

The Use of the Yellow Hand in Europe



Monique Ackermann

Hospital Pharmacist
MSc in Clinical Pharmacy

8th NZW-Europe

10 years of European Society of Oncology Pharmacy



Pharmacie
Interhospitalière
de la Côte



29th-30th January, 2010
Hamburg



INTRODUCTION

- Why the yellow hand?





ESOP OBJECTIVES (2008)

1. **To identify how CMR drugs are labelled for transport**
2. **To suggest a standardised label**

Education / training

Identification of **CMR** drugs

- **C**arcinogenic
- **M**utagenic
- **R**eproductive



Toxicity



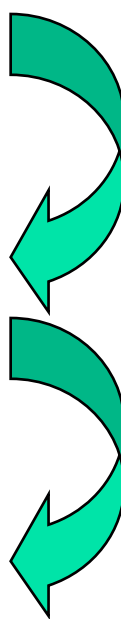
Staff protection





RESULTS

Identification during transport

- Wholesalers
 - Pharmacy
 - Ward
- 

No specific labels



Different labels



RESULTS: label analysis

Use of written warning

Vorsicht Zytostatika



CYTOTOXIC DRUGS

ATTENTION Handle with care!!!

Use always protective gloves



**Attention
cytostatiques**

RESULTS: label analysis

Use of a colour code



CONTIENE PRODUCTO
CITOSTÁTICO

RESULTS: label analysis

Use of a specific sign



Attention
cytostatiques



CYTOTOXIC



RESULTS: label analysis

Text describing what to do in case of an accident



**Vorsicht
Zytostatika**



**Attention
cytostatiques**



**Prudenza
citostatici**

Wichtige Telefonnummern für den Ereignisfall / Numéros de téléphone importants en cas d'accident /
importanti numeri telefonici per il caso di emergenza:

Sanität / Centrale d'alerte / Ambulanza	144
Toxikologisches Institut / Institut toxicologique / Istituto tossicologico	145 oder / ou / oppure 01 251 51 51

Zytostatika sind Medikamente, welche zur Behandlung von Krebs verwendet werden.
Aufgrund der Wirkung dieser Produkte können diese bei direktem Körperkontakt gesundheitsschädlich sein.
Direkter Körperkontakt mit diesen Produkten ist zu vermeiden.
Sollte es dennoch zu Körperkontakt kommen, sind folgende Massnahmen zu treffen:
Hautkontakt
Bei Hautkontakt ist die betroffene Stelle mit reichlich kaltem Wasser abzuspuhlen. Bei anhaltender Hautreizung den Arzt aufsuchen.
Kontakt mit den Augen
Bei Kontakt mit den Augen ist, wenn möglich, jemand um Hilfe zu bitten.
Die Augen sind sofort mit reichlich Wasser – bei geöffnetem Augenlid – auszuspuhlen, min. 10 Minuten lang.
Nach diesen Massnahmen ist ein Augenarzt zu konsultieren.
Mutterschutz
Schwangere und stillende Frauen dürfen nicht in direkten Kontakt mit diesen Produkten kommen.

RESULTS: ESOP proposals

Text describing what to do in case of an accident

Use of a specific sign.

According to the international standards, yellow and black are the colours used to signal danger.

Use of a warning.



Avoid any contact with the product

In case of contact with the eyes and/or skin rinse thoroughly with cold water for at least 10 minutes and consult a Doctor or Ophthalmologist immediately

In case of spillage or damage, do not touch and contact immediately
+.. /..... ..

Any contact with pregnant or breast-feeding women must be avoided.



CONCLUSION

- Everybody should use it.

- Please download

- www.esop.eu

- Activities

- Yellow Hand



ESOP – European Society of Oncology Pharmacy
Recommendations for selling high potent drugs <http://www.esop.eu>

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRANSPORT OF HIGHLY POTENT DRUGS

The products having a CMR (carcinogenic, mutagenic and/or reproductive) toxicity such as cytotoxics, antivirals are highly potent drugs and must therefore be handled with caution. For these reasons ESOP recommend pharmacists to include criteria in their calls for tender, aimed at improving security by asking the suppliers to supply the following information:

- Bottle characteristics in order to avoid breakage (plastic for example)
- Procedures used to avoid external contamination (examples: cleaning, outer wrapping, residual levels etc).

