

Good Practice and Adverse drug Reactions February 2024

- 1- The US Food and Drug Administration receives constantly reports about health problems related to the use of cosmetic products. Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are found in cosmetic products which have been linked to health effects and are strongly associated to Obesity, Cancer, high cholesterol, decrease in fertility and development of growth disturbance in children.
- 2- A Pharmaceutical company just removed its ADHD medication as well as its narcolepsy medication because the packages may contain the wrong drug. Azurity Pharmaceutical made the announcement on the packaging for “Zanzedi “30 mg (Lot # F230169A). They are pulling it out the medicine from the shelf after a pharmacist discovered an antihistamine medication (Carbinoxamine) in a package of Zanzedi. These medications have opposite effects because the Carbinoxamine maleate has a sedative effect on some patients while the dextroamphetamine sulfate is a stimulant, which adversely may increase user attentiveness. Patients suffering from ADHD who received such medicine may have a greater risk in getting involved in a Motor Vehicle or even in experiencing Drowsiness and Depression and even thyroid problems, with increase their ocular pressure.
- 3- Denosumab (Prolia) is often used in patients suffering of osteoporosis who have advanced kidney disease. Concerns regarding the risk of severe hypoglycemia in such patients should trigger the physician to review a study performed and showing that female patients older than 65, taking the medication, while under dialysis, demonstrated a

higher incidence of hypocalcemia than other patients on oral bisphosphonate by example. Even severe hypocalcemia, less than 6.4 has been observed. Physicians should be aware of that occurrence for monitoring the calcium when such patients are receiving the medicine.

- 4- Recently, a new fungal infection was seen in an unexpected part of the United States. A fungus who used to be seen in the Southeast and the Midwest was discovered in Vermont. It is the “Blastomyces dermatitidis” causing Blastomycosis, generally discovered in wet soil and this disease may be difficult to diagnose and treat. You need to follow these trends because many other fungal infections have suggested a change in their pattern of propagation. Blastomycosis, although a rare disease may cause respiratory symptoms with fever and body aches. Most cases are mild but the disease can become serious and patients suffering from it can produce spores easily inhaled by others. States like Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin have a public health surveillance for Blastomycosis. This fungus grows in mold which produces the spores which can be disturbed and become aerosolized. Individuals will inhale the spores transported by the wind or the rain.