

Drug allergy

Informazioni sulla pubblicazione: Nursing Standard (2014+) ; London Vol. 29, Fasc. 8, (Oct 22, 2014): 20.

[Collegamento al documento ProQuest](#)

ABSTRACT

Essential Facts

Each year around 62,000 people in England are admitted to hospital after experiencing a serious allergic reaction to a drug. Between 2005 and 2013, there were six deaths and 19 people were severely harmed by drug allergy. There is also evidence that these reactions are increasing. Up to 15 per cent of inpatients have their hospital stay prolonged as a result of an adverse drug reaction.

TESTO COMPLETO

What's new?

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a new guideline on the diagnosis and management of drug allergy in adults, children and young people. The guideline recommends that when a person presents with suspected drug allergy, their reaction should be documented in a structured approach. Paper or electronic prescriptions in any healthcare setting should be standardised and redesigned to record information on drugs or drug classes to avoid, to reduce the risk of drug allergy.

Signs and symptoms

An allergic response to a drug can produce a wide range of symptoms, including skin rashes, itching, breathing problems and swelling. Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic response that needs immediate treatment with adrenaline. Symptoms include itchy skin or a raised, red skin rash; swollen eyes, lips, hands and feet; feeling faint; breathing difficulties; abdominal pain; nausea and vomiting; and unconsciousness and death if left untreated.

Causes and risk factors

Drugs often responsible for allergic reactions include antibiotics, general anaesthesia and painkillers, such as aspirin, ibuprofen and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatories. However, people are often told they have a drug allergy when they do not.

How you can help your patient

Record the generic and proprietary name of the drug or drugs suspected to have caused a reaction, including the strength and formulation, a description of the reaction, and the date and time of the reaction. The NICE guideline also states that clinicians should check drug allergy status and confirm it with the patient, their family members or carers as appropriate before prescribing, dispensing or administering any drug. In addition, discuss suspected drug allergy with the patient, their family members or carers, provide written information, and ensure that everyone is aware of the drugs or drug classes that they need to avoid.

Find out more

NICE guideline on drug allergy (September 2014) www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG183

Articles from RCN Publishing

Adverse drug reactions: causes, types, pathways and mechanisms (2011) Kanneh A. Nursing Children and Young People rcnpublishing.com/doi/abs/10.7748/ncyp2011.05.23.4.23.c8488

Recognition, assessment and management of anaphylaxis (2010) Linton E, Watson D. Nursing Standard

Expert comment

Andrew Williams is a nurse consultant in allergy at Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

'Drug allergy is a big issue that affects many patients. There is a lot of confusion about what drug allergy is, and people are often told that they have an allergy, when what they have is a side effect of the drug or a symptom of the condition they are being treated for. The majority of those told they have an allergy to penicillin do not, and may not be given the best antibiotic for their condition. Nurses need to think of other potential causes of symptoms, but must not prescribe or dispense the reported drug without clear evidence. All drug allergies need to be recorded systematically.

'Nurses need to be aware of the symptoms of anaphylaxis, as this is a medical emergency.'

DETTAGLI

Soggetto:	Allergies; Side effects; Drugs; Nursing; Computerized physician order entry
Titolo:	Drug allergy
Titolo pubblicazione:	Nursing Standard (2014+); London
Volume:	29
Fascicolo:	8
Prima pagina:	20
Anno di pubblicazione:	2014
Data di pubblicazione:	Oct 22, 2014
Casa editrice:	BMJ Publishing Group LTD
Luogo di pubblicazione::	London
Paese di pubblicazione:	United Kingdom, London
Soggetto pubblicazione:	Medical Sciences--Nurses And Nursing
ISSN:	00296570
CODEN:	NSTAEU
Tipo di fonte:	Scholarly Journals
Lingua di pubblicazione:	English
Tipo di documento:	Commentary

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7748/ns.29.8.20.s25>

ID documento ProQuest: 1784964765

URL del documento: <https://search.proquest.com/docview/1784964765?accountid=27636>

Copyright: Copyright BMJ Publishing Group LTD Oct 22, 2014

Ultimo aggiornamento: 2016-11-15

Database: Health Research Premium Collection,British Nursing Database

Copyright database © 2018 ProQuest.LLC. Tutti i diritti riservati.

[Condizioni di utilizzo](#) [Contatta ProQuest](#)