THE SAFETY QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

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Absence of international unification experimental and clinical information, which are characterising the toxic effect of biological active substance, leads to application of prohibited medicinal plants (Aristolochia, Piper methysticum, Sassafras и etc.) in some countries in consequence of difficult side effects. Especially important is evaluation of safety of medicinal plants which causes life threatening side effects or if carcinogenic, hepatotoxic effects experimentally established. Acorus calamus, Aristolochia franchi, Tussilago farfara, Symphytum officinale, Centella asiatica — are medicinal plants with potential carcinogenic effect. However, risk assessment criteria for these plants are not developed. Maximal allowable concentrations is established only for some toxic substances. The introduction of maximal allowable concentrations is an important action in prevention of potential toxic effects of selected medicinal plants. For safety evaluating of medicinal plants is necessary to take into consideration the development of delayed side effects, which are developed during some weeks or months. Such side effects are characteristic of medicinal plants, with hormonal activity, menstrual cycle or blood coagulation system. The commission E (Germany) has considered data for 299 medicinal plants: