



ADR

Tip of the Month

Hazards of using multiple drugs that prolong QT

Adverse drug reaction reports and Health Canada advisories have demonstrated the hazards of using multiple drugs that prolong QT. Physicians are recommended to:

1. Obtain a careful history, with special attention to symptoms such as palpitations, syncope, or near syncope.
2. Review the list of all medications (prescribed and over-the-counter) used by the patient and consider those that prolong QT (<https://www.crediblemeds.org/index.php/login/dlcheck>) or those which inhibit the metabolism of other drugs that can effect the QT interval.
3. Conduct an ECG prior to initiation of QT prolonging medications when using multiple medications that prolong QT syndrome or when the patient has risk factors for drug-induced QT prolongation (*N Engl J Med* 2004;350:1013-22).
4. Refer the patient to a paediatric cardiologist for evaluation if any symptoms or prolongation of the QT interval is identified.

**Please report all suspected
adverse drug reactions (ADRs).**