

TABLE

## SIGNIFICANCE RATINGS FOR DENTAL DRUG INTERACTIONS.

SEVERITY RATING		DOCUMENTATION RATING	
<b>Major</b>	Potentially life threatening or capable of causing permanent damage	<b>Established</b>	Proved to occur in well-controlled clinical studies
<b>Moderate</b>	Could cause deterioration of patient's clinical status; additional treatment or hospitalization might be necessary	<b>Probable</b>	Very likely, but not proved clinically
<b>Minor</b>	Mild effects that are bothersome or unnoticed; should not significantly affect therapeutic outcome	<b>Suspected</b>	Could occur; some good data exist, but more study is needed
		<b>Possible</b>	Could occur; data are very limited
		<b>Unlikely</b>	Doubtful; there is no consistent and reliable evidence of an altered clinical effect

  

CUMULATIVE RATING*	
Rating	Definition
<b>1</b>	<i>Major reactions that are established, probable or suspected</i>
<b>2</b>	<i>Moderate reactions that are established, probable or suspected</i>
<b>3</b>	<i>Minor reactions that are established, probable or suspected</i>
<b>4</b>	<i>Major or moderate reactions that are possible</i>
<b>5</b>	<i>Minor reactions that are possible; all reactions that are unlikely</i>

\* These cumulative ratings, which are based on the reaction's severity and the strength of documentation regarding the interaction, have been modified for dental therapeutics from ratings of medical therapeutic agents by Tatro.<sup>21</sup>

tion of a serious orofacial infection. The categories are defined as follows:

- antagonism indicates an interaction that decreases the clinical response of one drug when a second drug is administered;
- potentiation occurs when the combination of two drugs that do not share a common pharmacological activity results in a response that is greater than normal;
- an unexpected drug interac-

tion is an adverse response that has not been observed for either of the drugs when they are administered alone;

- summation is the increased response that occurs when drugs with similar effects are administered together;
- synergism is the special situation in which the combination produces an exaggerated response that is greater than could be achieved by either drug administered alone at its maximally effective dose.

#### REPORTING ADVERSE DRUG INTERACTIONS IN DENTISTRY

Reliable information regarding adverse drug interactions specific to dental therapy can be difficult to obtain. Because the practice of dental medicine often is isolated within a community, an unusual or severe drug response that occurs in a dental office might not be well-documented. Loss of a dentist's professional reputation within the community and subsequent