

In the framework of the 6th Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting organised by the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) in Berne, Switzerland

More than 7% of the general population are affected by drug allergy reactions, involving excessive cost for the healthcare system

- **The International Collaboration in Asthma, Allergy and Immunology (iCAALL) creates the first International Consensus (ICON) which provides new solutions for people allergic to drugs, representing a major breakthrough in this area**
- **The new document was presented at the 6th Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting, organised by EAACI, which attracted more than 300 physicians and researchers from the world over to share the latest progress regarding drug allergy**
- **Drug Hypersensitivity Reactions (DHRs) can be life-threatening and require or prolong hospitalisation²**

Berne (Switzerland), 14 April 2014 – Drug Hypersensitivity Reactions (DHRs) **affect 7% of the general population¹** and represent a major health problem, as they can be life-threatening and require or prolong hospitalisation². Furthermore, both underdiagnosis (as they are insufficiently detected) and overdiagnosis (due to excessive use of the term “allergy”) are common in clinical practice, and this can lead to the prescription of more expensive or less effective drugs.

This information is found in the International Consensus (ICON) on Drug Allergy, which was presented in the framework of the 6th Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting, held this weekend in Berne, Switzerland, under the auspices of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI). It is the first document signed by four international bodies, united under International Collaboration in Asthma, Allergy and Immunology (iCAALL), which is reviewing and updating the principal scientific evidence about DHRs in order to provide tools with which to support medical decision-making and improve clinical practice in the management of drug allergy.

To this end, renowned experts have critically analysed existing guidelines, highlighting common key messages and discussing differences and lack of evidence. *“The approach to DHRs is complex and must be precise, whatever the drug involved. This consensus was required to provide the medical community with a general reference document to improve the diagnosis and treatment of drug hypersensitivity reactions,”* points out **Pascal Demoly, EAACI Vice President of Education and Specialty.**



Drug Hypersensitivity Reactions (DHRs) are the set of undesirable effects caused by drugs. Urticarial and maculopapular eruptions are the most frequent manifestation, although there are many more clinical presentations¹.

More than 300 experts

EAACI has organised the Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting (DHM 2014), which was held from 9 to 12 April in Berne, Switzerland. This 6th DHM attracted more than 300 first-class international physicians and researchers who presented a total of 196 abstracts concerning the latest advances in drug allergy.

One of the most significant sessions was devoted to the increased risk of drug hypersensitivity associated with human leukocyte antigens (HLA). *"The finding that certain severe drug allergies appear almost exclusively in carriers of certain HLA-alleles made it possible to apply personalized medicine to the safer use of drugs and to avoid severe side effects"*, explains Professor **Werner J. Pichler, DHM 2014 chair and director of Allergology at the University Hospital in Bern, Switzerland.**

Other presentations provided new perspectives on viruses and drug hypersensitivity, by **Shuen-Iu Hung, from the Biomedical Science Institute, Sinica Academy of Taipei (Taiwan)**, and about the clinical approach to drug-related exanthems, by **Knut Brockow, from the Department of Dermatology and Allergy Biederstein, Technical University Munich (Germany)**.

iCAALL

Recognising a lack of consensus-driven information and general recommendations, four of the most influential allergy and clinical immunology professional organisations have joined forces to launch the International Collaboration in Asthma, Allergy and Immunology (iCAALL). Participating in iCAALL with EAACI are the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI), the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) and the World Allergy Organization (WAO).

A major focus of this initiative is the production of a series of International Consensus (ICON) documents offering recommendations for the management of global challenges such as pediatric asthma.

About EAACI

The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, EAACI, is a non-profit organisation active in the field of allergic and immunologic diseases such as asthma, rhinitis, eczema, occupational allergy, food and drug allergy and anaphylaxis. EAACI was founded in 1956 in Florence and has become the largest medical association in Europe in the field of allergy and clinical immunology. It includes over 7,800 members from 121 countries, as well as 47 National Allergy Societies.



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2. Demoly P, Adkinson NF, Brockow K, Castells M, Chiriac AM, Greenberger PA, Khan DA, Lang DM, Park H-S, Pichler W, Sanchez-Borges M, Shiohara T, Thong BY-H. International Consensus on drug allergy. *Allergy*2014;69:420–437.