

Car driving,
psychoactive drugs and narcotics

Regulatory aspects

**Grading the pictogram on the
packaging of the medicinal products**

*Agence française
de sécurité sanitaire
des produits de santé*



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Background evidence



- Quantitative evaluation of the risk linked to medicinal products
 - According to a review of international literature, exposure to a medicinal product potentially responsible for road accidents is found in **nearly 10%** of the people injured in road accidents
 - **Benzodiazepines** are the substances most often involved, but very few other classes have been investigated.
- In France...
 - No specific data but some studies (Mura and all, 2003) are in coherence with the international data

Regulatory context



- European regulation

- The effects of the medicinal products on the ability to drive and to use machines are identified in a **special section of the SPC** (83/570/CEE)

- This section (4.7) should be defined on the basis of the **pharmacodynamic profile, undesirable effects and/or effects on the ability to drive** (EMEA - III/9163/90-EN)

- In France...

- Since 1999, a **pictogram** is printed on the external packaging, each time section 4.7 mentions some potential effects on the ability to drive



Strengths and limitations



- The pictogram is...
 - **simple**
 - drawing special **attention care**
 - easily **comprehensible**
 - accessible to patient **in situation of use**
- ... but presents some insufficiencies:
 - it does not take in account **the level of risk**
 - it alerts the user without to provide him with advices on **the behavior** to adopt
 - it is present on the packaging of **1 medicinal product on 3 (> 4000)**

Objectives of the Afssaps



- Following...
 - the advices of the **Pharmaceutical Committee** of the EC (May 2002) and the **French National Academy of Medicine and Pharmacy** (June 2003)
 - the action plan of the **CISR** - interdepartmental committee for road safety (December 2002)
- ... the Agency was requested to:
 - set up an ad hoc **working group**
 - evaluate **the relevance of the pictogram grading**
 - elaborate a **grading method**
 - **categorize the medicinal products** marketed in France regarding their level of risk

Pictogram grading prerequisites



- **Differentiation between treatment and risk factors**
(disease, age, previous history)
→ **to only focus on adverse effects in relation with the product**
- **Integration of all factors linked to drug treatment:**
 - ▶ Nature and intensity of adverse effects (vigilance troubles, behavior disorders, visual disorders, dizziness, cardiovascular effects...), pharmacokinetics data, drug/drug interactions
→ **in order to define a more specific and suitable information**
- **Grading method linked to well defined safety's messages**
→ **to allow practical recommendations and attitudes**

The grading system

- 4 levels of risk:

- 0 -> no identified pharmacodynamic effect : **no pictogram**

- 1 -> ability to drive not questioned but requiring patient information

- 2 -> ability to drive questionable, needing medical advice

- 3 -> driving not recommended

- 3 ways of reading:

- a **visual system** of grading

- an indication in full characters on **the level of risk**

- an **advice** followed by a **warning message** on driving



Time table



1st step
2003 - 2005

- ❑ Categorization of the ATC classes with the highest potential risk
- ❑ Implementation of the new system (modifying of art. R5143 of the CSP)
- ❑ 1st information campaign towards patients and health professionals

2nd step
2006 - 2007

- ❑ End of the classification
- ❑ 2nd information campaign

3rd step
2006 - 2007

- ❑ Monitor the risk
- ❑ Evaluate the impact
- ❑ Setting up epidemiological studies

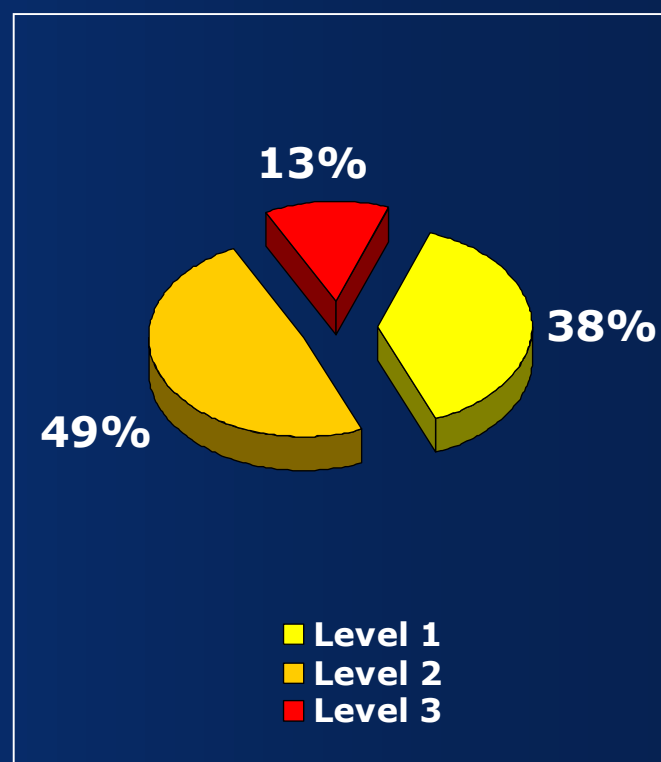
Results



- Actives substances already reviewed

ATC code	Class	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
A	Alimentary tract	7	39	0
C	Cardiovascular drugs	65	6	0
G	Genito-urinary system	11	9	0
M	Musculo-skeletal system	22	9	8
N	Nervous system	20	162	56
P	Antiparasitic	11	1	0
R	Respiratory system	18	26	0
S	Ophthalmologicals	56	13	7

- Distribution by level of risk



Epidemiological studies



- **Traffic accident and medicinal products use: main studies**

Skegg DC et al. BMJ, 1979	UK	309 injured drivers	2 years
Neutel CI. Ann Epidemiol, 1995	Canada	155 injured patients	2 months
Hemmelgarn B et al. JAMA, 1997	Canada	5.579 drivers	4 years
Barbone F et al. Lancet, 1998	UK	19.386 drivers	3 years

- **CESIR-A (Combined study on health and road insecurity)**

- Collaborative study project: Afssaps / Inserm / Onisr / Cnamts
- Objective: identification and quantification of the impact of consumption of drug (regarding pictogram's level) on the risk of traffic accidents
- Methodology: matching national files of traffic accidents (police force) and reimbursements by the French public welfare system

-> 90.000 accidents/year