Olympiad: A model for quantity estimation for multi-coded team events

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Abstract

Objective. This descriptive study was undertaken to report the medications used by the athletes and officials of Team South Africa at the 2004 Olympic Games and to provide a model for the estimation of quantities to be used for planning support to future events.

Setting. South African medical facility, 2004 Olympic Games, Athens, Greece.

Methods. The names of the medications, including the dosage and quantity of medications dispensed, were recorded in the pharmacy stock control book at the South African medical facility, 2004 Olympic Games, Athens, Greece. Retrospective review of patient files and medical encounter forms was also undertaken to check against the pharmacy stock control book to ensure complete data capture of dispensed medications.

Main outcome measures. Quantities of medications consumed during the observation period. The units of medication consumed per travelling team member were calculated by dividing the number of units (tablets, capsules, tubes, inhalers, bottles and ampoules) used during the trip by the total number of travelling team members.

Results. Complete records of medications included in the travelling pharmacy are described. Quantities of medications included ranged from single units to 2 250 units and percentage use of various medications varied from 0% to 100% of stocks. Units per team member ranged from 0 to 9.43. Medications were consumed from all categories of agents. The most utilised agents included

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Conclusions. This study describes the consumption of pharmacological agents by the athletes and officials of Team South Africa during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. It also provides a model to assist with the estimation of quantities of medications to be included in the travelling pharmacy for future international multicoded sports events.

Introduction

Participation in multi-coded sports events often involves travel to international destinations. In South Africa, multi-coded teams are selected on a number of occasions during the year to participate in local competitions (SA Games, SA Student Games); continental zonal competitions (Zone 6 Games); continental competitions (All Africa Games); and intercontinental competitions (Commonwealth Games, World Student Games and Olympic Games).

A significant part of the preparations and tasks of a team physician includes the decisions regarding the medical supply kit.^{2,12} Complete preparation requires the choice of medications in sufficient quantity to cater for most medical problems that are encountered in multi-coded team events.^{4,5,8} While the medical support structures of the host country might be able to supply an adequate quantity and variety of medications through a polyclinic pharmacy, it is often the case that the foreign country is unable to do so, or the labels and drug information might be presented in a foreign language.^{10,11} Furthermore, issues with respect to quality control and possible contamination of substances require the composition of a medical kit of sufficient variety and quantity to allow for the management of the medical conditions encountered during travel to foreign destinations.

Thus the choice of which compounds to include in such kit and at what quantities is often a perplexing challenge for the team physician. The aim of this report is to document the various medications and quantity usage of medications during the Olympic Games in Athens 2004. A model is also presented to calculate the anticipated quantities of medications in future events.

Methods

Data were collected over 30 days, starting when the team arrived in Athens (1 Sept) until the end of the Olympic Games (30 Sept). All

medications dispensed, over this period to both athletes and officials were recorded by the attending team physicians in the pharmacy stock control book in the medical room of Team SA. The names of the medications, including the dosage and quantity of medications dispensed, were recorded. Retrospective review of patient files and medical encounter forms was also undertaken to check against the pharmacy stock control book to ensure complete data capture of dispensed medications.

The pharmacological constituents of each medication as well as quantities of medications were forwarded to the medical authorities of the host country for importation clearance prior to leaving South Africa. Following completion of the travel, the above data were added to the database to allow the calculation of the percentage of medication stocks used. The units of medications per travelling team member were calculated by dividing the number of units (tablets, capsules, tubes, inhalers, bottles and ampoules) used during the trip by the total number of travelling team members.

Results

A total of 159 team members travelled to Athens. The team comprised 107 athletes from 12 sports codes and 52 officials. Athletes were defined as the members of the team engaged in competition and officials were defined as team or athlete coaches, team managers, team technical staff, administration officials, medical staff and National Olympic Committee members.

The medical consultations conducted during the 30-day period are described elsewhere in this publication.⁵ The medications, active ingredients, dosage, and quantities of medications used, are shown in Tables I - IV.

Table I lists the pharmacological agents in the categories of neurological preparations, local anaesthetics, analgesics, musculoskeletal agents, autacoids and corticoids, and cardiovascular agents. Table II lists the pharmacological agents of the respiratory system, ear nose and throat drugs and drugs to manage gastrointestinal complaints. Dermatological and ophthalmic preparations, antimicrobials and drugs to treat urogenital complaints are listed in Table III while Table IV lists vitamin, mineral and electrolyte supplements as well as the drugs used for emergency management.