ESOP also recommends that suppliers should be encouraged to choose safe delivery methods by insisting on the following points:

- Transport for cytotoxics should be in accordance with the ISOPP Standards of Practice.
- The delivery must be made using hermetically sealed cases (not cardboard boxes).
- A separate delivery from the remainder of the order.
- Labelling of the contents is clear from the exterior of the package and consists of:
 - A logo indicating the danger with a warning that can be easily understood even by an untrained person.
 - A text indicating that:
 - All contact must be avoided and the measures to be taken in case of contact;
 - Who to get in touch with in emergency concerning contamination questions;
 - Pregnant and breast-feeding women must in no circumstances handle or come into contact with such products.
- ! The terms must be simple in order to be understood by everybody.
- ! The text must be written in the language spoken in the region of the sender and receiver. If the goods cross several language frontiers, the need of adding other languages should be considered.
- Packages with visual signs of damage should be quarantined immediately and the supplier should be contacted. It is not advisable to return damaged cytotoxic vials to the supplier but should be instead be disposed of appropriately.

Label sample

Eviter tout contact avec le produit

En cas de contact avec la peau ou les yeux, rincer abondamment avec de l'eau froide uniquement pendant au moins 10 minutes, puis consulter un médecin ou un ophtalmologue sans délai.

En cas de casse, ne pas toucher et contacter +. /.....

Les femmes enceintes ou qui allaitent ne doivent ni manipuler ni entrer en contact avec ces produits.



Avoid any contact with the product

In case of contact with the eyes and/or skin rinse thoroughly with cold water for at least 10 minutes and consult a Doctor or Ophthalmologist immediately

In case of spillage or damage, do not touch and contact immediately +. /.....

Any contact with pregnant or breast-feeding women must be avoided.

ESOP thank all partners who participate in security improvements.



ESOP OBJECTIVES (2010)

1. **How are ESOP recommendations applied?**



Method

- Survey by mail to ESOP delegates:
«How drugs are shipped?»
 - Cytostatic shipped with other medication?
 - Labelling:
 - According to ESOP recommendations (yellow hand)?
 - If no, is another labeled used?
 - Unlabelled boxes?
 - Transport boxes
 - Leakproof sealed cases
 - Cardboard boxes
- Possible answers: 100%; >50%; <50%, 0%



Results

- 20 countries
 - Austria
 - Belgium
 - Czech Republic
 - Cyprus
 - Denmark
 - Estonia
 - Finland
 - Germany
 - Greece
 - Hungary
 - Iceland
 - Luxembourg
 - Malta
 - Poland
 - Portugal
 - Slovenia
 - Spain
 - Sweden
 - Switzerland
 - Turkey

Q1: Do you receive cytostatic drugs with other medications?



Country	100%	>50%	<50%	0%
Austria				1
Belgium				1
Czech Rep.		1		
Cyprus				1
Denmark				1
Estonia				1
Finland		1		
Germany				1
Greece				1
Hungary		1		
Iceland	1			
Luxembourg		1		
Malta		1		
Poland				1
Portugal			1	
Slovenia		1		
Spain			1	
Sweden				1
Switzerland			1	
Turkey	1			
Total	2	6	3	9

Q2: Are the boxes labelled according to ESOP recommendations (yellow hand)?



Country	100%	>50%	<50%	0%	Comments
Austria				1	
Belgium			1		
Czech Rep.			1		
Cyprus	1				
Denmark				1	
Estonia	1				
Finland	1				
Germany			1		
Greece				1	
Hungary				1	
Iceland				1	
Luxembourg				1	
Malta				1	
Poland			1		just 1 firm
Portugal				1	
Slovenia				1	
Spain			1		
Sweden				1	
Switzerland			1		just 2 firms
Turkey			1		
Total	3	0	7	10	

Q3: Is another label used?

