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Great progress has been made in the field of the behavioral toxicology of medicinal drugs, man-machine interaction studies, forensic toxicology, pharmacology and risk assessment. Efforts made to transmit this knowledge in the form of practical guidelines to healthcare professionals who prescribe and dispense medication, however, differs from country to country. At the end of nineties, informative campaigns concerning medicinal drugs and driving were carried out in several European Union countries (Belgium, Spain, France, Norway), following recommendations summarized in the report of the ICADTS Working Group on Prescribing and Dispensing Guidelines for Medicinal Drugs Affecting Driving Performance (www.icadts.org).

Slovenia is confronting the steadily increasing prevalence of medicinal drugs in drug- and driving cases, and with increasingly reported use of prescribed drugs, although the pattern of drug use is changing and many newer drugs with lower behavioral toxicity have been introduced. The country has a more than forty-year tradition of the use of the pictogram of a red triangle on the outer package and a warning in the package for drugs having a serious detrimental effect on driving ability. A symposium on Medicinal Drugs and Human Performance, which was held during the TIAFT2006 meeting in Ljubljana, searched for answers to the questions of which medicals drugs impair human performance, what the intensity and duration of the effects is, what the risk of causing an accident is and what to do to minimize the risk of accidents during medical treatment. Some good examples of preventive work and the experiences of countries like Belgium, Norway and Finland were discussed.

The symposium represents an attempt to start a national debate aimed at making patients and healthcare professionals more aware of their responsibilities in relation to transportation safety and safety in the workplace, and to consider an improvement of the warning statements for medicinal drugs with behavioral toxicity with the involvement of the pharmaceutical industry and the drug regulatory authorities of our country. For the next campaign aimed at the general public to provoke debate, antihistamines, as a frequently prescribed group of medicinal drugs widely used by the working and driving population, have been selected. This therapeutic group consists of medicinal drugs having different detrimental effects. People using them are usually not ashamed about their diseases or accompanying allergic conditions, and they may have experienced sedation or other side effects of these medications and are open to discussion. Through this campaign, information aimed at other kinds of patients will be offered, dealing with the problem of taking several drugs at the same time, taking medicinal drugs in combination with alcohol, critical phases of pharmacotherapy, dosage and self-medication. Educational courses for healthcare professional and publications aimed at patients and healthcare professionals are provided.

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