

STANDARDISED LABELLING for the IDENTIFICATION of HIGHLY POTENT DRUGS

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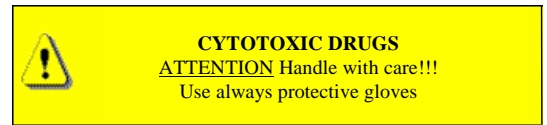
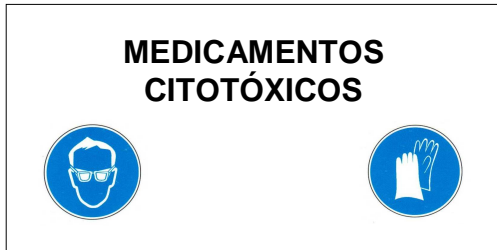
Introduction

Products having a CMR (carcinogenic, mutagenic and/or reproductive) toxicity such as cytotoxics or antivirals are highly potent drugs and must be handled with caution. Therefore, their identification during transport or shipment is very helpful to prevent contamination in case of damage. The objectives of this survey were (1) to identify how such drugs are labelled for transport and (2) to suggest a standardised label.

Method

Labels used for the identification of cytotoxic drugs were collected by the ESOP (European Society of Oncology Pharmacy) delegates and analysed in order to propose a consensual identification method.

Results



CONTIENE PRODUCTOS CITOSTÁTICOS

CONTIENE PRODUCTO CITOSTÁTICO

CONTIENE CITOSTÁTICOS

CYTOSTATIKA

Vorsicht Zytostatika



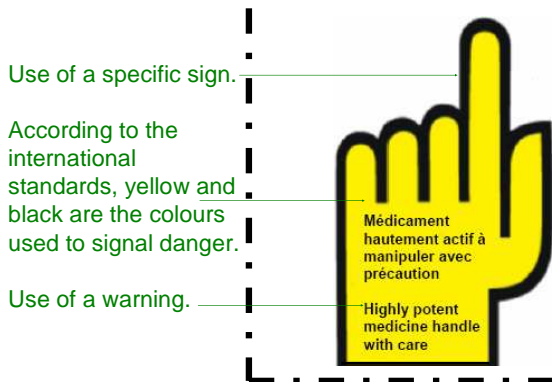
Label analysis

- 18 labels from 11 countries were collected. Four ways of labelling were identified and one or more were used simultaneously.
- Use of a written warning using phrases such as "care: cytotoxic drugs"
 - Use of a colour code
 - Use of a specific sign
 - Text describing what to do in case of an accident

Which one should I use ?



ESOP proposals



- Use of a specific sign.
- According to the international standards, yellow and black are the colours used to signal danger.
- Use of a warning.

- Avoid any contact with the product
 - In case of contact with the eyes and/or skin rinse thoroughly with cold water for at least 10 minutes and consult a Doctor or Ophthalmologist immediately
 - In case of spillage or damage, do not touch and contact immediately
+.. /.....
 - Any contact with pregnant or breast-feeding women must be avoided.
- Text describing what to do in case of an accident

Conclusion

Consensus among the ESOP delegates allowed the proposition of a logo indicating the danger with a warning sign that can be easily understood. The next step will be to inform all those involved with cytotoxic drugs (medical, nursing and pharmacy staff; cleaners, transporters, pharmaceutical companies, wholesalers and health authorities) about this recommendation in order to obtain an harmonized labelling practice.