

Other hospital pharmacy topics (including: medical devices)

OHP-001 A SURVEY OF PHYSICIANS' OPINIONS ON BIOEQUIVALENT PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

doi:10.1136/ejhp-2013-000276.375

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Background Bioequivalence studies are basically comparative bio-availability studies designed to establish equivalence between generic and innovator products. Pharmaceutical equivalence is the pre-condition of bioequivalence. Medicinal products are described as pharmaceutically equivalent if they contain the same amount of the same active substances in the same dosage forms that meet the same or comparable standards.

Purpose To discover the opinions of physicians on bioequivalent pharmaceutical products and their use.

Materials and Methods 130 physicians were given a form with 10 questions. In this survey, questionnaires were answered by face to face interview.

Results

Q no.	Question	Yes	No	Sometimes
1	Do you think generic drugs are effective?	49%	36%	15%
2	Do you prescribe generic drugs?	35%	39%	16%
3	Do you think generic drug are bioequivalent?	44%	42%	14%
4	Can you see clinical results in patients who use generic drugs?	52%	25%	23%
5	Have you ever seen any problems with your patients who use generic drugs?	35%	42%	23%
6	Do you use generic drugs for yourself or relatives?	31%	64%	5%
7	Do you trust bioequivalent products?	50%	37%	13%
8	In your opinion are generic drugs safe to use?	67%	32%	1%
9	Do you encounter problems with generic drugs? In which category?	18%	47%	N.R. 35%
		Antibiotics, analgesics		
10	Generally which categories of generic drugs are more prescribed?	Analgesics, antipyretics, antacids, antibiotics		

Conclusions The questionnaire shows that physicians are uncertain about whether generic drugs are as effective as their originals. Furthermore the results revealed that physicians prefer not to use generic drugs for themselves or their relatives. Most of them opined that generics are safe but less effective and therefore they avoid prescribing generic drugs especially antibiotics.

No conflict of interest.

OHP-002 ACCESSIBILITY, AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, ARETAEIO UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, ATHENS GREECE

doi:10.1136/ejhp-2013-000276.376

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Background Time is that wherein there is opportunity, and opportunity is that wherein there is no great time. Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a matter of opportunity (Hippocrates, Precepts Part 1)

Access to medicines, apart for its social dimension as a human right, has also had a great impact on financial issues since ancient time. With the rise in life expectancy the cost of treating many progressive degenerative and chronic diseases is tending towards a tremendous increase as well. New biotechnological methods in drug preparation claim long-term research and high financial investments resulting in very expensive medicines.

In response to the social demand for unlimited health budgets it is estimated that medicines expenditure is increasing annually by 5% in western countries. The growing use of generics could be considered a means of controlling the rising cost of healthcare.

Purpose To investigate alternative ways to cope with medicines shortages due to the financial crisis. Many pharmaceutical companies are requiring direct payment in order to supply their products. It is imperative to ensure that the patients will really take the drug treatment prescribed by their physicians.

Materials and Methods The reduction in the cost of medicines in Aretaieio University Hospital, Athens, Greece, during 2011 by the use of generics was estimated.

Sources used:

1. our pharmacy software data regarding medicines use in the hospital wards
2. data on prescription modification in cases of shortages, always in cooperation with the medical staff
3. data on official lower prices (competition between providers of generics or biosimilars)

Results Cost reductions were estimated at between 5–10% for contrast media (Radiology Department), and much more than 50% for antibiotics (Surgical, Obstetrics – Gynaecology, Paediatric Departments).

Conclusions Use of generics could be considered a means to control the rising healthcare costs. On the other hand medicines availability in Greece not only in hospitals but also in community pharmacies has become problematic for two main reasons: 1. the policy of reducing the prices of prescription drugs, leading to medicines' shortage due to exports to other countries and 2. large pharmaceutical companies demanding direct payment, which is impossible under current financial conditions.

Abstract OHP-002 Table 1 Medicines cost reduction in Aretaieio University Hospital, Athens, Greece, 2011 (Surgical – Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Paediatric – Radiology Departments)

Medicines	Cost reduction	Comments
Quinolones	52% generic + 26% brand (offer) Total: 78%	Brand offers 26% lower price
2nd generation cephalosporins	50%	Brand offers 16% higher price instead of 50% initially
Piperacillin/Tazobactam	22%	New brand offers equal brand –generic price
Omeprazole	31–40%	Depending on the generic chosen
Contrast media	5–12%	Depending on the generic chosen

No conflict of interest.

OHP-003 ADHERENCE AND DRUG-RELATED PROBLEMS IN BREAST CANCER PATIENTS ON ORAL ENDOCRINE THERAPY

doi:10.1136/ejhp-2013-000276.377

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Background The breast cancer mortality rate is high among Brazilian women, a fact probably related to late diagnosis of this condition. Adjuvant endocrine treatment with tamoxifen for 5 years can increase the survival rate of patients with hormone receptor-positive tumours. Because it is an orally administered drug, the patient plays an important role in compliance with the correct treatment (adherence) assuming much of the responsibility for her treatment. Therefore, Pharmaceutical Care has subsidies to influence treatment of these patients, identifying, preventing and resolving drug treatment problems (DTPs).