

# **FOCUS** on *re:ACTION*

## Drug-induced depression

### Key points

Drug-induced depression is a severe adverse reaction.

Drug-induced depression is one of the five most commonly suspected reactions reported to the CSM West Midlands.

Ciprofloxacin, beta-blockers, digoxin, methyl dopa, isotretinoin, and statins have all been associated with depression

### Background

Drug-induced depression can vary from minor mood changes, to more severe mood changes with sleep disturbances and loss of appetite. In its most severe form, it can include suicidal ideation.

The diagnosis of drug-induced depression is sometimes difficult, because symptoms of depression such as insomnia and constipation can themselves be adverse drug effects.

In many cases, cessation of symptoms of depression after withdrawal of the drug may provide the only clear evidence of association.

### Reported cases of drug-induced depression

The West Midlands Centre for Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting has received 154 reports of drug-associated depression.

### Top 10 drugs associated with depression.

Drug
bupropion
levonorgestrel
rofecoxib
atorvastatin
lansoprazole
sibutramine
mefloquine
brimonidine
interferon beta
isotretinoin

### Review

$\beta$ -adrenoreceptor antagonists have been reported to cause depression with an incidence of 1%. Lipophilic agents (such as oxprenolol, nadolol, metoprolol and atenolol) may be less likely to cause depression, but it has also been reported with them. Suicidal depression has also been reported with timolol and betaxolol eye drops.