REVISA® PROJECT. PILOT STUDY OF THE MEDICINES USE REVIEW (MUR) SERVICE IN SPANISH COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

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Background The Medicines Use Review (MUR) service consists of a pharmacist performing alongside the patient a structured review of the knowledge degree that the patient has about his medicines and the use that he makes of them.

Purpose Study of the MUR Service in Spanish community pharmacies.

Method Observational, descriptive, transversal and multicentric study, performed between March and July 2016. The Pharmacist participating in the study received a previous specific training about the MUR service and the study methodology. A total of 495 patients from 64 Spanish pharmacies participated in the study. Inclusion criteria are patients belonging to one of the following target populations: polymedicated, taking "high-risk" medicines, having problems managing medication, significant changes in medication in recent months, or suspect of adverse effects. The main variables are the patient's knowledge about their medication and therapeutic adherence. A descriptive analysis and a bivariate analysis were performed for the comparison between variables.

Findings Patients have a low knowledge degree about their treatment according to the resulting data obtained from the 2.811 knowledge test evaluated using a validated test. The items about precautions, adverse effects, contraindications and interactions are those where the patients had less knowledge degree about. Meanwhile treatment dosage and regimen are highlighted as those items with more knowledge degree. The patients studied showed a low adherence to their pharmacological treatment according to the Morisky-Green test. In reviews, 298 drug related problems (DRP) were detected. These DRP were: interactions 42%, difficulty of use 37%, duplicities 15% and contraindications 6%. In 65% of the reviews the patient was referred to another pharmaceutical service. 98.5% of participant patients referred to be satisfied or very satisfied with the service. 90% of the patients would use again the service, and 91% would recommend it to another person. 73% of the patient would be happy to pay between 5 and 20 euros. Only 14.5% would not be happy to pay at all for the service.

Conclusion The results obtained in this study show the need to implement MUR service. The most important reason is the low knowledge degree that patients have about their own medicines. MUR service would improve not just the adherence but the effectiveness of the treatment and therefore the management of their medication. These improvements could lead to a decrease in hospital emergency services and drug spending that will have to be demonstrated in future studies. The Revisa® project has been financed by laboratories Teva and Ratiopharm.