



Japan Council for Quality Health Care

Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/  
Adverse Event Information

## Medical Safety Information

No.61, December 2011

# Contraindicated Combined Administration of Drugs

Two cases have been reported involving the combined administration of a drug listed on the package insert of a prescription drug as being contraindicated for combined administration (i.e. it should not be administered in combination with the other drug) (information collection period: from January 1, 2007 to October 31, 2011; the information is partly included in “Medical Adverse Event Information to be Shared” (p.133) in the 16th Quarterly Report).

**Cases of the combined administration of a drug listed on the package insert of a prescription drug as being contraindicated for combined administration (i.e. it should not be administered in combination with the other drug) have been reported.**

Drug Administered	Drug Administered in Combination
Drug name unknown (sodium valproate)	Meropen for intravenous drip infusion vial (meropenem hydrate)
Halcion tablets (triazolam) Lonasen tablets (blonanserin)	Itrazole capsules (itraconazole)

## Contraindicated Combined Administration of Drugs

### Case 1

An infusion of Meropen was administered for four days, in order to treat pneumonia in a pediatric patient who was already taking an anticonvulsant (sodium valproate). The condition resolved and the patient was discharged, but s/he sought a consultation at another hospital due to developing severe agitation the following day.

- ◆ In relation to contraindications for combined administration, the section "3. Interactions" in the package insert for Meropen (a carbapenem antibiotic preparation) states that the combined administration of sodium valproate (Depakene, Valerin, Hyserenin, etc.) and Meropen can reduce the blood concentration of valproic acid, causing epileptic seizures to recur.

### Case 2

When prescribing Itrazole capsules for tinea unguium, the oral medication prescribed to the patient by his/her local doctor was checked. The patient was told which of his/her oral medications s/he should not take in combination with the Itrazole, but the fact that s/he was taking the drugs Halcion and Lonasen, which are contraindicated for combined administration, went unnoticed. A week later, the patient experienced lightheadedness and drowsiness, and tripped and fell over.

- ◆ In relation to contraindications for combined administration, the section "3. Interactions" in the package insert for Itrazole (an oral antifungal agent) states that the combined administration of triazolam (Halcion) or blonanserin (Lonasen) with Itrazole can inhibit the metabolism of drugs such as triazolam and blonanserin, giving rise to the risk of increased blood concentrations of these drugs or the augmentation of their activity.

#### Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred.

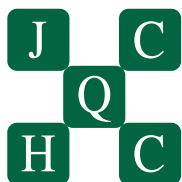
- A warning will be issued within the hospital concerning drugs contraindicated for combined administration.
- When administering newly-prescribed drugs, matters pertaining to their combined use with the drugs already being administered will be checked.
- A system will be adopted that enables the pharmacists to conduct checks concerning drugs contraindicated for combined administration.

\* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of the "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See quarterly reports and annual reports posted on the Japan Council for Quality Health Care website for details of the Project.

<http://www.med-safe.jp/>

\* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but cannot be guaranteed in the future.

\* This information is intended neither to limit the discretion of healthcare providers nor to impose certain obligations or responsibilities on them.



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