Quantities of medications ranged from single units to 2 250 units and percentage use of various medications varied from 0% to 100% of stocks. Units per team member ranged from 0 to 9.43. Medications were consumed from all categories of agents yet certain agents were used to a far greater extent. These agents included the analgesics, musculoskeletal and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents as well as certain vitamin and mineral supplements.

Discussion

The 'travelling pharmacy' of Team South Africa consists of two large metal crates-on-wheels to facilitate being pushed during travel as their weight is in excess of 150 kg per container. This pharmacy is passed from one medical team to another and is used for most of South Africa's multi-coded team events, including student games, African Zonal Games, All Africa, Commonwealth and Olympic/Paralympic Games. The pharmacy stock is checked prior to each trip for expired agents, and remaining quantities of stock from the previous trip are determined.

Of the many responsibilities of a team physician, the decision of which agents to take to an international destination to successfully manage a team of athletes and officials is perhaps one of the more difficult.¹ The team physicians have to be prepared to manage any medical complaint that might occur in a team of 100 - 500 athletes and officials. Medical complaints in a squad of that size can be both diverse in nature and numerous. For example, it is not uncommon on a single trip to be expected to manage a minor outbreak of gastroenteritis, renal stones, myocardial infarction, diabetes complications, acute psychosis and a variety of musculoskeletal injuries.

It is prudent to select a sufficient variety of agents and in sufficient quantities to be independent of the services provided by the host country. While host country services can be excellent and 'state-of-the-art', they can vary greatly depending on their geographical location and the choice of available medications as selected by the local pharmacist.¹⁰ Furthermore, certain medications might simply not be available in the host country or stock might be limited, or there might be delays in accessing host polyclinic services, leading to a delay in patient management. In some countries, the constituents of certain common medications can vary and contamination of agents can also occur. Thus a comprehensive, sufficiently stocked medical supply kit is important.

Factors influencing the choice of which agents to include in the travelling pharmacy include: personal preference of the team physician(s); unused unexpired medications from the previous trip; the country of destination and the anticipated medical problems (e.g. travelling to an area where malaria is endemic would require certain choices and quantities of agents); the nature of the team and individual sports included in the programme (e.g. athletes involved in contact sports could require increased quantities of analgesics and anti-inflammatory agents);⁷ the legislation of the country of destination (e.g. stopayne is not permitted for importation into Australia); and sponsorship of products from various pharmaceutical companies.

Yet, estimation of quantities of these required agents is often difficult. The above list of medications provides the reader with the details of compounds included in the travelling pharmacy, the quantity taken, usage thereof and the number of units per team member consumed during the time of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. This latter number (which appears in column number 7) in Tables I - IV is particularly useful as it can be multiplied by the total number of persons in any future travelling party, and provides the physician with an estimated quantity of required medication based on a 30-day period. If the travel period is shorter (e.g. 2 weeks, the amount can be halved or if the trip is 6 weeks the number can be multiplied by 1.5). Clearly, this factor provides a guide only and is likely to vary, based on the above-mentioned variables.

Usage of the analgesics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents warrants special mention. While choice of a certain preparation over another would depend on factors including time to onset of action, desired route of administration and preference of both physician and athlete, it is of interest to note the use of the total number of units of all anti-inflammatory and analgesic tablets (and patches). The total number of units per team member for both these agents is 2.2. Therefore for a team size of 300 members the total

