Does pharmaceutical care impact on the safety of individual patients?

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Title: Intensive provision of pharmaceutical care by pharmacists improves clinical outcome in migraine patients.


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Type of abstract
- Research
- Practice development
- Practice implementation

Aim of project/study
The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of intensive pharmaceutical care on the outcome in migraine patients in the primary pharmacy practice.
We hypothesized to observe changes in medication profile, an increase in quality of life and a reduction in migraine-induced disability in these patients.

Methods
During 12 months, patients in the intervention group received intensive pharmaceutical care including 3 appointments, a personal follow-up, a diary,... by pharmacists that were trained to individually accompany migraine patients in their medication use.

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Pharmacists in the control group received no training and their patients received standard pharmaceutical care. The intervention tools, developed for supporting the pharmaceutical care process, were validated beforehand. The impact of the interventions was assessed from data obtained from standardized questionnaires on medication use, the MIDAS (Migraine disability assessment)-test and EQ-5D.

Results:
The intervention group and the control group included 20 and 19 patients resp. in which gender and demographic characteristics were similar. There was no significant difference between both groups in medication profile and quality of life post intervention. However, there was a significant decrease in average MIDAS-score (p=0.002) and the number of headache days (p=0.007) in the intervention group compared to the control group.

Although the small number of patients included, these data suggest that intensive pharmaceutical care for migraine patients by the pharmacist has a positive effect on the severity of migraine attacks and the number of headache days. However, pharmacists need regular training and encouragement in order to maintain this intensive guidance.

+++ NB: PhD students get 50 Pound reduction on the conference fee if their abstract is accepted ++++