

MedicinesComplete Case Study No. 5

This case study shows how to search the British National Formulary to find interactions between two medicines.

Scenario: A care home manager asks a pharmacist if there is an interaction between aspirin and warfarin.

1. Select the **British National Formulary** from the MedicinesComplete home page.

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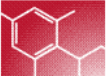







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2. Using the logical operator '+' before each of the terms to be searched will narrow results to only those where both terms are present in the same record. Therefore, type **+aspirin +warfarin** into the search box and click **Interactions**.

British National Formulary - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by The Royal Pharmaceutical Society

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+aspirin +warfarin Search Interactions

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British National Formulary 50

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Compiled with the advice of clinical experts, the *British National Formulary* (BNF) provides up-to-date guidance on prescribing, dispensing and administering medicines.

The BNF details medicines prescribed in the UK, with special reference to their uses, cautions, contra-indications, side-effects, dosage and relative costs.

Updated every six months, the BNF reflects current best practice as well as legal and professional guidelines relating to the use of medicines. It is intended for use by prescribers, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals.

- Designed for rapid reference
- Authoritative, impartial and, where available, evidence-based advice on prescribing, dispensing and administering medicines

Done Internet

4. This takes you to the coumarins interaction information. Scroll down to find aspirin.

Coumarins: British National Formulary - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by The Royal Pharmaceutical Society

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Coumarins

Coumarins has the following interaction information:

Change in patient's clinical condition, particularly associated with liver disease, intercurrent illness, or drug administration, necessitates more frequent testing. Major changes in diet (especially involving salads and vegetables) and in alcohol consumption may also affect anticoagulant control

Acitretin	anticoagulant effect of coumarins possibly reduced by acitretin
Alcohol	anticoagulant control with coumarins may be affected by major changes in consumption of alcohol
Allopurinol	anticoagulant effect of coumarins possibly enhanced by allopurinol
Aminoglutethimide	metabolism of coumarins accelerated by aminoglutethimide (reduced anticoagulant effect)
Amiodarone	metabolism of coumarins inhibited by amiodarone (enhanced anticoagulant effect)

Amiodarone has a long half-life; there is a potential for drug interactions to occur for several weeks (or even months) after

Done Internet

5. The aspirin and coumarins interaction.

Drug Class	Interaction with Coumarins
Anabolic Steroids	enhanced by anabolic steroids
Antidepressants, SSRI	anticoagulant effect of coumarins possibly enhanced by SSRIs
Antidepressants, Tricyclic	anticoagulant effect of coumarins may be enhanced or reduced by tricyclics
Aspirin	increased risk of bleeding when coumarins given with aspirin (due to antiplatelet effect)
Aztreonam	anticoagulant effect of coumarins possibly enhanced by aztreonam
Barbiturates	metabolism of coumarins accelerated by barbiturates (reduced anticoagulant effect)
Bicalutamide	anticoagulant effect of coumarins possibly enhanced by bicalutamide
Bosentan	monitoring anticoagulant effect of coumarins recommended by manufacturer of bosentan
Carbamazepine	metabolism of coumarins accelerated by carbamazepine (reduced anticoagulant effect)
Celecoxib	anticoagulant effect of coumarins possibly enhanced by celecoxib
Cephalosporins	anticoagulant effect of coumarins possibly enhanced by cephalosporins
Chlorthalidone	anticoagulant effect of coumarins may