| Cardiovascular system Adalat caps Adco-retic tabs Amiloretic tabs Angi spray Atenolol tabs Dispirin CV tabs Isoptin SR tabs | Autacoids & corticoids Telfast tabs Prednisone tabs | Musculoskeletal/NSAIDs Bextra tabs Cataflam D tabs Celestone soluspan amps Diclofenac tabs Elmetacin topical spray Mobic amps Mobic tabs Mobic tabs Thrombophob gel Transact topical patches Voltaren emulgel | Analgesics Disprin tabs Docdol tabs Myprodol caps Napamol tabs Stopayne caps Tramahexal tabs Tramal amps | Local anaesthetics Xylotox amps Marcaine amps | Adco-zolpidem tabs Anxirid tabs Dormicum tabs Dormonoct tabs Imigran tabs Sandoz sulpiride tabs Zomig tabs Zopimed tabs | Product/brand name |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| Nifedapine Amiloride, hydrochlorothiazide Hydrochlorothiazide Isosorbide dinitrate Atenolol Aspirin Verapamil | Fexofenadine Prednisone | Valdecoxib Dichlophenacin potassium Betametazone acetate Diclofenac potassium Indomethacin Meloxicam Meloxicam Meloxicam Heparin Flubiprofen Diclofenac diethylam | Aspirin Paracetamol, codeine Paracetamol, ibuprofen, codeine Paracetamol Paracetamol, codeine, caffeine, meprobromate Tramadol Tramadol | Lignocaine hydrochloride Bupicacaine hydrochloride | Zolpidem hemitartrate Alprazolam Midazolam Loprazolam Sumatriptan Sulpiride Zolmitriptan Zopiclone | Active/main ingredient |
| 10 mg 5 mg; 50 mg 25 mg 1.25 mg/0.09 ml 50 mg 100 mg 240 mg | 120 mg 5 mg | 40 mg 50 mg 3 mg/ml 50 mg 10 mg/g 15 mg 7.5 mg 7.5 mg 2 000 lu/25 g 40 mg 50 g/ tube | 300 mg 500 mg; 10 mg 250 mg, 200 mg, 10 mg 500 mg 500 mg; 8 mg; 32 mg; 150 mg 50 mg 100 mg/2 ml | 20 mg 5 mg/ml | 10 mg 1 mg 15 mg 2 mg 10 mg 50 mg 2.5 mg 7.5 mg | Weight, volume or concentration per unit |
| 200 100 500 30 | 200 1 000 | 3 4 10 1 20 5 5 4 2 5 5 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 4 300 300 300 300 300 300 300 300 300 30 | 100 10 | 500 500 500 500 | Quantity taken |
| 00000 | 0 00 | 2 5 3 9 1 0 2 1 3 6 2 6 4 0 6 5 0 | 0 0 0 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 | ω ω | 30000 00000000000000000000000000000000 | Units of medication used |
| o | 0 34 | 7 1 3 9 5 0 4 3 8 3 4 7 4 0 4 0 0 0 3 8 3 0 | 0 0 0 <u>- 5</u> 0 4 0 0 2 0 0 | ω ω | တ ဝ ဝ ဝ ယ္ ဟ ဝ ကို ယ္က | % Medication used |
| 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 | 0.43 0.00 | 0.13 0.41 0.02 0.01 0.01 0.02 0.29 0.02 | 0.16 0.11 0.97 0.38 0.08 0.08 | 0.02 0.02 | 0.39 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.13 | Units/team member |

