Aim and objectives To investigate the dose accuracy and dose precision attained after manipulation of a commercially available prednisolone tablet, and to compare the results with those previously found for aspirin, a drug substance where solubility may similarly be challenging.

Material and methods Prednisolone tablets: Prednisolon Alternova 5 mg, Alternova A/S. Instrument: UHPLC-system from Shimadzu Corp (Nexera, with prominence DAD detector). Analytical column: ACE Excel 2 µm C18-AR, 2.1 × 100 mm (Advanced Chromatography Technologies Ltd). The analytical method was validated for linearity, precision and specificity. Dosing accuracy study: six tablets were dissolved in 10 mL water. After 4 min of intermittent stirring, samples of 1 mL, a 10th of the tablet, were withdrawn. Dosing accuracy was recorded and compared with previous findings for aspirin.

Results After manipulation of Prednisolon Alternova 5 mg tablets, 92.2% (85.3–95.1%) of the intended dose was retrieved.

Conclusion and relevance After manipulation by dispersion and dose extraction, the prednisolone tablets were found to give doses within the limits of tablet fractions according to the European Pharmacopeia (85–115%). In contrast, conventional tablets containing aspirin (Aspirin ‘Bayer’ 500 mg), a slightly soluble drug substance, has previously been shown to have never exceeded 55% of the intended dose when a 10th of the tablet was extracted. This shows that knowledge about solubility is not always sufficient for estimating the suitability for manipulation of tablets.

REFERENCES AND/OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS


Conflict of interest No conflict of interest

Satisfaction of Patients with Pharmaceutical Telecare

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Background and importance The current COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the need to bring medications closer to patients treated in the outpatient units (OPU), and with it pharmaceutical telecare (PT) to avoid patients visiting the hospital.

Aim and objectives To analyse the degree of satisfaction of patients treated in the OPU after implementation of the PT procedure.

Material and methods In April 2020, PT was performed in those patients who had been sent home mediation and who according to the pharmaceutical criteria was necessary. The PT survey included all patients who had been contacted by telephone regarding pharmaceutical criteria (initiation of treatment, second dispensing, change, complicated pattern or adhesion control). In May 2020, a closed response satisfaction survey was prepared with the following items: sex, age, pathology, opinion that deserves PT, opinion on the information provided by the pharmacist (clarity, resolution of doubts), possibility of alternating the face-to-face visit with PT and preference between phone call or video call. Responses to the degree of satisfaction were measured by an ordinal scale with five possible categories: very good, good, regular, bad and very bad. 85 patients were randomly selected. The surveys were conducted by telephone by OPU pharmacists, and clinical data were obtained from the external patient dispensing programme. The results were expressed in frequencies and percentages.

Results 52.9% were men, with a median age of 53 years (10–92). Most of pathologies were viral pathologies (29.4%) and malignant neoplasms (28.2%). 97.6% of patients considered the PT service to be ‘good’ or ‘very good,’ and 98.8% considered the information provided to be ‘good’ or ‘very good.’ 100% considered it appropriate to alternate face-to-face visits with PT. Media preference: 50.6% indifferent, 41.2% phone call, 8.2% video call.

Conclusion and relevance PT and the information provided was evaluated positively by most patients. All patients considered it appropriate to alternate face-to-face visits with PT. About half of the patients would prefer a PT by phone rather than a video call.

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Analysis of the Medicines Under Additional Monitoring Authorised in the European Union from 2017 to 2019

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Background and importance The medicines under additional monitoring (MUAMs), identified with a black inverted triangle (▼), are subject to strict control for 5 years after their authorisation or until the European Medicines Agency (EMA) considers that they are safe.

Aim and objectives The main objective was to analyse the characteristics of the MUAMs authorised by the EMA from 2017 until 2019. We also evaluated whether additional measures should be implemented in the hospital pharmacy services to improve the follow-up of MUAMs.

Material and methods A descriptive analysis of the EMA’s MUAMs list was conducted, which was updated on 25 March 2020, limiting the authorisations from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019. The following aspects were studied: criteria for inclusion in the list, year of inclusion and marketing status in Spain. Post-marketing safety was also analysed by reviewing the information notes published by the Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products in these 3 years. The main limitation was the dynamism of the MUAMs list, which is updated monthly.

Results 181 MUAMs were studied; 33% were authorised in 2017, 44% in 2018 and 23% in 2019. The criteria for inclusion in the MUAMs list were: new active substances: 113 (62.4%); new biologicals: 55 (30.4%); post-authorisation safety studies (PASS): 8 (4.4%); conditional authorisation and exceptional circumstances: 4 (2.2%); and security restrictions: 1 (0.5%). More than 60% of the