

ABSTRACT

Assessment of the Knowledge and Attitude of Pharmacovigilance and Promoting the Importance of Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting among Physicians, Pharmacists and Dentists in Jamaica

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Worldwide acceptance of the importance of pharmacovigilance demands that all healthcare professionals participate in adverse drug reaction (ADR) reporting systems. This is the first study in Jamaica to comprehensively examine the level of awareness of pharmacovigilance among physicians, pharmacists and dentists and ways to effect improvement. The study also aimed to encourage the reporting of ADRs using the PharmWatch form and to identify specific ADR concerns that highlight the need for national pharmacovigilance.

Results revealed that 99.7% of the healthcare professionals felt that ADR reporting was important. The healthcare professionals indicated a high awareness regarding the responsibility to report ADRs for new, established, topical, generic, innovator and OTC drugs; as well as for vaccines, dietary and herbal supplements. This was irrespective of whether the ADRs were serious, unusual or well recognised.

Despite these facts, there was a general lack of awareness of the method of reporting, that is the PharmWatch form. This was evidenced by the finding that only 37.1 % of the respondents knew about the existence of this form coupled with the fact that there were misconceptions about the purpose of

the form. The study highlighted the need for training in and sustained sensitization to ADR reporting and the inclination of pharmacists towards a CME/CE incentivised programme for ADR reporting. Additionally the study devised an appropriate training programme that can form part of a general programme aimed at improving awareness in pharmacovigilance.

Analysis of ADRs collected using the PharmWatch form, revealed that anti-hypertensives, anti-hyperlipidemics and anti-infectives were the most commonly implicated drug classes. Simvastatin, Enalapril, Perindopril, Ramipril, Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole and Metformin were the individual drugs commonly reported as the suspected drug in the reactions. These results underscore the need for the collection and monitoring of ADRs to identify any possible risk/benefit issues.

Keywords: Jacqueline Elaine Campbell; Adverse drug reactions;

pharmacovigilance; reporting of adverse drug reactions; drugs- side

effects.