| Product/brand name | Active/main ingredient | Weight, volume or Qua | antity taken | Units of medication | % Medication | Units/team memher |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Respiratory system | | | | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| Combivent inhaler | Ipratopium bromide, salbutamol | 20 µg; 100 µg | - | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Flemex mixture | Carbocisteine | 250 mg/5 ml | - | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Inflammide inhaler | Budesonide | 200 ug | - | - | 100 | 0.01 |
| Rolah heclomethasone dinronrionate | Beclomethasone | 50 110 | 30 | t | cr. | 0.01 |
| Sarayant inhalar | Salmatarol | 25 H G | | . c | 67 | 100 |
| | Valification | 200 m2 | 0,00 | 4 V | 10 | - 0 |
| | | | 120 | 0 | 2 | 0.10 |
| Solphyllex cough mixture | I neopnylline, etotylline, | 100 mg; 10 mg; 8 mg; | | , | | |
| | diphenylpyraline hydrochloride, | 720 mg; 300 mg/30 ml | 20 | N | 10 | 0.01 |
| | ammonium chloride, Sodium citrat | B | | | | |
| Ventolin nebules | Salbutamol | 5 mg | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Venteze inhaler | Salbutamol | 100 µg | . 12 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Ventzone inhaler | Beclomethasone diproprionate | 50 µg | 7 | - | 14 | 0.01 |
| Ear, nose and throat | | | | | | |
| Aurasept drops | Benzocaine, phenazone | 20 ma: 1.4 ma | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Boniela | Choline salicvlate. | 0.87 a: 1 ma/10 a | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| | setalkonium chloride | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Budaflam aduanase | Budesonide | 100 ma/sprav | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0.01 |
| | | | | 1 1 | 2 6 | 2.0 |
| | benzocalne, cetyipyriainium | zu mg; 1.4 mg | ØU | 77 | 90 | 0.45 |
| | cnioriae | | (| | Î | |
| Cerumenex ear drops | I nethanolamine polypeptide | 1.57 g/15 ml | 7 | | 20 | 0.01 |
| Daktarin oral gel | Miconazole | 20 mg / g | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Illiadin nasal spray | Oxymatazoline hydrochloride | 0.5 mg/ml | 30 | 2 | 7 | 0.01 |
| Kenalog in orabase | Triamcinalone acetonide | 1 mg/g | 4 | с | 75 | 0.02 |
| Locabiotal throat sprav | Fusafungine | 0.5 ma/0.05 ml | 40 | б | 23 | 0.06 |
| Sinumax tabs | Paracetamol. pseudoephedrine | 500 ma: 30 ma | 150 | 44 | 29 | 0.28 |
| Sofradex drops | Framvcetin gramicidin | D | | : | ł | |
| | devamethasone | 5 mar () ()5 mar () 5 ma/m | ų | ٠ | 17 | 0.01 |
| Curdofood tobo | | | | - | - 6 | 9.0 |
| Vibrooil 2001 201 | | | 00 | 02 | 0 | 0. 10 |
| | ullieumaene mareae, showloshoriso soomiois | JE ma: JEO ma: 3EO ma/100 ml | c | c | c | |
| | | | o | D | D | 00 |
| Gastrointestinal tract | | | | | | |
| Adco-cvclizine tabs | Cvclizine hvdrochloride | 50 ma | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Anusol suppositories | Bismuth subgallate. | 0 | | | | |
| | hismuth oxide | 59 mar 24 mar 296 ma | 120 | + | 4 | 0.01 |
| Buscopan take | Hyperina hityhomida | oo mg, ≠∓ mg, ≠oo mg 10 ma | 510 | - 0 | - c | 100 |
| | Hydeoline builtibiolillide | 10 ma: 250 ma | | 4 C | 0 | 0.0 |
| | Hyoscirie butylororiide, dipyrorie | | 70 | 7 | 2. | 0.01 |
| | | 400 mg | 200 | D . | 5 | 0.00 |
| Colotac tabs | Mebeverine hydrochloride | 135 mg | 60 | 4 | 7 | 0.03 |
| Eno single sachet | Soda bicarbonate, citric acid, | | | | | |
| | sodium carbonate | 2.32 g; 2.18 g; 0.5 g | 30 | 0 | 7 | 0.01 |
| Fybrogel orange sachet | Ispaghula husk | 3.5 g | 06 | 0 | N | 0.01 |
| Gaviscon tabs | Alginic acid, Magnesium | | | | | |
| | tricilicate, Aluminium-hydroxide, | | | | | |
| | Na-bicab | 500 mg; 25 mg; 100 mg; 170 mg | 120 | 4 | ო | 0.03 |
| Gelumen antacid liquid | Dicylomine, aluminium hydroxide | 200 ml | 10 | 2 | 20 | 0.01 |
| Immodium tabs | Loperamide hydrochloride | 2 mg | 650 | 16 | 2 | 0.10 |
| Interflora caps | Saccharomyces | 0.1 g | 480 | 20 | 4 | 0.13 |
| Kantrexil solution | Neomycin, kaolin, pectin. |) | | | | |
| | dicvclomin hvdrochloride | 100 ml | 5 | - | 20 | 0.01 |
| Lacteol forte caps | Lactobacillus acidophilus | 10 billion/sachet | 100 | 42 | 42 | 0.26 |
| Losec mups | Omeprazole | 20 ma | 60 | 10 | 17 | 0.06 |
| Maxolon tabs | Metoclopromide monohydrate | 10 mg | 1 000 | 4 | £ | 0.03 |
| Nvstacin oral solution | Nvstacin | 20 mJ | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Ranihexal tabs | Ranitidine | 150 mg | 190 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Scheriproct ointment | Prednisolone, clemisole, | | | | | |
| | cinchocaine | 15 g | 9 | 1 | 17 | 0.01 |
| Senokot tabs | Sennosides A&B | 7.5 mg | 248 | 25 | 10 | 0.16 |
| Vicial taba | | | 000 | | ; c | |

