



Double medication should be regarded as a drug-drug interaction

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20 internet drug interaction checkers were asked for interactions between Zantac® and ranitidine (Z&r) and between atenolol and metoprolol (a&m)

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Ranitidine is the generic name of the active ingredient in Zantac. Atenolol and metoprolol are both selective beta1-receptor inhibitors.

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| About.Inc | Healthatoz |
| Aidsmeds | Healthwise ☒ |
| Caremark # | Interaktionsdatabasen + |
| Discovery Health | Mediq |
| Drugstore.com | Medscape |
| Drkoop + | PersonalMD |
| Drugdigest | SFINX / |
| Drugs.com + | SubscribeRx ☒# |
| Druid | UMMC ☒ |
| Eckerd # | Walgreens ☒#+ |

	Z&r	a&m	Yes	No
No interaction	10	8		
No (understandable) answer	6	8		
Duplication	4 ☒	4 #		
Precise definition			0	20
Partial definition			4 +	16
Disclaimer			1 /	19

The professional understanding of drug (-drug) interactions is historically based, and includes only chemically different medicines. But the words 'chemically' and 'different' are not included in any of the definitions available on the internet.

«Interaction is a kind of action that occurs as two or more objects have an effect upon one another.» www.wikipedia.org July 2007

John Patient has two medicine packages with different product names. Can John Patient take both medicines at the same time? (What John Patient doesn't know is that both medicines contain the same active ingredient.)

John Patient finds a drug interaction checker on the internet and types in the names of the medicines.

In 10 out of 20 cases he will get the answer that there are no interactions between the two medicines.

In 6 cases he will get no understandable answer.

And only in 4 cases he is told that there is duplication.

This is a dangerous situation that has to be changed.