

Medication errors in Health Care

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Abstract

The purpose of the article is to provide the Georgian population with the tools to avoid the medication errors in everyday life and educated them in using, storage drugs. The main focus of the research is to provide a systematic and structured approach medicine using services of the population including documentation of the pharmacy services, their outcomes and implementation strategies.

Keywords: *pharmacy, selfconcensious, error, drug, pharmacist, health challenges*

Introductions

According to the point of international experts medical errors are responsible for injury is as many as every 25-hospital patients in the world: an estimated 48,000-98,000 patients die from medical errors each year (1). Errors in Health services have been estimated to cost more that \$5 million per year in a large teaching hospital, and preventable Health Care-related cost the economy from \$17 to \$29 billion each year.

Medical errors may result in a patient inadvertently given the wrong medicine; a clinician misreading the results of a test etc.

Errors can occur at any point in the health care delivery system. Medication errors are preventable mistakes in prescribing and delivering medication to patients, such as prescribing two or more drugs whose interaction is known to produce side effects or prescribing a drug to which the patient is known to be allergic [2].

Errors occur not only in hospitals, but also in other Health Care settings, such as physicians' offices, nursing homes, pharmacies, and care delivered in the home. The IOM report indicated, however, that many

errors are likely to occur outside the hospital. For example, in a recent investigation of pharmacists, the Massachusetts State Board of Registration in pharmacy estimated that 2,4 million prescriptions are filled improperly each year [3,4].

Pharmaceutical care has been defined as the responsible provision of drug therapy for the purpose of achieving definite outcomes that improve the patient's quality of life.

Materials and methods

For gathering and evaluating of the problem the statistical data, materials of evaluation of public opinion about using medicines, social investigations, expert analyses and screening methods were used.

From 1997 to 2001 we prospectively evaluated all cases regarding the problem in Georgia.

Special questionnaire was worked out for direct interview including the main topics of study interest. The 200 patients, age 20-75 years (males and females) were interviewed at the different Hospitals of Georgia. There were divided into 2 groups: patients with and without chronic diseases.

<i>Prescription written by physician</i>	<i>Information from pharmacists</i>	<i>Relatives' information (without medical education)</i>	<i>Masmedia (TV, Radio)</i>	<i>Other</i>
45,0	42	5	17	15

