



TURJOEM

The Turkish Journal of Occupational / Environmental
Medicine and Safety

The Turkish Journal of Occupational / Environmental Medicine and Safety

Vol:1, Issue Supplement 1

Web: <http://www.turjoem.com>

ISSN : 2149-4711

Oral Presentation

S27. IS THERE A NEED FOR FORENSIC PHARMACOVIGILANCE AS A SPECIALTY?

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Forensic science is the application of a broad spectrum of sciences to answer questions of interest to a legal system which are related to crime. The increase in the number of court cases examining and addressing problems with medicinal products seems warrant a discrete sub-discipline of forensic pharmacovigilance and creates the issue whether there is a sufficient specialism within the existing area of forensic pharmacology / toxicology. Forensic pharmacovigilance uses the expert knowledge of adverse drug effects, or any other drug related problems, to resolve legal questions and to detect or uncover criminal acts. In the context of the criminal courts, perhaps the most frequent examples are crimes related to medications that result in adverse effects; *i*) alleged neglect or failure to inform patient about the potential harm, prescribing, preparation, dispensing or administration, *ii*) in the manufacturing of drugs (counterfeiting, contamination and quality production) .Such situations often require opinions by independent experts. In order to initiate a debate, the lawyers should understand what PVs can and should do to assist the court in assessing evidence of drug effect and its varying quality. The above discussion is taken from the International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP) meeting where the group concluded that the forensic pharmacovigilance as a speciality is necessary with raised health professionals to act objectively, to realise all evidence in the context of the court enquiry. In this talk, an outline of the role of pharmaceutical toxicologists with a forensic pharmacovigilance perspective in this process will be discussed.