, method, site, schedule, rate, duration

- Formulation
  - Pharmaceutical excipients
    - e.g., colorings, flavorings, preservatives
  - Other components
    - e.g., DEHP, latex
Pertinent Medication Factors

- Pharmacology
- Pharmacokinetics (LADME)
- Pharmacodynamics
- Adverse effect profiles
- Interactions
  - drug-drug
  - drug-nutrient
  - drug-lab test interference
- Cross-allergenicity or cross-reactivity
ADR Information

• Incidence and prevalence
• Mechanism and pathogenesis
• Clinical presentation and diagnosis
• Time course
• Dose relationship
• Reversibility
• Cross-reactivity/Cross-allergenicity
• Treatment and prognosis
Causality Assessment

- Prior reports of reaction
- Temporal relationship
- De-challenge
- Re-challenge
- Dose-response relationship
- Alternative etiologies
- Objective confirmation
- Past history of reaction to same or similar medication
Causality Assessment

- Examples of causality algorithms
  - Naranjo Adverse Drug Reaction Probability scale
  - World Health Organization, the Uppsala Monitoring Centre (WHO-UMC) causality assessment system

- Causality outcomes
Naranjo ADR Probability Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Do Not Know</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Are there previous conclusive reports on this reaction?</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Did the adverse event appear after the suspected drug was administered?</td>
<td>+2</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Did the adverse reaction improve when the drug was discontinued or a specific antagonist was administered?</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Did the adverse reactions appear when the drug was readministered?</td>
<td>+2</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Are there alternative causes (other than the drug) that could on their own have caused the reaction?</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>+2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Did the reaction reappear when a placebo was given?</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Was the drug detected in the blood (or other fluids) in concentrations known to be toxic?</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Was the reaction more severe when the dose was increased, or less severe when the dose was decreased?</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Did the patient have a similar reaction to the same or similar drugs in any previous exposure?</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Was the adverse event confirmed by any objective evidence?</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Score** 8

**ADR Probability Classification**

- 9: Definite
- 5-8: Probable
- 1-4: Possible
- 0: Doubtful

Assessing ADR Risk

- Review drug labels
  - DailyMed, Drug@FDA
- Safety Alerts – FDA, international
- Published literature
  - Case reports, reviews, clinical trials
- Drug information resources
  - NLM – Livertox
  - Micromedex
Evaluating a Publication for ADRs

- Are adverse events actually reported?
- Passive or active surveillance used to identify AE?
- Is a validated checklist available?
- Are pre-specified objective endpoints reported?
- Are patient withdrawals because of adverse events reported?
- Are AEs reported in the abstract, methods, and results section?
- Discussion includes a balanced discussion of harms and benefits?
- Is there external validity?

Minimizing and Managing ADRS

- **Discontinue the offending agent if:**
  - it can be safely stopped
  - the event is life-threatening or intolerable
  - there is a reasonable alternative
  - continuing the medication will further exacerbate the patient’s condition

- **Continue the medication (modified as needed) if:**
  - it is medically necessary
  - there is no reasonable alternative
  - the problem is mild and will resolve with time
Management Options

- Discontinue non-essential medications
- Administer appropriate treatment
  - e.g., atropine, benztropine, dextrose, antihistamines, epinephrine, naloxone, phenytoin, phytonadione, protamine, sodium polystyrene sulfonate, digibind, flumazenil, corticosteroids, glucagon
- Provide supportive or palliative care
  - e.g., hydration, glucocorticoids, warm / cold compresses, analgesics or antipruritics
- Consider rechallenge or desensitization
Follow-up and Re-evaluation

• Patient’s progress
• Course of event
• Delayed reactions
• Response to treatment
• Specific monitoring parameters
Reporting ADRs

Examples of types of ADRs

- Hypersensitivity
- Life-threatening
- Cause disability
- Idiosyncratic
- Secondary to Drug interactions
- Unexpected detrimental effect
- Drug intolerance
- ADR with investigational drug (per regulatory requirements)
Components of an ADR Report

- Product name and manufacturer
- Patient demographics
- Description of adverse event and outcome
- Date of onset
- Drug start and stop dates/times
- Dose, frequency, and method
- Relevant lab test results or other objective evidence
- De-challenge and re-challenge information
- Confounding variables
Documentation and Reporting

- Medical record
  - Description
  - Management
  - Outcome

- Reporting responsibility
  - JCAHO-mandated reporting programs
  - Food and Drug Administration
    - post-marketing surveillance
    - particular interest in serious reactions involving new chemical entities
  - Pharmaceutical manufacturers
  - Publishing in the medical literature
Postmarket Adverse Event Reporting and FDA MedWatch
Benefits of Postmarketing Monitoring

