

SPINE SAFETY NOTICE:

Information for Healthcare Professionals: Cefepime® (Maxipime) - Early Communication About An Ongoing Safety Review

According to MedWatch, FDA issued an early communication about the ongoing review of new safety data and the request for additional data to further evaluate the risk of death in patients treated with cefepime®. An article in the May 2007 issue of The Lancet Infectious Diseases (Efficacy and safety of cefepime: a systematic review and meta-analysis) raised the question about increased mortality with the use of cefepime®, a broad spectrum B-lactam antibiotic currently approved for the treatment of a variety of infections due to susceptible strains of microorganisms. The article describes a higher all-cause mortality in patients treated with cefepime® compared to other B-lactam antibiotics. Until FDA's evaluation is completed, healthcare professionals who are considering the use of cefepime® should be aware of the risks and benefits described in the prescribing information and the new information from this meta-analysis.

Read the complete MedWatch 2007 Safety Summary including a link to the Early Communication Sheet regarding this ongoing safety review at:
<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2007/safety07.htm#Cefepime>

The North American Spine Society is committed to quality patient care through promotion of patient safety and prevention of medical errors. NASS monitors a variety of government and other resources for patient safety related notices that may be useful to our members. Information from these notices is also archived on the NASS website at http://www.spine.org/spine_safety_notices.cfm. This information is provided as a service for information and education only.