

SULFAMETHOXAZOLE (Group 3)

A. Evidence for carcinogenicity to humans (*inadequate*)

Although no increase in the incidence of cancers at all sites combined was noted during 1969-1976 among 1709 members of a prepaid health plan prescribed sulfamethoxazole during 1969-1973, significant increases in the incidences of nasopharyngeal carcinoma (3 observed, 0.1 expected; relative risk, 30.0 [95% confidence interval, 23.7-36.3]) and of cancer of the cervix after a two-year lag period (7 observed, 2.2 expected; relative risk, 3.2 [1.8-4.5]) were observed. However, a significant deficit of colon cancer was also seen (none observed, 4.7 expected)¹.

B. Evidence for carcinogenicity to animals (*limited*)

Sulfamethoxazole produced thyroid tumours in rats following its oral administration; no information on other tumour types was reported².

C. Other relevant data

In a single study, sulfamethoxazole did not induce chromosomal aberrations in human lymphocytes *in vivo* or *in vitro*. It was not mutagenic to bacteria³.

References

- ¹Friedman, G.D. & Ury, H.K. (1980) Initial screening for carcinogenicity of commonly used drugs. *J. natl Cancer Inst.*, 65, 723-733
- ²IARC Monographs, 24, 285-295, 1980
- ³IARC Monographs, Suppl. 6, 502-503, 1987