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Drug Bulletin

Fluoroquinolones and Risk of Retinal Detachment

Source: *Journal of the American Medical Association* 2012;307(13):1414-9.

Mechanism: Possible acute degeneration of vitreoretinal interface.

Study population: BC residents who had at least one visit to an ophthalmologist from 2000-2007.

Results: Users of oral fluoroquinolones have a 4.5 times higher risk of developing a retinal detachment than non-users. This risk translates to one additional case of retinal detachment in every 2500 users.

What to do? In patients who have experienced flashes/floaters, a retinal tear or detachment, contact the prescriber of the fluoroquinolone advising them to arrange an immediate ophthalmic evaluation. Consider discontinuation of fluoroquinolone therapy and/or change to another antibiotic.