



Ward Alert

 wardmm
institute

medication management training

Medication safety update: Donepezil and heart problems

The TGA have released this warning:

New warnings about the risk of potential heart problems have been added to the Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) and Product Information (PI) documents for donepezil.

Donepezil is used to treat Alzheimer's disease. It is marketed in Australia as Aricept and various generic brands.

Cases of QTc interval prolongation and Torsades de Pointes have been reported for this medicine and that the PI has been updated with warnings for people taking this medicine who:

- have QTc prolongation
- have a family history of QTc prolongation
- are taking other medicine that also causes QTc prolongation
 - class IA antiarrhythmics, e.g. disopyramide
 - class III antiarrhythmics, e.g. amiodarone, sotalol
 - certain antidepressants, e.g. citalopram, escitalopram, amitriptyline
 - other antipsychotics, e.g. phenothiazine derivatives, pimozide, ziprasidone
 - certain antibiotics, e.g. clarithromycin, erythromycin, moxifloxacin.
- have certain cardiac problems, such as heart failure, a recent heart attack or bradyarrhythmia
- have electrolyte disturbances including hypomagnesaemia and hypokalaemia

Information has also been added to the CMI for consumers

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 1800 WARD MM (1800 927365)