

Medication Errors a True Public Problem in Healthcare System

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Medication error is any preventable event that may cause or lead to inappropriate medication use or patient harm while the medication is in control of the health care professional, patient or consumer. Studies done since the 1970's have shown the high incidences of medical errors and deaths resulting from them. Only 3% of physicians believe that medical errors are a principal health concern. There is more concern with car accidents. Medical error statistics in the United States are enormous and alarming.

The American medical system is the number one killer in the U.S. It became dangerous, to take your prescription(s), to have surgery or to visit your doctor. Yet, not many people know about this. Most of us know of someone who has been the victim of an "error", or even ourselves have been. In ten years, the deaths caused by conventional medicine are approximately 8 million. Even the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) has published a report showing the alarming medical error statistics in the United States [1, 2]. The determination of errors during the process of treatment, such as the prescribing errors which related to lack of knowledge, lack of attention, poor drug selection and poor monitoring, the community pharmacy errors such as, wrong quantity, wrong drug, wrong dosage form, wrong strength and wrong information (label). Most of patient errors come from the drug administration, patient personality, education, culture and attitude of medical staff. There are four areas to improve patient safety, our objectives are to develop Communication, Patient and drug information, Patient education, naming, packing and labeling, also as Pharmacists, reduce patient morbidity and mortality, Fulfills our duty, Health care cost savings, Improves the image of the pharmacist and to Helps pharmacy become a true clinical profession.

Teaching patients about their medication and their disease also helps to prevent medication errors. Most of countries have a statistical data concerning the medication errors and we would like to compare these data with our healthcare system [3,4]. Self medication of the over-the-counter (OTC) drugs available to consumers without a prescription, play an increasingly vital role in our healthcare system and are the most prevalent means of treating the majority of common health problems. There are over 80 therapeutic categories of over the counter drugs (OTC) which can be grouped in 12 broad therapeutic classes [5,6] such as analgesics and antipyretics, cold, cough, and allergy products, night time sleep-aids, dermatological products, gastrointestinal products, other topical products (including dermal and vaginal antifungal, an rectal medications, head lice products, hair loss products, and tics), ophthalmic products, oral health care products, menstrual products, weight loss aids and vaginal contraceptives. Currently, 35% of adult Americans use OTC medications on a regular basis and there is a trend for increasing use as more drugs move from prescription to OTC status [7].

The healthcare system of all countries relies heavily on the ability of an informed public to self diagnose certain ailments and symptoms and to treat them successfully and inexpensively with the available non-prescription drugs. To put this in perspective, annual sales of over the counter (OTC) drugs in the US are approaching 10 billion US\$, and prescription drug sales are approaching 20 billion US\$ annually, of the 3.5 billion health problems treated in a year, over 57% are self-treated with OTC drugs [8,9].

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The determination of errors during the process of treatment such as the prescribing errors which related to lack of knowledge, lack of attention, poor drug selection and poor monitoring. The community pharmacy errors such as, wrong quantity, wrong drug, wrong dosage form, wrong strength and wrong information (label). Most of patient errors come from the drug administration, patient personality, education and culture while the medication is in control of the health care professional, patient or consumer [10,11]. For all of these medication errors became a true public problem in healthcare system,

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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