

Monitoring adverse drug events

Regina E. Roller

Medical University of Graz, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Angiology
Auenbruggerplatz 15, 8036 Graz, Austria

Regina.Roller-Wirnsberger@meduni-graz.at

Adverse drug events (ADEs) are defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a “response to a drug that is noxious and unintended and occurs at doses normally used for man for prophylaxis, diagnosis, or therapy of disease, or for the modification of physiologic function”. Elderly and infant patients are particularly vulnerable to ADEs for a substantially variable endogenous pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. Especially in these patients ADEs may present ambiguous and clinical symptoms may misleadingly be interpreted as progression of disease. Identification of an ADE is therefore not easy and requires a systematic approach.

Although numerous approaches have already been proposed by different authors and authorities only few of these have been taken up to clinical practice so far. The current lecture will briefly give insight to the algorithm by Karch and Lasagna, the one developed by Naranjo et al. , as well as the operational algorithm proposed by the WHO.

Final closing remarks will focus on national and international “monitoring bodies”.