conditions

| Adco-co-trimoxazole Amoxicil tabs Augmaxil tabs Ciprobay tabs Doxycycline tabs Erymycin tabs Fasigyn tabs Flagy! tabs Interflora caps Relenza blisters & diskhaler packs Retrovir/3TC post exposure packs Zinnat tabs Zinnat tabs | Genital system Canesten vaginal tab Cyclocapron tabs Ovral tabs Provera tabs Primolut N tabs | Urinary system Citro-Soda granules Puricos tabs | Spersallerge eye drops Tears naturelle Visine eye drops | Otosporin drops | Covomicin eye drops Fluorets eye strips Novesin eve drops | Ophthalmics | Zovirax cream | Stopitch cream | Mycota powder | Elocon ointment | Candizole cream | Bactroban ointment Calamine lotion | Dermatologicals Anthisan cream | Product/brand name |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Co-trimoxazole Amoxicillin, clavulinic acid Ciprofloxacin Doxycycline Erythromycin stearate Tinidazole Metronidazole Saccharomyces boulardii Zanamivir Zydovudine 3TC lamivudine Mebendazole Cefuroxime Azithromycin | Clotrimazole Tranexamic acid Norgesterel, ethinylestradiol Medroxyprogesterone acetate Norethisterone | Na Citrate, Na Bic Allopurinol | neomycin sulphate, hydrocortisone Antazoline hydrochloride, tetryzoline Dextran-70, hydroxypropyl methylcellulu Tetrahydrozoline hydrochloride | chlorhexadine Polymixin B sulphate, | Chioramphenicol, neomycin, naphazoline hydrochloride Fluorescein sodium Oxvbuoroaaine hydrochloride. | | diflucortolone valerate Acylovir | becarieurasone, gerianiyoin, toinaftate, clioquinol Hydrocorisone acetate Isoconazole nitrate. | Zinc undecanoate | Mometasone Furoate | Clotrimazole | Mupirocin Calamine | Mepyramine maleate | Active/main ingredient |
| 500 mg 500 mg 250 mg; 125 mg 500 mg 100 mg 250 mg 250 mg 5 mg 100 mg; 150 mg 500 mg 500 mg 500 mg | 500 mg/1 g 500 mg 500 μg; 50 μg 100 mg 5 mg | 4 g 300 mg | 0.5 mg; 0.4 mg/ 1 ml ose 1 mg; 3 mg/ml 7.5 mg / 15 ml | 10 000 u; 3 400 u; 10 mg/ml | 2 mg; 5 mg; 0.5 mg/ml Strips 0.4 a: 0.01 a /100 ml | | 10 mg; 1 mg/g 2 g | 0.5 mg; 1 mg; 10 mg; 10 mg/g 0.1 g/10 g | 10 g | 1 mg/g | 200 mg/20 g | 2 g/100g 50 ml | 2 g/100g | Weight, volume or concentration per unit |
| 1 000 1 150 1 | 9 30 100 200 | 30 50 | 70 4 5 20 20 | 12 | 5 100 2 | ı | 10 3 | 5 20 | o u | 41 | ത | N 00 | 4 | Quantity taken |
| 27 27 27 27 | 0000- | 0 N | 0 | <u> </u> | υο σ | 5 | 22 | 2 - | N - | . 0 | <u> </u> | о თ | 2 | Units of medication used |
| 3 2 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 9 3 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 9 7 0 0 0 9 7 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 00001 | 07 | 5 N O 5 | 00 1 | 0 U 250 | > | 20 67 | 20 10 | 33 | 0 | 17 | 0 63 | 50 | % Medication used |
| 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.0 | 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 | 0.00 0.01 | 0.01 0.03 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 0.00 | | 0.01 0.01 | 0.01 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.01 | Units/team member |

