

Abstract

The attitudes toward the treatment and knowledge about hormonal contraception among the final year pharmacy students

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Introduction: Hormonal contraception (HC) is ranked among the widespread birth control methods used in a broad age structure of women worldwide. Based on of the health status, lifestyle, user's preferences or non-contraceptive benefits, it is possible to choose from the wide spectrum of HC, which differs in dosage and composition.

Aim: The aim of this thesis was to determine the attitudes toward the treatment and knowledge about the HC among the final-year pharmacy students upon the completion of the mandatory 6-month long practical training in the pharmacy and knowledge acquired during the studies.

Methods: The on-line survey was the realized in students of faculties of pharmacy in the Czech Republic and in the Slovak Republic, who had already completed the mandatory 6-month long practical training or who have just been in the practical training. The survey was conducted from January to March 2017. The 33-item questionnaire was divided into 8 sections focused on obtaining for instance the socio-demographic information, information about dispensation of the HC during the practical training, expertise of risks and benefits of HC, information about the correct and safe use of HC, emergent contraception or myths about HC. In the diploma thesis have been processed the data from Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové, Charles University (HK) and Faculty of Pharmacy, Comenius University in Bratislava (BA). A total of 382 students were requested. The collected data were processed using the descriptive statistics.

Results: In the questionnaire, 109 students from HK (57.1%) and 74 students from BA (38.7%) have responded. Most of the respondents were women, in HK it was 98 (86.7%) and in BA it was 64 (84.2%). The mean age of the respondents from HK was 23.3 (± 0.9) and from BA 23.6 (± 1.1) years. Majority of the female students in HK had personal experience with taking HC (66.0%), by contrast, a comparable number of female students in BA (62.2%) had not personal experience with HC taking. If students provided advice on the supply of the HC they focused mainly on the new users and counselling was mostly in the range of dispensing minimum. The knowledge of absolute contraindications and positives of combine HC was sufficient. In the case of progestin-only contraception, the majority of the students were not aware about the correct answers. Those trends were similar at both faculties. Moreover, only 17.6% of students from BA and 21.1% students from HK would properly advise the patient in the case of falling off the contraceptive patch. On the other hand, most of the students (BA 67.6%; HK 62.4%) were familiar that emergent contraception belongs to the over the counter medicines. About 65% students reported that HC increases the risk of infertility in younger users.

Conclusions: Knowledge and attitudes of pharmacy students were comparable at both faculties. The research has found gaps in students' knowledge, particularly in the field of progestin-only HC and contraception myths, which should be improved to enhance rational pharmaceutical care.