

Plasma Levels of Diphenylhydantoin and the Control of Adult Epileptic Seizures: A Chilean Experience

Galdames, Daniel G.

Saavedra, Iván N.

Ortiz, Mario A.

Aguilera, Ledda I.

Valenzuela, Ana L.

Concha, Gloria L.

Droguett, Patricio A.

Morales, Emilio R.

:In a prospective study of 117 adult ambulatory patients, 110 of whom were epileptics treated only with oral diphenylhydantoin (DPH), plasma levels of this drug were determined by gas-liquid chromatography. The average follow-up time was 6 months (range, 3 to 13 months); satisfactory control of seizures was obtained with plasma levels in the 10.2 to 25.8 μ g/ml range, representing 68% of the patients whose seizures had been controlled. The dosage received by this group was from 4.2 to 6 mg/kg, with an average of 5.1. In general, these results agree with those found in European or North American patients, even though some differences or little clarity in the methodology of other trials make comparison difficult. This similarity of results makes one think that genetic or environmental differences do not alter the response to DPH in our patients, but further studies are necessary in that area. This paper can serve as a basis for the extrapolation of data about DPH coming from other latitud