



ADVERSE DRUG REACTION & PHARMACOVIGILANCE OF HERBAL MEDICINE IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Pharmacovigilance encompasses the science and practice related to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects of drugs or any other possible drug-related problems. Recently, its purview has been widened to include herbal, traditional and complementary medicines, with the goal to comprehensively detect, assess, understand with the unanimous goal of preventing occurrence of adverse effects in those individuals undergoing therapy. This process of pharmacovigilance of herbals in India has come a long way since its initiation. The objective of the present article is to provide a succinct review on the recent trends and challenges posed in the practice of pharmacovigilance of herbal drugs especially in the Indian context and to shed light on the importance of pharmacovigilance practice in establishing and maintenance of rational use of drugs within the ambit of pharmacotherapy. The methodology adopted in the undertaken work comprises extensive topic related search of contemporary scientific articles and complementary review of bibliographies from selected publications on the subject. The promotion of systematic and rational use of drugs requires the reporting of adverse events possibly caused by herbal and traditional medicines also. Proper reporting of suspected adverse drug reactions from herbal medicines has assumed a greater role today and requires proper and careful implementation from everyone in the healthcare sector. Thus, in summary this review attempts to stress that systematic pharmacovigilance is essential to build up reliable information network on the safety of herbal medicines to boost confidence about their safety.

KEYWORDS: Adverse Drug reaction, Herbal drugs, Pharmacovigilance

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