

## THE PHARMACOLOGICAL CONSULTATION SERVICE AS A VALID TOOL FOR DEVELOPING A CORRECT DRUG APPROACH: “THE POPPERS’ CASE”

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Any drugs or medicines capable of producing a therapeutic effect can also produce unwanted adverse effects, either in isolation or in combination with other drugs or factors. The wide variety of medicines available makes rational therapeutic choice for a particular patient very difficult. For clinicians the choice is made even harder by the impossibility to obtain updated and independent information.

For all these reasons we maintain that the pharmacological consultation is a valid approach to support clinicians in the rational and appropriate prescribing and we consider the development of an institutional service directed to independent drug information and drug surveillance of fundamental importance.

The objective of this work is to demonstrate that the Pharmacological Consultation Service, working inside a Drug Information Centre, is a valid tool to promote drug knowledge and lead to a more correct drug use among physicians.

Through our Pharmacological Consultation Service, the clinical pharmacologist interacts with other clinicians and involves them in the management of specific clinical reports, providing written information to specific drug-related queries.

Our Pharmacological Consultation Service was asked to assess whether the inhalation of poppers could be considered responsible for the following described clinical event. A young Sardinian male was admitted to a Paediatric Hospital due to a severe haemolytic crisis. The patient’s medical history was unremarkable except for G6PD deficiency and probably Gilbert’s Syndrome. He admitted having inhaled amyl nitrite, commonly known as “Popper”, during the two days immediately prior to hospitalization. The clinical pharmacologists working in our Service confirmed that the inhalation of Poppers could be held responsible for the clinical event described above

We believe that the Drug Information Centre, through the pharmacological consultation, is a valuable tool for developing a positive approach to drugs. We also consider it of fundamental importance as an information and educational service to the clinicians.