

590 SAFETY OF NIMESULIDE AS ALTERNATIVE DRUG IN PATIENTS WITH ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS
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We studied 143 consecutive outcoming patients suffering from adverse drug reactions to non steroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). The most frequent clinical manifestations were: urticaria (59), angioedema (45) or both (34). In a minor number of cases the patients referred asthma (8), laryngeal oedema (11) and anaphylaxis (3). We tested nimesulide (Aulin, Boehringer Mannheim Italia) for each patient, as an alternative drug to be assumed if necessary. The challenge was articulated in a low-single dose administration (nimesulide 5 mg) and in the assumption of one or more placebos. The patients were then observed for at least 12 hours and furtherly followed-up, at least 3 months after the challenge. Only 14 patients showed reactions during the challenge: 11 of them referred subjective symptoms, 2 showed erythema, 1 urticaria and 1 tachycardia. Eight out of these 11 patients reacted to one or more placebos.

We followed-up 110 patients: 74 assumed therapeutical doses of nimesulide without reactions, 33 had not yet assumed the drug, 1 referred hearthburn and 1 urticaria. According to the literature, nimesulide appears to be a safe alternative drug for patients with reactions to NSAIDs. The incidence of mild adverse reactions during the challenge was 2.8%, and the drug was well tolerated in 99.5% of the patients followed up.

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