Tab.1 *The main informational channels for purchasing the medicine (%).*

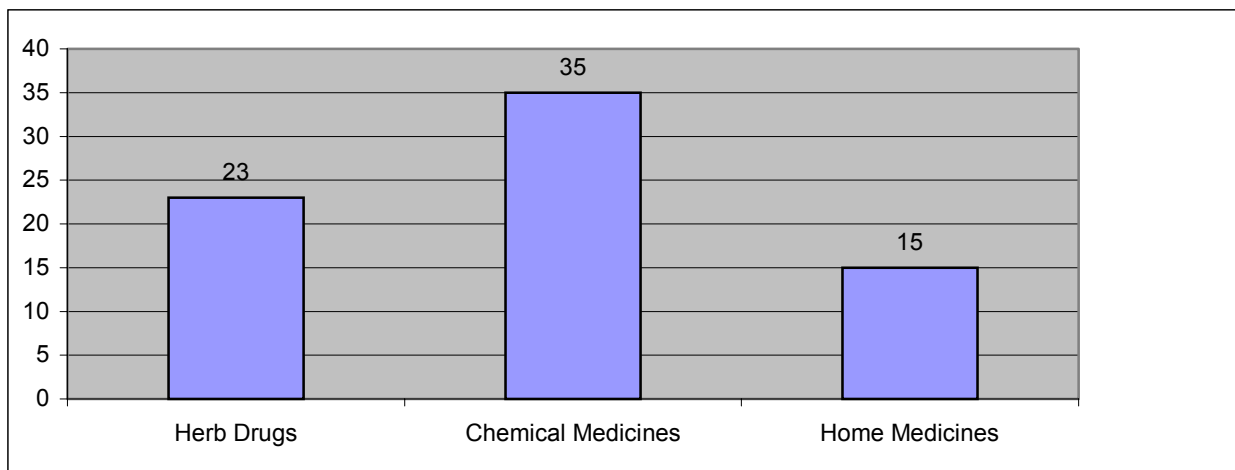


Fig.1 *The effectiveness of the drugs (%).*

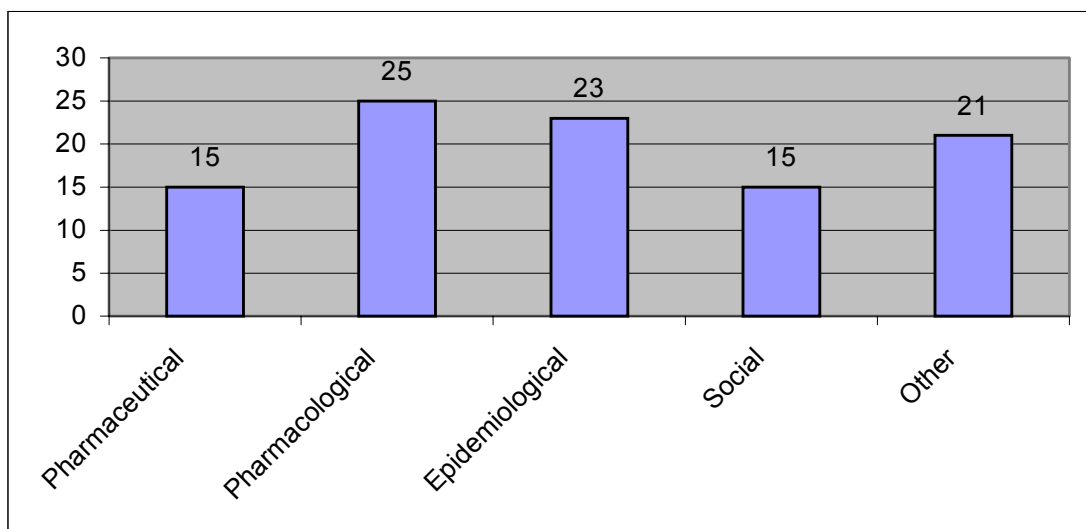


Fig.2 *Main Factors of purchasing the medicines.*

Results

In reviewing the major health challenges at the end of the twentieth century, lack of information was identified as one of the major barriers to progress.

According to the data, patient's educational level about medication is low in Georgia. This is the main and leading factor incidences and prevalence rate.

Almost 17% of the population were educated themselves by drug advertisements (*Tab.1*).

As it is mentioned only 45% of total number had information from prescription by physician. Simultaneously, 15% of respondents searched drug information in medical books.

According to the results of the survey: 25% of the people who use their medication with respect to expiration date, 12% of the respondents who never use the drugs after expiration date, on the other hand, 35% of the patients have tendency to save such drugs for later use. It would be mentioned that only 10% of the patients read the leaflet before using the drugs. It's important that there were significant relations between respondent's age, social conditions and professions.

The 23% of respondents believe that effectiveness of the drugs are caused from the herb drugs, chemical medicines (35%), medicines made at home (15%) etc. (*Fig.1*.)

Health and poverty are inextricably linked. Poverty is often associated with ill health, while ill health can lead to poverty. More importantly, however, good health can lead people out of poverty. Around 1,3 billion people in the world live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than US\$ 1 a day for all their needs. These people have little or no access on health services and education and limited prospects for a better life.

References

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The difficult social-economical condition influences on the health conditions as well. What are the main factors of purchasing the medicine? The answer was following: (*Fig.2*).

To the end, we would like to note, that the above-mentioned problem is very global, problematic and needs additional scientific studies. The work is the step of more interesting and huge work regarding the drug-patient problem.

We do hope that the provision of drug information should be in the responsibility of physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals, who know the drugs and patients best.

Conclusions

Initiatives are one of the important strategies for encouraging multiple partners to collaborate and focus their energies on key Health problems. We believe that the role of public Healthcare and the pharmacy system will increase significantly in the near future since the indices of Public Health have become considerably worse recently.

The main steps should be take into considerations to avoid medicine errors for the patients:

- Always tell your physician or other health care providers about all medications you are currently taking
- Request information about all medications prescribed in terms that you and your caregivers can understand
- Before accepting any new medication from the pharmacy, insist that the container be clearly labeled with its name (generic/brand), the direction for its use and how it should be stored.

Нарушения, вызванные лекарствами

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Р Е З Ю М Е

Цель работы - обеспечить соответствующей информацией население Грузии в связи с нарушениями, вызванными использованием лекарственных средств и ознакомление их с условиями хранения системного и структурного обеспечения фармацевтической службы соответствующей документацией, предусмотрение его итогов и внедрение новых направлений.

Ключевые слова: *фармацевт, изменения, лекарство, осознание, здравоохранение*