

ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS

An adverse drug reaction committee was formed in December 1965 at Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center.

Dr. Milton Reisch was appointed as principal reporter for this program in August, 1966. Due to his efforts the number as well as the quality of the reports have improved. However, it is still felt that we are probably receiving only a fraction of the adverse drug reactions occurring in the hospital. We would like to encourage everyone's participation in the program. If a reaction is suspected, it is only necessary to complete an Adverse Drug Reaction Notice Card available on all nursing units (ordered from the Storeroom) and send it to the pharmacy. The following is a summary of the past 15 months that the program has been in operation.

There have been approximately 16,000 admissions to the hospital in the past 15 months. 197 reactions were reported in 164 patients during this period.

The majority of the reactions were caused by the following groups:

	Cases	Percent
Antibiotics.....	46	23.3
Antimicrobial.....	7	3.6
Antituberculous.....	12	6.1
Radiographic preparations.....	19	9.6
Sedatives.....	15	7.6
Hormones.....	10	5.1
Tranquilizers.....	8	4.1
Diuretics.....	5	2.5
Total.....	122	61.9

In only six of these cases, the patient had a previous history of a drug reaction.

Penicillin and semi-synthetic penicillins accounted for twenty-five reactions—54.3% of total antibiotics—12.6% of total reactions.

11 patients with gastrointestinal disease had 7.2% of reactions—66% of these reactions were due to antibacterials and radiographic preparations.

The neurology and psychiatric services reported 9.2% of the reactions. Antibiotics, phenothiazines and antiepileptic drugs accounted for 50% of the reactions in this group (14 cases).

The pulmonary service reported 17.7% of the reactions. Antibiotics, antibacterials, antitubercular drugs accounted for 100% of the reactions (9 cases).

The genitourinary service reported 5.9% of the reactions. Antibiotics and antibacterials accounted for 100 % of the reactions (9 cases).

The diagnostic radiology department reported 15.1% of the reactions (23 cases)—60% were due to intravenous pyelography.

The cardiovascular section had 14.4% of the reactions (22 cases)—45% of reactions were caused by sedatives and hypnotics. Diuretics were responsible for 20% of the reactions.

9 patients had at least two reactions

1 patient had three reactions

1 patient had five reactions

1 patient had eight reactions

72 reactions were cutaneous in response

4 reactions were due to moniliasis and cryptococcosis

2 reactions of ototoxicity were noted—kanamycin and streptomycin

2 reactions of gastrointestinal bleeding due to aspirin

3 reactions of thrombocytopenia due to thiazides

4 anaphylactic reactions—one due to mercurhydrin; two due to penicillin; one due to ACTH

There were four deaths related to drug reaction. Three were due to hospital acquired reactions.

PHARMACY DEPARTMENT PROVIDES 24 HOUR SERVICE

Effective April 2, 1967 the Pharmacy Department will be open 24 hours a day seven days a week. This will enable us to provide complete pharmacy service around the clock.