

Management of drug-drug interactions in oncology

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Abstract (max 200 words; currently 196)

Management of drug-drug interactions is a core task for all oncology pharmacists. Until not so long ago, this was mostly related to intermittent parenteral administration of cytotoxic agents in the hospital setting, but more recently many orally administered targeted drugs have become available for chronic use. This has changed the landscape for assessing drug-drug interactions between cancer treatment and co-medications.

Traditionally, once a drug is approved, instructions for management of drug-drug interactions is included in Product Information or Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC). Unfortunately, this list of recommendations is – by definition – incomplete, and there are many situations where pharmacists have to apply extrapolation from data in the SmPC to an individual patient case.

To some extent, we are helped by alerts created by clinical decision support systems and on-line available drug information sources. A number of recent studies, however, has demonstrated significant variability in the content of these alerts, thereby promoting large variability how drug-drug interaction management is performed.

As oncology pharmacists, we are in the best position to take the lead in developing and promoting uniform drug-drug interaction management in patients living with cancer. The development of www.ddimanager.co is an example of such a platform.