



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Review of the evidence on handling drugs and hazardous products in Urology Departments. Consensus document between the Spanish Urological Association and the Spanish Society of Hospital Pharmacy^{☆,☆☆}



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Abstract

Background: The intravesical administration of hazardous drug products is a standard practice in the urology setting, which potentially exposing medical personnel to these drug products. It was deemed necessary to have a consensus document among the scientific societies involved (the Spanish Urological Association and the Spanish Society of Hospital Pharmacy) that collects the best available evidence on the safest handling possible of dangerous drug products in the setting of urology departments.

Methods: We reviewed the legislation and recommendations on the handling of dangerous drug products, both at the national and international level.

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PALABRAS CLAVE

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Mitomicina C

Results: There is national legislation and regulations for protecting workers who handle dangerous drugs and products, as well as recommendations for handling to protect both the product and workers.

Discussion: Following the strategic lines of the European Parliament for 2014–2020 in the chapter on occupational safety and health, the Spanish Urological Association and the Spanish Society of Hospital Pharmacy proposed a series of actions that decrease the risks of exposure for practitioners and caregivers involved in the handling of these products.

Conclusions: After this review, 19 recommendations were established for handling dangerous drug products, which can be summarized as the need to train all individuals involved (from management teams to patients and caregivers), adopt systems that prevent contaminating leaks, implement exposure surveillance programs and optimize available resources.

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Revisión de la evidencia sobre el manejo de medicamentos y productos peligrosos en los servicios de Urología. Documento de consenso entre la Asociación Española de Urología y la Sociedad Española de Farmacia Hospitalaria

Resumen

Introducción: La administración intravesical de medicamentos peligrosos es una práctica habitual en el ámbito de la urología, con posible exposición del personal sanitario a dichos medicamentos. Se considera necesario disponer de un documento de consenso entre las sociedades científicas implicadas —Asociación Española de Urología y Sociedad Española de Farmacia Hospitalaria— que recoja la mejor evidencia disponible para el manejo, de la forma más segura posible, de medicamentos peligrosos en el ámbito de los servicios de Urología.

Métodos: Se ha realizado una revisión de la legislación y de las recomendaciones sobre el manejo de medicamentos peligrosos tanto a nivel estatal como internacional.

Resultados: Se dispone de legislación nacional y de normativas para la protección de los trabajadores que manipulen medicamentos y productos peligrosos, así como recomendaciones de manipulación para la protección tanto del producto, como de los trabajadores.

Discusión: Siguiendo las líneas estratégicas del Parlamento Europeo para el período 2014-2020 en el capítulo de seguridad y salud laboral, la Asociación Española de Urología y la Sociedad Española de Farmacia Hospitalaria proponen una serie de actuaciones que hagan disminuir los riesgos de exposición a los profesionales y cuidadores implicados en su manejo.

Conclusiones: Tras esta revisión se establecen 19 recomendaciones para el manejo de medicamentos peligrosos que pueden resumirse en la necesidad de formación de todas las personas implicadas (desde equipos directivos hasta los pacientes y cuidadores), adopción de sistemas que no permitan fugas contaminantes, programas de vigilancia de las exposiciones y optimización de los recursos disponibles.

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Introduction

The term ‘hazardous drugs’ was introduced for the first time by the American Society Hospital Pharmacy (ASHP) in 1990¹ and later adopted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), being named for the first time by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in 2004.² The dangerousness of these drugs is due to chemical risk related to carcinogenic, teratogenic, genotoxic, and toxic activity on the reproductive process or on a specific organ at low doses, or because it is a new drug similar to others with this type of risk.

The NIOSH of the United States includes, among the potentially dangerous treatments, chemotherapy agents, antivirals, hormones, and others, mentioning endovesical instillations of chemotherapy agents and BCG in patients

with non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer as a source of potential contamination of dangerous substances.³

The Spanish Association of Urology (AEU) ensures that the regulations affecting the specialty itself are known and applied, and the Spanish Society of Hospital Pharmacy (SEFH) ensures proper, safe, and effective use of medicines and health products.

The technical document of the National Institute for Safety and Hygiene at Work (INSHT) on the preparation and administration of dangerous drugs⁴ makes it advisable to have a consensus document between both societies, which includes recommendations for the handling of dangerous drugs in the field of Urology services.

Exposure to dangerous drugs in the workplace and health risks for health personnel have been documented in the last 4 decades.² The number of health workers exposed to

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