

1-145 Aricept-drug interactions

TIPS Question:

Have any side effects been noted with patients taking Aricept in conjunction with other medications?

Response:

There appears to be little in the literature with respect to documented interactions. However, based on considerations of cognitive enhancers mechanism of action, one might anticipate interactions with other medications that have effects on cholinergic function.

Cholinergic enhancers have the potential to interfere with the activity in the brain of anti-cholinergic medications used to treat Parkinsonian symptoms such as Benztropine, Trihexyphenidyl, and Procyclidine. Likewise, such medications would be expected on theoretical ground to interfere with cholinergic enhancers therapeutic effect.

Cholinergic enhancers also have the potential to cause some peripheral cholinergic effects; Donepezil could therefore potentially interfere with the therapeutic effect of Ipratropium (Atrovent) used in the treatment of COPD and asthma, as well as other anti-cholinergic medications such as Scopolamine (Anesthetic agent used to reverse the paralyzing effect of anesthetic agents) and Propantheline.

Cognitive enhancers may increase gastric acid secretion; it is therefore recommended that patients receiving concurrent therapy with cognitive enhancers and NSAIDs be monitored for symptoms of GI bleeding.

The take home message however is that with any new drug that is added to existing medications, one should be cautious about combined effects on the person's physical well being.

As far as common effects, please refer to the cognitive enhancer section in the polypharmacy template.

Please note: TIPS information should be used similar to the way you would use information from a text book! TIPS is not intended to serve as an individual consultation service! P.I.E.C.E.S. participants should use this information in context and always work closely with the family physician involved in the care of the resident or client and with other Partners In Care to find solutions to individual resident/client issues.