Abstract Reference Number

Medication safety knowledge, attitude, and practice among hospital pharmacists in Tertiary Care Hospitals in Saudi Arabia: A multi-center study

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Background

Pharmacovigilance (PV) demarcates all actions involving the detection and prevention of adverse drug reactions (ADR) for marketed drugs. However, ADRs are considerably underreported worldwide and remains to be a major concern to health care systems.

Objectives

This study aimed to assess the knowledge, attitude, and perception of hospital pharmacists on medication safety concerning PV and ADRs across multiple tertiary care centers around Saudi Arabia.

Methods

This cross-sectional study was conducted between July 2019 and January 2020. Pharmacists working in tertiary care centers operating in Riyadh City, Saudi Arabia were asked to participate in the study. A self-administered questionnaire was used and consisted of 63 questions out of which 19 questions were knowledge-based, 15 are attitude-based, and 29 are practice-based questions.

Results

A total of 350 pharmacists were distributed and 289 agreed to participate, giving a response rate of 82.6%. Most pharmacists were aware of the concept of VP and its functions (96.5%) and (87.2%), respectively. Moreover, 90% said that ADR can be preventable and non-preventable. However, the findings revealed inadequate knowledge about the overall PV field, where the majority of the pharmacists failed to answer correctly questions related to independent ADRs treatment, Augmented drug reaction, the international location of ADR, and the WHO "online database" for reporting ADRs. Moreover, incomplete and/or wrong answers for the questions including one or more correct answers were found. Regarding the attitude, 96.9% were interested in ADR reporting, and that that ADR is important to enable safe drug usage. However, pharmacists have identified unavailability of information about ADRs, lack of awareness about the need to report ADRs, and lack of time as the top three barriers that hinder reporting ADRs. Concerning practice, 69.2% said they received training in ADRs reporting, and 70% have reported ADRs more than once a week.

Conclusion

Surveyed pharmacists from Riyadh hospitals showed narrow knowledge of the PV field. However, a positive attitude and satisfactory practice were observed among pharmacists. These findings warrant the need for educational programs and an encouraging environment for ADR reporting to improve increase ADR reporting and support PV activities in Saudi Arabia.