



Case Reports: Prescription Errors from Faisalabad, Pakistan

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Abstract

Prescription errors are very common in Pakistan. These errors may result in medication error and these errors may be more harmful especially for old age patients who have to take medicines regularly and in neonates whom organs are not fully developed. This study shows various prescription errors commonly found in Pakistan. Among these errors the most common error found was improper instructions given to patients.

Keywords: Prescription, dosage form, rational prescribing

Introduction

A prescription is a health-care program that governs the plan of care for an individual patient and is implemented by a qualified practitioner. The prescription order is the most important therapeutic transaction between a physician and a patient. Errors related to prescription can cause serious problems in patients. These problems might be more dangerous among old age persons, who have to take medicines regularly and have prescriptions that change frequently [1]. Errors may be present in almost every medical practice [2]. These errors usually come in the form when the prescription requirements are not fulfilled. These errors may be described as wrong strength of preparation, wrong frequency of medication, wrong dose of medicine, wrong dosage form, wrong route of administration, follow up error, and presence of drug-drug interactions [3].

Material and methods

46 prescriptions were collected from different areas of Faisalabad division, Pakistan. A table was developed according to the components of rational prescribing which are right patient, right instructions, right drug, right dosage form, right route, right site, right rate, and right strength and drug interactions for prescription evaluation. Each prescription was evaluated against standards of rational prescribing by using table 1.

see Table 1.

Result

By evaluating the prescriptions collected from different areas of Faisalabad division, Pakistan, it was shown that 80% (37 of 46) of prescription errors were related to improper instruction provided to patients (improper counseling). 28% (13 of 46) prescription errors were related to dose of medicines prescribed. 2% (1 of 46) prescription errors were also found for each parameter related

to wrong patient, wrong drug, and drug interaction. No prescription error, related to dosage form, its strength, rate and site of administration was observed.

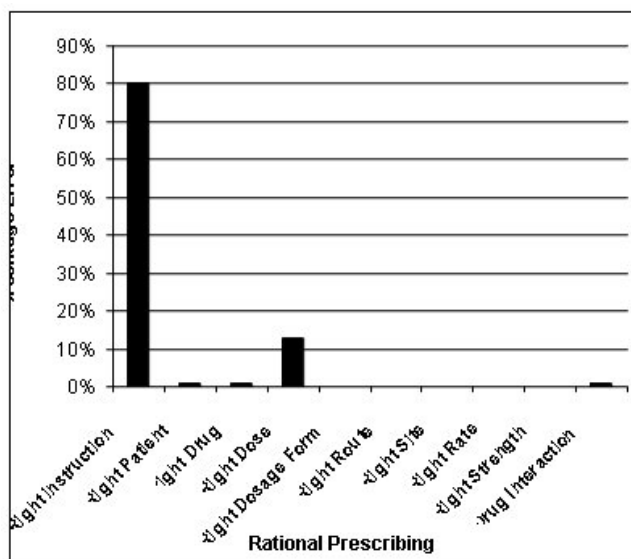


Figure 1: Graphical representation of prescription errors

Conclusion

The most common prescription error observed during this study was related to improper instruction provided to patients. Some errors were related to dose of medicines, minor errors were related to wrong patient, wrong drug and presence of drug-drug interactions; and no error related to dosage form, route, site of administration, and strength was observed.

Reference

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| Medication | Dose | Frequency | Rational Prescribing | Analysis |
|------------|------|-----------|----------------------|----------|
| | | | Right patient | |
| | | | Right instruction | |
| | | | Right drug | |
| | | | Right dose | |
| | | | Right dosage form | |
| | | | Right route | |
| | | | Right site | |
| | | | Right rate | |
| | | | Right strength | |
| | | | Drug interaction | |

Table 1: Prescription analysis