CANADIAN PAEDIATRIC
SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

ADR
Tip of the Month

Atomoxetine (Strattera™)
Cardiovascular risk

Atomoxetine is a selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor indicated for treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children.

Recent clinical trials indicated that approximately 25% of paediatric patients treated with atomoxetine experienced an increase in blood pressure of 10 mmHg and 5–8% an increase of 20 mmHg, while 33% of patients experienced faster heart rate by 10 bpm and 12% by 20 bpm. These increases could represent a risk for some patients.

Physicians should:

- Know that atomoxetine is contraindicated in patients with symptomatic cardiovascular diseases and moderate/severe hypertension.
- Use with caution in patients with hypertension, tachycardia, cardiovascular or cerebrovascular disease, congenital or acquired long QT syndrome or a family history of QT prolongation.
- Measure heart rate and blood pressure in all patients before starting treatment, after increasing the dose, and periodically to detect possible clinically important increases.

Please report all serious adverse drug reactions (ADRs).

11/2011