

Survey on the combination use of Aconiti Tuber-containing Kampo medicines and gastrointestinal preparations over a five-year period at a university hospital.

Tomohide Akase^{1),2),3)}, Ken-ichi Sagawa¹⁾, Shigehiko Shimada¹⁾,
Tomoko Akase²⁾, Satoshi Onodera²⁾, Shin-ichi Tashiro²⁾

- 1) Department of Pharmacy Kitasato University Hospital
1-15-1 Kitasato, Sagamihara, Kanagawa 228-8555 JAPAN
- 2) Department of Clinical and Biomedical Sciences, Showa Pharmaceutical University
3-3165 Higashi-Tamagawa Gakuen, Machida, Tokyo 194-8543 JAPAN
- 3) Nihon University Graduate School of Business
8-24 Kudan-Minami 4-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8275 JAPAN

(Received July 18, 2002
Accepted September 25, 2002)

Abstract :

Objective

To survey patients who were prescribed the combination of an Aconiti Tuber-containing Kampo medicine (Sino-Japanese traditional herbal medicine) and gastric preparation(s), which may increase the incidence and severity of adverse reactions induced by Aconiti Tuber.

Methods

We analyzed 5,859 prescriptions of Aconiti Tuber-containing Kampo medicines, that had been issued to 762 patients who visited Kitasato University Hospital from January 1994 to December 1998. The age distribution, types of Aconiti Tuber-containing Kampo medicine and treatment duration, and types of concomitant gastrointestinal preparations and treatment duration were studied.

Results

The age group that was most frequently prescribed an Aconiti Tuber-containing Kampo medicine was 55-64 yr. Nearly one-third of the 762 patients were elderly (over 65 years). Four formulae of Aconiti preparations were prescribed: Hachimi-jio-gan (Ba-Wei-Di-Huang-Wan, 八味地黄丸) was the most frequently prescribed, followed by Gosha-jinki-gan (Niu-Che-Shen-Qi-Wan, 牛車腎気丸), Keishi-ka-jutsu-to (Gui-Zhi-Jia-Shu-Fu-Tang, 桂枝加朮附湯) and Shimbuto (Zhen-Wu-Tang, 真武湯). Fourteen cases also concomitantly received processed aconite powder. The treatment duration of each Aconiti preparation showed marked individual variation. The treatment duration of Keishi-ka-jutsu-to and Shimbuto tended to be longer than that of the other two formulae. Sixty-six cases (8.6%) were taking a combination of an Aconiti preparation and a gastrointestinal preparation(s). Among them, 42 cases (5.5%) were taking antacids. Those most frequently taking a combination of Aconiti and gastrointestinal preparations, were aged between 65 and 74 yr.

Conclusion

Our results indicate that patients receiving an Aconiti Tuber-containing Kampo medicine should be placed under long-term monitoring for adverse reactions, and information on their drug history including the use of over-the-counter (OTC) drugs is required.

Keyword : Aconiti Tuber, gastrointestinal preparations, drug utilization study, drug interaction