The CDSA-THSTI’s fifth webinar in the series Wednesday Webinar with clinical development service agency (CDSA) was titled “Pharmacovigilance during COVID-19 Pandemic”. The first speaker Dr. Y. K. Gupta, Principal Adviser (Projects) at CDSA-THSTI spoke about the problems and safety issues of drugs being used for the first time, repurposed drugs, and vaccines. The second speaker represented the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission that has 311 ADE monitoring centres across the country. Dr. Jai Prakash, Adviser at IPC gave a brief overview of the functions of the pharmacovigilance mission of India and steps taken by the Commission during the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar was moderated by Aditya Kaushik and Vandana Chawla.

“Dexathasone, Remdesivir, Itolizumab – when we have all these drugs, why not use them to treat all those who are sick?” asked my cousin who, like most of you is flooded with news on the progress science is making towards finding a drug for COVID-19. As much as we wait with bated breath for that saviour drug to act against COVID-19, what scientists are also worried about are what they call Adverse Drug Events (ADEs). After a drug is designed and before is shown to be safe for use and effective against a disease, it goes through a long process. No, scientists who develop the drugs don’t do it themselves. A third organization undertakes activities to detect, assess, understand and thence prevent any adverse effect caused by a drug. For India, this is done by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission and what they do is called PHARMACOVIGILANCE.
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZYQ_ObeJn8&feature=youtube

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