

# WHO Drug Information

---

## Contents

### General Policy Topics

- Adverse drug reaction monitoring: new issues 1

### Reports on Individual Drugs

- Rotavirus vaccine nearing registration 5  
 Hearing loss from ototoxics 7  
 International study of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) announced 10  
 Betacarotene, vitamin A and E may not prevent cancer or cardiovascular diseases 10  
 Driving ability in cancer patients treated with morphine 11

### General Information

- The implications of the TRIPS Agreement for the protection of pharmaceutical inventions 12

### Regulatory Matters

- Proposed withdrawal of terfenadine 17  
 Restrictions on use of sotalol 18  
 Fluoroquinolones and tendon rupture 18  
 Fatal adverse drug reaction trends 18  
 Aspartame: no apparent link with brain tumours 18  
 Anthranoids, herbal medicines and carcinogenic potential 19  
 Adrenal cortex extract associated with infections 19  
 Herbal medicines adulterated with antirheumatics 19  
 Herbal hay-fever remedy and conventional drugs 19

- Withdrawal of blood products 19  
 Benzodiazepines, drug dependence and rebound effects 19  
 Carteolol and bronchial asthma 19  
 Mucocutaneous reactions and carbamazepine 20  
 Mebendazole deregulated to over-the-counter (OTC) status 20  
 Donepezil: new treatment for Alzheimers disease 20  
 Whole-oat foods and heart disease 20  
 Nifedipine: restricted use 20  
 Emergence of multidrug-resistant salmonella 21  
 Tolrestat: hepatic necrosis 21  
 Somatropin for wasting syndrome in AIDS 22  
 Ivermectin approved for human use 22  
 Naproxen available over-the-counter (OTC) 22  
 Influenza virus vaccines for 1997–1998 22

### Essential Drugs:

#### WHO Model Formulary

- Anticonvulsants/antiepileptics 23  
 Carbamazepine 24  
 Clonazepam 25  
 Diazepam 25  
 Ethosuximide 26  
 Phenobarbital 26  
 Phenytoin 27  
 Valproic acid 27

### Recent Publications

- Nordic statistics on medicines: 1993–1995 29  
 Pharmacological action and therapeutic use of drugs — list of terms 29

### Recommended International

- Nonproprietary Names: List 37 31

Printed in Malta  
97/11341 - Interprint - 5300