

Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/  
Adverse Event Information

## Medical Safety Information

No.177, August 2021

# Accidental Ingestion of PTP Sheets (2nd Follow-up Report)

Events in which patients accidentally ingested PTP sheets were highlighted in Medical Safety Information No. 57 (August 2011) and Medical Safety Information No. 82 (September 2013). Since then, 52 similar events have been reported. In 32 of these cases, the nurse handed medication over to the patient without first removing it from the PTP sheet (information collection period: from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2021). This information was compiled on the basis of the content featured in the Recurrence of Events and Occurrence of Similar Events section of the 64th Quarterly Report.

**Cases have been reported in which a patient accidentally ingested a PTP sheet after a nurse handed over medication without first removing it from the PTP sheet.**

### Image of case



- ◆ A PTP (Press Through Package) sheet is a form of drug packaging in which the drug is laminated between materials such as plastic and/or aluminum.
- ◆ Please refer to the attachment “For Users of Oral Medication.”

## Accidental Ingestion of PTP Sheets (2nd Follow-up Report)

### Case 1

The nurse handed over E Keppra Tablets and Magnesium Oxide Tablets to the patient, who said, "I'll take them a little later." Although the nurse was supposed to remove the drugs from the PTP sheet before handing them over, there were no problems with the reply from the patient, who was in their 70s, so the nurse placed them in a container without removing them from the PTP sheet and handed them over. When the nurse visited the room 10 minutes later, the patient said, "I swallowed the medicine sheet as well, by mistake." X-ray and CT examinations showed the PTP sheets lodged in the esophagus and they were extracted by means of an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy.

### Case 2

The patient, who was in their 70s, had no decline in cognitive function and always took their drugs out of the PTP sheets before swallowing their medication. The nurse on the evening shift placed Brotizolam Tablets (still in the PTP sheet) and Nivadil Tablets (removed from the packaging) in a container and handed them over to the patient. Thinking that the drugs in the container had been removed from the PTP sheet, the patient took the medication as it was. The following morning, the patient said, "I've got a sharp pain in my throat." X-ray and CT examinations showed the PTP sheet lodged in the esophagus and it was extracted by means of an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy.

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

- Ensure that all the institution's medical staff are aware of the risk of accidental ingestion if PTP sheets are cut into individual tablets.
- Nurses will remove drugs from PTP sheets before handing them over.

The measures above are examples. Please consider initiatives suitable for your own facility.

#### Key Preventive Measures

- **Accidental ingestion of PTP sheets can occur regardless of patients' age or level of cognitive function.**

(Comprehensive Evaluation Panel)

\* 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 the Project website for details.

<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.

