

WHO Agency Classifies Three Essential Medicines as Group 1 Carcinogens

WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified hydrochlorothiazide, voriconazole, and tacrolimus in Group 1 of carcinogens.

The IARC Monographs identify environmental and pharmaceutical factors that can increase the risk of human cancer.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Hydrochlorothiazide**, **voriconazole**, and **tacrolimus** were placed in **Group 1** as carcinogenic to humans by IARC.
- **Hydrochlorothiazide** is a widely prescribed **diuretic medicine** used to manage high blood pressure.
- **Voriconazole** is an **antifungal drug** used to treat severe fungal infections in clinical practice.
- **Tacrolimus** is an **immunosuppressant** prescribed to prevent organ transplant rejection in patients.
- **IARC** functions as the specialized cancer research agency of the **World Health Organization**.
- Healthcare experts advised patients against **stopping prescribed treatments** without consulting doctors.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **International Agency for Research on Cancer** was established in **May 1965** in **Lyon, France**.

IARC Group 1 category indicates sufficient scientific evidence of carcinogenicity in humans.

Hydrochlorothiazide acts as a **thiazide diuretic** by inhibiting **sodium reabsorption** in distal renal tubules.

Tacrolimus acts as a **calcineurin inhibitor** that prevents **T-lymphocyte activation** and immune response.

Voriconazole inhibits fungal cytochrome P450-dependent 14-alpha-sterol demethylase to disrupt **ergosterol synthesis**.

World Cancer Day is commemorated globally every year on **February 4**.

National Cancer Awareness Day is observed annually in India on **November 7**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

WHO's IARC classified hydrochlorothiazide, voriconazole, and tacrolimus as Group 1 human carcinogens.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Group 1, 2, and 4 General Science questions on health, pharmacology, and WHO health agencies.

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