

Science Time
Program Content for June 17, 2015

Read the article “**Study: Acid-reflux drugs unsafe for heart**” on page A4 of the Friday, June 12, 2015 edition of The Seattle Times.

Pre-reading and Vocabulary: Define each term and then use it in a sentence to demonstrate your understanding.

1. reflux
2. algorithm
3. cardiovascular
4. inhibitor

Comprehension Questions

1. What did a recent analysis of millions of electronic health records reveal about certain acid-reflux medications?
2. What does GERD stand for?
3. Which type of drug was found to be more harmful; proton pump inhibitors or H2 blockers? Support your answer with evidence.
4. What does “data mining” allow doctors to be able to do?
5. What did research on acid-reflux drugs demonstrate in mouse models and human cultures?
6. Why is the inability of blood vessels to be able to relax a concern?
7. Why should the recent findings of this study be of concern to consumers?
8. What is one concern with data mining?
9. What are two possible flaws in this data mining study that could have led to inaccurate results?

Prompts and Extensions

1. What is gastro esophageal reflux disease (GERD)? Complete outside research to answer this question. What are the symptoms? What are the treatments? How many people are impacted?
2. After reading this article would you recommend that someone suffering from GERD take a proton pump inhibitor medication to relieve their symptoms? Support your answer using evidence from the article.
3. Watch this [video](#) and read the associated article to learn about ways to naturally treat GERD without medications.

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