| TABLE IV. Medications us | ed for the Athens 2004 Olym | oic Games: Vitamin, mineral | and electrolyte pi | reparations and em | ergency drugs | |
|---|---|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Product/brand name | Active/main ingredient | Weight, volume or concentration per unit | Quantity taken | Units of medication used | % Medication used | Units/team member |
| Vitamins minerals and electrolytes Electropac sachets | NaCl. Na-bicarb. KCl. | | | | | |
| | dextrose monohydrate | 0.4 g; 0.5 g; 0.3 g; 4 g | 30 | 11 | 37 | 0.07 |
| Ferrimed ampules | Iron polyisomaltose | 100 mg / 2 ml | 75 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Ferro-folic tablets | Iron sulphate, folic acid, | | | | | |
| | ascorbic acid | 525 mg; 350 mg; 500 mg | 300 | 30 | 10 | 0.19 |
| Lennon-vit B Co ampules | Vit B1, B6, B12 | 2 ml | 40 | 9 | 15 | 0.04 |
| Neurobion ampules | Vit B1, B6, B12 | 100 mg; 100 mg, 1 mg | 21 | 12 | 57 | 0.08 |
| Neurobion tablets | Vit B1, B6, B12 | $100 \text{ mg}; 200 \text{ mg}, 200 \mu\text{g}$ | 100 | 0 | 0 | 00.00 |
| Ultimag tablets | Magnesium chloride, zinc oxide | 660 mg; 6 mg | 80 | 78 | 98 | 0.49 |
| Vita-thion sachets | Vit C, Vit B ₁ , glutathion, | | | | | |
| | Na-adenosine triphosphate, | 500 mg; 2 mg; 0.5 mg; 0.5 mg; | | | | |
| | Ca-inositol hexaphosphate | 100 mg | 2 250 | 1 500 | 67 | 9.43 |
| | | | | | | 0.00 |
| Emergency drugs/ampoules | | | | | | 00.0 |
| Sterile water | Sterile water | 10 ml | 10 | 2 | 20 | 0.01 |
| Aminophyllin | Aminophyllin | 250 mg/ml | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Dextrose | Dextrose | 50 ml; 50% solution | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Adrenaline | Adrenaline | 1 ml 1/1 000 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 00.00 |
| Phenergan | Promethazine hydrochloride | 25 mg | 10 | 0 | 0 | 00.00 |
| Celestone | Betametazone sodium | 1 ml | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Atrophin | Atropine sulphate | 1 mg / ml | 10 | 0 | 0 | 00.00 |
| Maxolon | Metochlopramide | 10 mg | 10 | 0 | 0 | 00.00 |
| Stemitil | Prochlorperazine | 12.5 m /ml | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Scopex | Hyoscine -N-butrobromide | 20 mg/1 ml | 32 | 2 | 9 | 00.00 |
| Valium | Diazepam | 10 mg/2 ml | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Keflin | Cephalothin sodium | 1 g | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.01 |
| Tetanus vaccine | Tetanus vaccine | 1 ml | 2 | 0 | 0 | 00.00 |
| Magnesium sulphate | Magnesium sulphate | 5 ml | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Remicaine 2% | Lignocaine hydrochloride | 20 mg/ml | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Morphine sulphate | Morphine sulphate | 10 mg/ml | 10 | 0 | 0 | 00.00 |
| Pethidine | Pethidine hydrochloride | 25 mg/ml | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Solucortef | Hydrocortisone sodium | 100 mg/2 ml | ო | 0 | 0 | 00.00 |
| Uretic | Furosemide | 20 mg | 10 | 0 | 0 | 00.00 |

number of doses of these agents would be 660 tablets/capsules/ patches of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents and 660 tablets capsules of analgesic compounds based on a 30-day trip. This figure does not include injectable agents, the usage of which is indicated in Table I. The true consumption of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents during this event was however somewhat underestimated in this calculation, as it does not take into account flurbiprofen patches and other transdermal anti-inflammatories dispensed by the physiotherapists, or self-medication by the athletes using their own medication supplies.¹⁴ It is thus apparent that double or tripledosing of these agents regularly occurs and as these agents are not without side-effects,^{3,6,9} it is important that good communication exists between the physicians and physiotherapist with respect to dispensing of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, and that the athletes are educated with respect to judicious use of these medications.¹³ It is therefore suggested that dispensing of all medications is conducted by the team physicians only. Furthermore, dispensing of small quantities of these agents with frequent reevaluation of the patient is preferable to dispensing larger quantities in original packaging. Indeed, this recommendation extends to the use of all medicinal compounds listed and not only the analgesics and anti-inflammatory agents.

In conclusion, this study describes the consumption of pharmacological agents by the athletes and officials of Team South Africa during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. It also provides a model to be used as a tool to assist with the estimation of quantities of medications to be included in the travelling pharmacy for future international multi-coded sports events.

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<u>SPORTS PHYSICIAN –</u> JOHANNESBURG

An associate to join an established practice working out of 2 multidisciplinary sports clinics in Johannesburg is sought. The suitable candidate must:

- be registered with the HPCSA
- have postgraduate sports medicine qualifications
- preferably have some experience working with athletes and sports teams

Interested candidates should e-mail their CVs to Sandy at jpat@mweb.co.za