



PHARMACEUTICAL CARE NETWORK EUROPE

Working Conference 2011 – Abstract

Does pharmaceutical care impact on the safety of individual patients?

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The above mentioned participant in the PCNE WC 2009 wishes to submit following abstract for a **poster** or short oral communication (please type & then fax the form to the secretariat). Max. 350 words.

Title: A short-term educational intervention to improve the understanding and perception of pharmacy students towards generic medicine		
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Type of abstract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Practice development <input type="checkbox"/> Practice implementation
Aim of project/study Pharmacists in Pakistan can be instrumental in enhancing the judicious use of medicines and can be appropriate facilitators to strengthen the healthcare system [1], provided their understanding and know-how towards the healthcare system, healthcare spending, out-of-pocket payments, and cost-cutting treatment modalities are clear. The understanding and perception of future pharmacy practitioners are an important area to explore in this regard because the knowledge and views at this point of career will ultimately set and transform their future conduct [2]. In the light of this fact, the current study tried to improve the understanding and perception of future pharmacy practitioners towards healthcare system of Pakistan with special reference on Generic Medicines.		

Method

The instrument, which is a 23-item questionnaire pertaining to the statements on demographics and understanding towards generic medicines, bioequivalence criteria, perception regarding their utilization, as well as items on national drug policy and essential drug list was administered to pharmacy students (n=236; response rate 100%). This was then subsequently followed by a 2-hour didactic lecture with evidence-based material as short-term interventional tool. A post-test was immediately administered after the completion of the didactic lecture.

Result(s)

Participants showed slight improvement in median scores of understanding pretest (37/60) and posttest (41/60). No change was found in the median scores of perception pretest (30/7) and posttest (30/7). In terms of student feedback to initiate and develop an innovative curricular content, the respondents (n=150; 63.5%) rated the session as highly informative. One fourth of the respondents (n=60; 25.4%) suggested to have more didactic lectures on the current topic. Further educational interventions with problem-based learning, educational trips to local pharmaceutical industries and workshops and seminars by policy makers are suggested to enhance the understanding and strengthen their perception towards generic medicines.

References

- [1] Babar Z-U-D, Jamshed S. Social pharmacy strengthening clinical pharmacy: why pharmaceutical policy research is needed in Pakistan? *Pharm World Sci.* 2008;30(5):617–9.
- [2] Hassali MA, Kong DCM, Stewart K. A comparison between senior medical students' and pharmacy pre-registrants' knowledge and perceptions of generic medicines. *Med Educ.* 2007;41:703-10.

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