

*An occasional bulletin from the
West Midlands Centre for Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting*

This bulletin and other items of news about the Centre are available on the internet at <http://www.chtpharm.demon.co.uk/csmwm.htm>

REPORTING TO CSM West Midlands

We welcome Yellow Card reports on all adverse reactions to new (–) drugs, vaccines and unlicensed herbal remedies, and on all serious or unusual reactions to well-established drugs.

Yellow Cards can be found in the BNF, MIMS, the ABPI Compendium of Data Sheets, OTC Directory and in FP10 prescription pads. Further supplies can be obtained from CSM West Midlands.

Please send reports to

CSM West Midlands, Freepost SW2991, BIRMINGHAM, B18 7BR.

No stamp is needed. If you would like a supply of pre-addressed and reply-paid yellow cards, please contact the above address.

ADDITIONS TO CLOSELY MONITORED DRUGS include

- losartan & hydrochlorothiazide (Cozaar-Comp[®])
- adsorbed DTP and HIB conjugate vaccine (Trivax-HIB[®])
- reboxetine (Edronax[®])
- vinorelbine (Navelbine[®])
- brimonidine (Alphagan[®])
- mirtazapine (Zispin[®])
- mometasone (Nasonex[®])
- naratriptan (Naramig[®])
- cidofovir (Vistide[®])

We are keen to receive reports of all suspected reactions to all closely monitored drugs, and to vaccines and unlicensed herbal preparations.

RECENT REPORTS

Bruising with venlafaxine (Canadian Journal of Psychiatry 1997; 42: 91)

Adverse reactions are commonly reported with the SSRIs. One rather unusual reaction is easy bruising (not accompanied by thrombocytopenia). The CSM has received reports of 81 cases with paroxetine and 109 cases with fluoxetine. Venlafaxine is an atypical antidepressant with some effects of SSRIs. Recently, a Canadian report has described a 19-year old woman who developed ecchymosis during treatment with venlafaxine for major depression. The woman was initially treated with sertraline but this was discontinued because of diarrhoea. Venlafaxine was started subsequently and one week later she developed easy and spontaneous bruising on her arms. Venlafaxine was discontinued and the woman's bruising had resolved 10 days later.

We have received two reports of bruising associated with venlafaxine use. A 29-year old woman had been on paroxetine for many months and within three weeks of her medication being changed to venlafaxine she developed easy bruising which continues. We have also had a similar report of bruising over the shins in a 55-year old woman who was also taking venlafaxine. We welcome any reports of bruising or other bleeding associated with the use of antidepressant drugs.

