The DRUID Project and the Categorization of Medicinal Drugs and Driving

F. Javier Alvarez*
Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Valladolid, 47005 Valladolid, Spain

A large proportion of the population habitually drives while taking medicinal drugs. The prescription of medicinal drugs is an everyday factor in clinical practice, and even though safer and more effective medicinal drugs are being commercialized every day, some of them can deteriorate psychomotor performance, which can affect a person’s ability to drive safely.

The DRUID Work Package Classification (WP4) has four objectives:

- To review the existing classification/categorisation systems and labelling systems regarding medicinal drugs and driving.
- To propose and agree on the criteria and the methodology for the establishment of a European classification/categorisation system and labelling system of medicinal drugs and driving.
- To develop a methodology to continuously update the classification/categorisation system and labelling system of medicinal drugs and driving.
- To propose a classification/categorisation system for the relevant therapeutic groups of medicines available in the market.

For the achievement of these objectives, DRUID Work Package 4 has issued four research tasks. Task 4.1: Review of existing classification efforts; Task 4.2: The establishment of criteria for a European categorisation, based on expert consensus; Task 4.3: Establishment of a framework for the classification/categorisation and labelling of medicinal drugs and driving; Task 4.4: Coordination and synthesis report.

Four deliverables are expected as a result, including a review of the existing classification/labelling systems (Deliverable D.4.1.1, available in month 15, start of DRUID project, October 15th, 2006), the proposal of a methodology to achieve the criteria for a European categorisation (Deliverable D.4.2.1, month 39), to provide a classification/categorisation system for the relevant therapeutic groups of medicines available in the market, including newly available drugs during the timeframe of the project DRUID (Deliverable D.4.3.1, month 45), and the classification of medicinal drugs and driving: a synthesis report (Deliverable D.4.4.1, month 46).

The partners involved in the DRUID Work Package 4 Classification are: University of Gent (Belgium, task leader of Task 4.1), University of Groningen, Pharmacy (The Netherlands, task leader of Task 4.2), Bast (Germany), University of Grenoble, Centro Regional de Pharmacovigilance (France), Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (Greece), and the University of Valladolid (Spain, task leader of Task 4.3) acting coordinator of DRUID WP 4.

The work package classification will have an output both for physicians/pharmacists and other health professionals, as well as the patients taking these medicinal drugs, through two major actions: categorization of the medicinal drugs on driving ability, and the proposal of appropriate labelling systems regarding medicinal drugs and driving. This abstract refers to the Work Package 2, Classification, of the project DRUID - Driving under the influence of Drugs, Alcohol and Medicines, Sixth Framework Programme, contract No TREN-05-FP6TR-S07.61320-518404-DRUID, duration 15 October 2006-14 October 2010, see http://www.druid-project.eu.

Keywords: Medicinal drugs, Psychomotor performance, Prevention