



Prescription Descriptions

Long-Term PPI Use Associated With Low Magnesium

Long-term use of proton-pump inhibitors (PPIs) can be associated with hypomagnesemia, which can in turn cause serious muscle spasms, arrhythmias, and seizures, but may instead be asymptomatic, the FDA cautioned. They recommend that clinicians consider checking serum magnesium levels before starting patients on long-term PPI therapy (1 year or more) and when the drugs will be coadministered with other agents that can cause low magnesium levels, such as diuretics or digoxin. For patients on digoxin "this is especially important because low magnesium can increase the likelihood of serious side effects," the advisory says. Periodic monitoring of serum magnesium levels in at-risk patients is recommended. In about 25% of the cases reported and reviewed, magnesium supplementation alone was insufficient for correction and PPI therapy had to be discontinued. The alert does not specify whether over-the-counter (OTC) formulations of PPIs have been associated with hypomagnesemia. The products mentioned in the advisory are Nexium, Dexilant, Prilosec, Zergerid, Prevacid, Protonix, AcipHex, and Vimovo. More information is available on the FDA Web site.

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Hershey Convention
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June 14, 15, 16, 2010



You know you're a nurse if you've ever cared for a patient with ATS (Acute Thespian Syndrome)

Bumper sticker
seen on a WALKER

They say things improve with age.
I'm Approaching Magnificent

Question for the ages --- If you ate pasta and antipasto, would you still be hungry?

SMS LTC

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