

The quest to eliminate intrathecal vincristine errors: a 40-year journey.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/quest-eliminate-intrathecal-vincristine-errors-40-year-journey>

Accidental administration of the intravenous chemotherapy agent vincristine into the sac around the spinal cord is almost invariably [fatal](#). This error has been recognized since vincristine was first used in the 1960s and is now classified as a [never event](#), but it has not been eliminated despite vigorous [efforts](#). This article reviews the history of safety [initiatives](#) around vincristine and identifies five domains of failure, ranging from failure to adequately investigate cases to failure to translate safety solutions internationally. A fatal vincristine error that occurred in the United Kingdom was the subject of a detailed [investigation](#) commissioned by the National Health Service. One of this article's authors, Sir Liam Donaldson, was [interviewed](#) by AHRQ WebM&M in 2007.