



ADDITIONAL EFFECTS OF TAKING DRUGS

Side effect – any unintended reaction caused by a drug or medical treatment. This term is used by the general public, but is often avoided by medical authorities.

Adverse event – an unwanted medical occurrence which a patient experiences during treatment. This may or may not be a side effect of a drug.

Serious adverse event (SAE) – an adverse event that threatens life, requires or prolongs hospitalization, or results in death.

1 Read the following report.

Doctor's report:

On 24 Dec 2010, a woman of unknown age, Maria Gallois, fainted after developing a sudden, severe skin **rash** and **inflammation** all over her body.

Ms Gallois, the well-known opera singer, lost consciousness 30 minutes before she had planned to go on stage. She was taken to hospital and regained consciousness an hour later. She reported that she had not had anything to eat except some chocolate four hours before. In addition to small, red, **itching** spots all over her body, she also reported a racing heart, a headache, and **insomnia** after starting on *Mensamint*TM three weeks previously. At the hospital, the patient showed evidence of hyperactivity, accompanied by confusion and agitation. Subsequently, *Mensamint*TM was discontinued, but the symptoms **persisted** until a strong sedative was administered. After 24 hours, all symptoms except for a mild skin **irritation** had subsided and the patient was discharged from hospital. Some symptoms are suspected side effects of *Mensamint*TM.

Vital signs: temperature 100°F (38.8°C) and blood pressure 160/110
 Known allergies: peanuts, penicillin
 Current medications: two 100 mg *Mensamint*TM lozenges taken once daily for improved short-term and long-term memory.
Mimifem oral contraceptive 0.2 mg daily.

The patient has a history of **hypertension**, mild heart **palpitations**, high adrenalin levels, and often suffers from insomnia.

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Now answer the following questions.

- 1 What were the patient's symptoms before she was admitted to hospital?

- 2 How was she treated by her physician?

- 3 What was her condition when she was discharged from the hospital?



What evidence points to *Mensamint*TM as the cause of the symptoms?

What evidence suggests that other factors may be responsible for the symptoms?

2 Match the following symptoms in bold in the doctor's report with their definitions.

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 ☐ hypertension | a sleeplessness |
| 2 ☐ rash | b general discomfort, bad feeling |
| 3 ☐ palpitation | c red, warm, and swollen |
| 4 ☐ insomnia | d you feel like you want to scratch |
| 5 ☐ inflammation | e heart racing |
| 6 ☐ itching | f high blood pressure |
| 7 ☐ irritation | g a lot of spots on the skin |

3 Connect the following sentence halves. Then put them in the correct order to make a case report.

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| 1 ☐ A report received from the patient's sister | a the attending physician reduced the dosage to 10 mg per day. |
| 2 ☐ After having taken <i>Mensamint</i> TM , the patient experienced | b and the symptoms cannot be ruled out. |
| 3 ☐ A correlation between <i>Mensamint</i> TM | c headaches and insomnia. |
| 4 ☐ The patient has now completely | d indicated that she had a history of hypertension. |
| 5 ☐ After examining the patient, | e recovered and is back on stage. |

Correct order: _ _ _ _ _