

衛生署藥物辦公室
藥物註冊及進出口管制部

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Dear Healthcare Professionals,

MHRA: Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) and Risk of Heart Problems

Your attention is drawn to the response of the U.K. Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to a review by Hull York Medical School which reports that the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) can increase the risk of heart attack or stroke by a third.

The MHRA opined that the findings of this study were not new. An increase in risk of heart attack and stroke with some NSAIDs has been well recognised for some years, particularly with long-term use of high doses and in patients who are already at high risk. NSAIDs are indicated for the treatment of arthritis and many other painful conditions, including headache, fever, and minor ailments. For most patients, the risks of side effects are outweighed by the benefits of treatment.


In order to minimise the risk of side effects, MHRA advised that all NSAIDs should be used for the shortest time and at the lowest dose necessary to control symptoms. Patients should not stop taking their NSAID medicines, but if they have any questions about their treatment they should speak to their doctor or pharmacist. For details, please refer to MHRA's website:

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/Safetywarningsalertsandrecalls/Safetywarningsandmessagesformedicines/CON129228>

In Hong Kong, NSAIDs-containing products are registered pharmaceutical products with ingredients such as diclofenac, ibuprofen, indomethacin, mefenamic acid and piroxicam. In view of MHRA's recommendation, the issue will be discussed in the meeting of the Registration Committee of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board.

Please report any adverse events caused by the drugs to the Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Unit of Department of Health (tel. no.: 2319 8633, fax: 2147-0457 or email: adr@dh.gov.hk). For details, please refer to the website: <http://www.psdh.gov.hk> at Pharmaceutical Service under "Reporting an Adverse Drug Reaction".

Yours sincerely,


(Ms Pamela LI)
for AD(D)