

# WHO Drug Information

---

## Contents

### General Policy Topics

- Role of the International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities 97

### Personal Perspectives

- Patient's rights and the therapeutic dialogue 99

### Reports on Individual Drugs

- Dapsone-pyrimethamine: dual therapy in HIV infection? 101  
 Diethylstilbestrol: a human carcinogen 103  
 Tacrine: a first step towards management of Alzheimer's disease 104  
 Folic acid and spina bifida 106  
 Poliovirus vaccines: the case for a supplemental dose 108

### General Information

- Guillain-Barré syndrome: immunoglobulins or steroids 110  
 Artemisinin and its derivatives: use as antimalarials 111  
 Tuberculosis preventive therapy in HIV-infected individuals 113  
 Advertising in medical journals 115  
 Antiarrhythmic agents: the problems of clinical assessment 116  
 Biological products and transmissible pathogens 118  
 Sickle cell disease: a trend towards less invasive management 120

### Regulatory Matters

- Antihyperlipidaemic agents: paraesthesia and neuropathy 123  
 Atovaquone as an alternative treatment for pneumocystis pneumonia 123  
 Bovine brain gangliosides: marketing suspension recommended 124  
 Antiretroviral therapy: recommendations for use 124  
 Short-acting hypnotics: a comparative assessment 125  
 Identification codes for tablets and capsules 126  
 Misoprostol: unsafe in pregnancy 126  
 Propofol: adverse neurological events 127  
 Bismuth subsalicylate: association with Reye's syndrome 127  
 Tacrine approved for the symptomatic relief of Alzheimer's disease 127  
 Quality control of propylene glycol 127

### Essential Drugs

- Viral hepatitis 128  
 Hepatitis B vaccine 130  
 Hepatitis B immune globulin 131  
 Human immunoglobulin 132  
 Hepatitis A vaccine 132

### Recent Publications

- Quality control of essential drugs in developing countries: standardized methods 134

### Recommended International Nonproprietary Names: List 33 135