

Suspected adverse effect?



Lebanese National Pharmacovigilance Program

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About us



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Uppsala Monitoring Centre

– Building a global safety culture

Inspire. Engage. Transform.

Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC) is an independent non-profit foundation and center for international service and scientific research. Our vision is a world where all patients and health professionals make wise therapeutic decisions in their use of medicines.

Our mission is to support and promote patient safety through effective global pharmacovigilance practice.

take & tell

Together for safer medicines





What is pharmacovigilance?

Monitoring, assessing and understanding side effects, or other drug-related problems, is known as pharmacovigilance.

What are side effects?

Side effects, or adverse drug reactions, happen when a treatment goes beyond the desired effect and causes a problem. It can be mild, serious and in some cases lead to death. Experts say that side effects vary for each patient and depend largely on their general health, state of their disease, age, weight and gender.

Aren't side effects checked while a medicine is being developed?

Many medicines display unexpected side effects. Most of these reactions are detected during drug development, but since only a restricted number of selected patients are treated during this phase, it is unlikely that rare adverse reactions will be observed. As the drug becomes available on the market, previously unknown effects are likely to emerge.

Why does it matter to me?

Side effects are a common cause for patients to stop their treatment which could lead to serious problems. Reporting suspected adverse reactions offers the opportunity to identify and investigate unknown or poorly described side effects. It also encourages dialogue between patients and health care professionals.

Telling your doctor about side effects will make drug use safer for everyone. The information you provide contributes to improving the quality of medicines and protecting health.

What to do?

Next time you take your medicine, pay attention to possible side effects. If you suspect an adverse drug reaction, write it down and talk to your doctor about the symptoms. It is very important that you together discuss the measures that you should take.

You can get started by downloading the Med Safety Application from Google Play store or App Store.

Where to go?

If you are experiencing side effect, get in touch with your health care provider. Your doctor has the responsibility to report adverse reactions to the national pharmacovigilance program as part of the WHO Program for International Drug Monitoring. You can also visit the Ministry of Public Health, national pharmacovigilance program website at: <https://moph.gov.lb/en/DynamicPages/index/4>

What happens next?

The national pharmacovigilance program evaluates the report to identify potential risks. Together with the relevant authority, it can take measures to minimize these risks if deemed appropriate. Countries participating in the WHO Program for International Drug Monitoring will then forward the reports to VigiBase, the WHO global database of suspected adverse reactions maintained by Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC) since 1978.

All reports are anonymous; patients, healthcare professionals or institutions involved cannot be identified in VigiBase. UMC regularly screens the uploaded data to better identify, characterize and understand the potential risks of medicines. It then shares the findings with the national pharmacovigilance program, the WHO, and the public via various channels.

What else can I do?

Explore VigiAccess, a user-friendly interface that allows the general public to search VigiBase. <https://www.vigiaccess.org/>

