



Prospective Survey on Safety Evaluation of Injectable Methylxanthines in Japan

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Background: Injectable methylxanthines are useful drugs in the treatment of asthma. The Asthma Prevention and Management Guidelines (JGL) that are followed in Japan recommend the use of sustained-release theophylline to control the disease and use of injectable methylxanthines to alleviate symptoms. In contrast, the guidelines followed in the west do not promote theophylline use due to safety concerns, and the use of injectable methylxanthines in particular are not recommended. We thus conducted a study on adult patients with bronchial asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease treated with theophylline and injectable methylxanthines in Japan in order to assess the safety of these drugs.

Methods: 876 patients were surveyed at 55 medical institutions by the Committee on the Safety of Sustained-Release Theophylline and Injectable Methylxanthines (CST) of the Committee for Asthma Prevention and Management Guidelines of the Japanese Society of Allergology (JSA). 682 of the patients were evaluated for safety.

Results: Adverse reactions including facial flushing, palpitations, headache, tinnitus, diaphoresis, nausea, vomiting and tachycardia were reported by only 2 (0.29%) of the 682 patients, but none of these were serious.

Conclusions: The results confirm that injectable methylxanthines are safe, when used in accordance with the JGL.

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