Country	100%	>50%	<50%	0%	Comments
Austria	1				
Belgium	1				
Czech Rep.				1	
Cyprus					Always yellow hand
Denmark	1				
Estonia					Always yellow hand
Finland					Always yellow hand
Germany			1		
Greece			1		2 firms
Hungary	1				if received separately
Iceland	1				
Luxembourg			1		
Malta	1				label or yellow tape on which is written cytotoxic
Poland	1				
Portugal	1				
Slovenia				1	
Spain	1				
Sweden			1		
Switzerland		1			
Turkey				1	
Total	9	1	4	3	





Q4: Do you receive unlabelled boxes?

Country	100%	>50%	<50%	0%	Comments
Austria				1	
Belgium			1		
Czech Rep.		1			
Cyprus				1	
Denmark				1	
Estonia				1	
Finland			1		
Germany			1		
Greece		1			
Hungary			1		
Iceland				1	
Luxembourg		1			
Malta			1		
Poland				1	
Portugal				1	
Slovenia	1				working group
Spain				1	
Sweden		1			
Switzerland			1		
Turkey		1			
Total	1	5	6	8	

Q5: Shipment in leakproof sealed cases?



Country	100%	>50%	<50%	0%	Comments
Austria	1				
Belgium		1			70%
Czech Rep.	1				
Cyprus	1				
Denmark	1				
Estonia		1			mostly
Finland				1	
Germany		1			
Greece				1	
Hungary			1		
Iceland		1			sometimes but not among other drugs
Luxembourg			1		
Malta			1		just one firme
Poland				1	
Portugal		1			
Slovenia				1	working group
Spain			1		
Sweden		1			
Switzerland		1			
Turkey			1		only Epirubicine, Anzatax (=paclitaxel)
Total	4	7	5	4	



Q6: Shipment in cardboard boxes?

Country	100%	>50%	<50%	0%	Comments
Austria				1	
Belgium			1		
Cyprus				1	
Denmark			1		less than 5%
Estonia			1		only one
Finland		1			
Germany			1		
Greece				1	
Hungary		1			
Iceland			1		sometimes but not among other drugs
Luxembourg		1			
Malta	1				
Poland	1				
Portugal		1			
Slovenia			1		working group
Spain		1			
Sweden			1		
Switzerland			1		
Turkey	1				
Total	3	5	8	3	



General comments


- Denmark

- Yellow hand is not used since it is no part of the official EU marking of hazardous chemicals

- Slovenia

- No legal basis → more difficult to obtain from wholesalers that they send cytotoxic drugs according ESPO and QUAPOS recommendations?

General comments

- Switzerland
 - No legal basis
 - SUVA: Swiss Accident Insurance Fund
 - Independent, non-profit company under public law
 - Prevention of professional accidents
 - Now used by two companies
- 
- New action plan





CONCLUSION

- 20 countries
 - Weakness of the survey: just one centre per country
- The ideal situation
 - To receive cytostatic drugs separately from the other medication
 - Always labelled with the yellow hand
 - Always shipped in leakproof boxes
 - **Cyprus**
 - (Austria + Denmark)
- ESOP recommendations (www.esop.eu)
 - Weakness: no legal basis
 - Still much to do



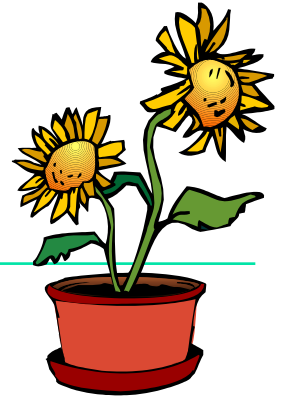
CONCLUSION

- News from this morning
 - Germany: it will be implemented

 - ESOP connections
 - WHO
 - EU



CONCLUSION



- Give a Hand to the Yellow Hand