The ability to study the following:

- Low frequency reactions (not identified in clinical trials)
- High risk groups
- Long-term effects
- Drug-drug/food interactions
- Increased severity and/or reporting frequency of known reactions
Types of Postmarketing Surveillance

• Spontaneous/voluntary reporting of cases
  • National (FDA MedWatch)
  • Local or Regional (Joint Commission Requirement)
  • Scientific literature publications

• Postmarketing studies (voluntary or required)
  • Observational studies (including automated healthcare databases)
  • Randomized clinical trials

• Active surveillance
  • Drug-Induced Liver Injury Network (DILIN)
  • Sentinel initiative
• How to Report:
  • Online (www.fda.gov/medwatch)
  • Download the form
    • Mail
    • Fax 1–800–332–0178
• For questions about the form:
  • 1–800–332–1088
### Reporting to MedWatch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Identifier</th>
<th>Event or Problem</th>
<th>Reporter</th>
<th>Product</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**Patient Identifier**

**Event or Problem**

**Reporter**

**Product**
## Consumer MedWatch Form

**MedWatch Form 3500B**
- Includes 4 primary components
  - Patient
  - Product
  - Event
  - Reporter
- User-friendly format for non-health care professionals
Components of a Good Postmarketing Report

- Description of adverse event
- Suspected and concomitant product therapy details (e.g. dose, dates of therapy)
- Patient characteristics (e.g., age, sex), baseline medical condition, comorbid condition, family history, other risk factors
- Documentation of the diagnosis
- Clinical course and outcomes
- Relevant therapeutic measures and laboratory data
- Dechallenge and rechallenge information
- Reporter contact information
- Any other relevant information

Guidance for Industry - Good Pharmacovigilance Practices and Pharmacoepidemiologic Assessment, March 2005
How Postmarketing Reports Get to FDA

Patients, consumer, and healthcare professionals

Voluntary

FDA MedWatch

Voluntary

Manufacturer

Regulatory Requirements

FDA

5% of all reports

95% of all reports

FDA MedWatch

Manufacturer

FAERS Database
FDA Adverse Event Reporting System

- Computerized database
- Spontaneous reports
- Contains human drug and therapeutic biologic reports
- > 7 million reports since 1969
- More than 1 million reports entered in 2013
Pharmacovigilance

The science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding, and prevention of adverse effects or any other drug-related problems.

*The Importance of Pharmacovigilance, World Health Organization 2002
Office of Surveillance & Epidemiology
Divisions of Pharmacovigilance

- Evaluate the safety of drug and biologic products
- Advance public health by detecting and analyzing safety signals from all available data sources, utilizing evidence-based methods
- Recommend appropriate regulatory actions, including labeling changes, Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS), etc.
- Communicate related safety information
What is a Safety Signal?

• WHO defines a signal as:
  • Reported information on a possible causal relationship between an adverse event and a drug
  • The relationship being previously unknown or incompletely documented
• Usually requires more than one report, depending on the seriousness of the event and the quality of the information

Safety Signal Illustrations

- New unlabeled adverse events

- An observed increase in a labeled event OR a greater severity or specificity

- Unrecognized drug-drug interaction

- Newly identified at-risk population
FDA Drug Safety Communications

- FDA provides easy access to important drug safety information
- Risk of Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML) with the use of Tysabri (natalizumab) and increases with number of infusions
  - 31 confirmed cases of PML received by the FDA as of January 21, 2010
  - Additional information for patients and prescribers provided on website
  - This information will be included on the drug label and patient Medication Guide
- Limited distribution prescribing system is in place
Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS)

• Risk management plan that utilizes strategies that go beyond professional labeling to ensure drug benefits outweigh risks
• The FDA Amendments Act of 2007 (FDAAA) granted the FDA the authority to require the submission and implementation of a REMS
• REMS are designed to meet specific serious risk mitigation goals
REMS Components

- A REMS can include
  - Medication Guide or Patient Package Insert
  - Communication Plan for healthcare professionals (HCPs)
  - Elements to Assure Safe Use (previously known as “restricted distribution”)
  - Implementation system
- Must include a timetable for assessment of the REMS (for NDAs and BLAs)
Medication Guide

• Provides FDA approved patient-friendly labeling

• Can be required if FDA determines one or more:
  • Patient labeling could help prevent serious adverse events
  • The product has serious risks that could affect patient’s decision to use or continue to use
  • Patient adherence to directions is crucial to product effectiveness
Communication Plan

