Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program

ADR
Tip of the Month

Important information about valproic acid
(Depakene®, Epival®)

The CPSP has received recent reports of necrotizing pancreatitis suspected with the use of valproic acid in the treatment of convulsions in children.

Physicians should:

- watch for symptoms of nausea, anorexia, abdominal pain and/or vomiting;
- perform pancreatic function tests;
- stop the use of valproic acid, if the diagnosis of pancreatitis is confirmed;
- change the anti-convulsant medication for the patient.

Please report all serious adverse drug reactions (ADRs).

10/2005