



ALLERGY TO “SULFA” DRUGS AND RELATIONSHIP TO SULFUR COLLOID

It has come to my attention that Pharmalucence, Inc has received inquiries from healthcare professionals regarding patients presenting with a history of allergic reaction to “sulfa” drugs and the safety of giving Sulfur Colloid to those patients.

The allergic reaction to “sulfa” drugs is a reaction to organic sulfur containing compounds containing a sulfhydryl group (-SH) or a disulfide linkage (-S-S-). The disulfide bond undergoes enzymatic cleavage in vivo to 2 sulfhydryl groups. These classes of drugs, RSH and RSSR, where R represents an organic moiety, are known to be antigenic and initiate an allergic response. Inorganic sulfur compounds containing sulfur in the form of sulfide, sulfite, and sulfate as well as elemental sulfur do not elicit an allergic response.

Technetium sulfur colloid contains only inorganic sulfur and is completely void of any sulfhydryl or disulfide groups and as such is not contraindicated in patients with a known allergy to “sulfa” drugs.

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