

Dr. Ewelina Korczowska

Workshop: "Fresh perspective on the risks associated with exposure to cytotoxics"

Occupational exposure of healthcare professionals to cytotoxic drugs is an important issue which has been considered for many decades. It is forty years since Falck et al. reported evidence of mutagenicity in urine samples of nurses handling cytotoxic drugs. The scientific literature on this topic has grown tremendously since then. Over 400 papers on hazardous drugs have now been published in peer-reviewed journals. These reports document how vial contamination, preparation, administration, disposal and other hazardous drugs handling activities, have potentially exposed pharmacists, nurses, physicians, and other healthcare workers to significant workplace levels of these chemicals. The workshop will discuss what has changed in this time, what we have learned and what else needs to be done to improve our understanding of the risks involved.