



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 Do pharmacy students in Pakistan understand the concept of cancer?		
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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 Properly trained healthcare workforce for palliative care in cancer is deficient in developing healthcare systems. Future pharmacy practitioners can be instrumental in enhancing their role as palliative care pharmacists in the healthcare system of Pakistan. Therefore, in order to evolve future pharmacy practitioners as professional counselors for improving adherence in oncology settings [1], it is imperative to initially explore the understanding of cancer among final year pharmacy students in Karachi, Pakistan.		

Method

This study was performed among third year and final year pharmacy students at two pharmacy institutes in Karachi, Pakistan from December 2009-January 2010. The researcher identified six pharmacy institutes in Karachi, Pakistan. After consultation with the experts in the field two institutes were identified to be considered typical of the phenomenon being studied.

A 30-item questionnaire was distributed to 500 third year and final year Pharm D students. A response rate of 80% was achieved.

Result(s)

Majority of the respondents were female (n=250; 62.5) and were in the age range of 18-20 years (n=200; 50%). More than half of the respondents cited to have family history of cancer (n=290; 72.5%). Majority of the respondents (n=300; 75%) showed their understanding that cancer is a general term for atleast 200 different diseases. A very large majority of the respondents (n=390; 97.5%) have correct knowledge regarding cancer being the world's top killer by 2010. Three-fourth of the respondents (n=300; 75%) showed their correct understanding towards dietary interventions as the palliative measure towards cancer. A large majority of students (n=350; 87.5%) expressed their wish to have more information about cancer.

Future pharmacy practitioners showed excellent basic knowledge as well as understanding of non-pharmacologic interventions being palliative measures towards cancer. As there is evidence of positive attitudes of pharmacy students towards pharmaceutical care [2], problem-based learning and case studies in palliative oncology will make them attuned to better partners in palliative team.

References

1. Jaehde U, Liekweg A, Simons S, Westfeld M. Minimising treatment-associated risks in systemic cancer therapy. *Pharm World & Sci* 2008;30(2):161-68.
2. Al-Arifi M. Pharmacy students' attitudes toward pharmaceutical care in Riyadh region Saudi Arabia. *Pharm World & Sci* 2009;31(6):677-81.

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