- FDA approved materials used to aid sponsor’s implementation of REMS and/or inform healthcare providers about serious risks (not patient directed)
- Communication plan may include:
  - “Dear Healthcare Professional” letters
  - Dissemination of information to HCPs through professional societies
  - Information about the REMS to encourage implementation
- Specific tools used:
  - Dear Healthcare Professional Letters
  - Informational brochures, slide deck
  - Information pieces placed in professional journals or made available at scientific meetings
  - Training materials, videos
Elements to Assure Safe Use

- Certification and specialized training of HCPs who prescribe the drugs
- Certification of pharmacies or other dispensers of the drug
- Dispensing/administration of drug in limited settings e.g., hospitals
- Drug is dispensed/administered only with evidence of safe-use conditions
- Each patient using the drug is subject to certain monitoring
- Enrollment of treated patients in registries
REMS Example Victoza® (Liraglutide)

- Goal is to inform providers of the risk of acute pancreatitis (including necrotizing pancreatitis) and potential risk of medullary thyroid carcinoma
- Medication guide distributed to each patient when drug dispensed
- Communication Plan
  - Dear doctor letter
  - Highlighted information for prescribers will be distributed by manufacturer representatives
  - A link from Victoza website taking HCP to these documents
Sample of Victoza® Medication Guide Information

Before taking Victoza, tell your healthcare provider if you have had:
• pancreatitis
• stones in your gallbladder (gallstones)
• a history of alcoholism
• high blood triglyceride levels
  • These medical conditions can make you more likely to get pancreatitis in general. It is not known if having these conditions will lead to a higher chance of getting pancreatitis while taking Victoza.

While taking Victoza:
• Stop taking Victoza and call your healthcare provider right away if you have pain in your stomach area (abdomen) that is severe and will not go away. The pain may happen with or without vomiting. The pain may be felt going from your abdomen through to your back. This type of pain may be a symptom of pancreatitis.

• For a list of Medication guides:
  http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm085729.htm
Communicating Safety Issues
Communicating Safety Issues to the Public and Internationally

- MedWatch Safety Alerts
- Drug Safety Newsletter
- Postmarket Drug and Biologic Safety Evaluations (FDAAA 915)
- Potential Signals of Serious Risks/New Safety Information Identified from FAERS (FDAAA 921)
- Published literature and scientific meetings
- Video and teleconferences with foreign regulatory agencies:
  - European Medicines Agency, Canada, Australia, New Zealand
MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program

Search MedWatch:

Your FDA gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.

Resources for You
- Report a Serious Medical Product Problem Online
- Reporting Unlawful Sales of Medical Products on the Internet
- Current Drug Shortages Index
- Index to Drug-Specific Information
- Identifying Recalled Products
- An FDA Guide to Drug Safety Terms

What's New
- Samsca (tolvaptan): Drug Warning - Potential Risk of Liver Injury
  Large clinical trial findings of significant elevations of both ALT and bilirubin. Posted 01/26/2013
- Bausch and Lomb 2.76% Sterile Camu Camu Pack in Amnsc and Amnsc and Aquadex Plus Ophthalmic Viscoocular Devices (OVD): Class I Recall - The Needle May Leak or Detach From the Syringe. Some disposable camu camu presived may leak viscoelastic material or detach from the syringe during injection. In rare incidences, detachment has resulted in serious patient injury. Posted 01/23/2013
- Ferric Sulfate Tablets, 325 mg labeled as Rugby Natural Iron Supplement Recall - Bottle may contain Medicine HCl 25 mg Tablets. Serious adverse events may include impaired alertness, drowsiness, confusion, low blood pressure, coma, and respiratory depression. Posted 01/18/2013

FDA Approved Safety Information
- DailyMed (National Library of Medicine)
  Current Drug Prescribing Information. (NOTE: Drugs marked "unapproved" on this site have not been reviewed by FDA for safety and efficacy, and their labeling has not been approved.)
- Medication Guides
  Paper handouts that come with many prescription medicines. Medication Guides address issues specific to particular drugs and drug classes. They contain FDA-approved information that may help patients understand adverse events.

Recalls & Alerts
- MedWatch Safety Alerts for Human Medical Products
- FDA Patient Safety News Video Broadcasts
- FDA Drug Safety Newsletter

Stay Informed
- Subscribe to MedWatch Safety Alerts
- Join the MedWatch E-list
- About the MedWatch E-list
- Follow MedWatch on Twitter
- MedWatch Safety Alerts RSS Feed
- RSS News Feed Help
http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch
How to get FDA Drug Safety Alerts

• FDA Drug Safety Newsletter

• MedWatch Safety Alerts
  • http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/ucm168422.htm

• FDA Patient Safety News
  • Video news show for health professionals
  • http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/psn/index.cfm

• MedWatch reporting:
  • http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm