

# SUMMARY

## **Analysis of pharmacist's opinions due to generic drugs and generic substitution**

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**Background:** Generic substitution (GS) came into force by the law in the Czech Republic in January 2008. Followed by a huge discussion about quality and safeness of generic drugs among health professionals. They discussed not only the safety of generic substitution but as well its contribution to the society. However, most of the discussions, were based on unsubstantiated information.

**Aim of study:** This study was focused to gather and analyze the opinions, experiences and knowledge of pharmacists on the issue of generic substitution and generic drugs.

**Methods:** The survey was conducted as a prospective observational cross-sectional study by using questionnaires. Data were collected from November 2008 till April 2009. 7665 members of Czech Chamber of Pharmacists were approached. The collected data were evaluated by descriptive statistics and for evaluation were used selected parametric and nonparametric tests.

**Results:** Six hundred and fifteen pharmacists responded. The return was 8 %. Overall, more women responded (76 %), average age was 38 years. Demographic characteristics of the respondents corresponds with data of Institute of health information and statistics from the year 2008. More than 55 % of pharmacists were in undergraduate studies familiar with the issue of generic and original drugs. 77 % of respondents perceive the GS as a positive tool of drug policy. Nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of respondents said that the generic drugs is in comparison with the original drugs therapeutically equivalent. 80 % of respondents does not agree that the generic drugs are less effective in comparison with the original drugs, and 70 % of the respondents does not agree that the quality is lower than with original drugs. The most frequently mentioned negative feature of GS was the possibility of duplication of the doses. As the biggest positive of GS was the effect of saving money of the patient. Only 11,5 % of the pharmacists knew all legislative requirements of GS. The results showed that the more pharmacists know the legislative requirements of GS the more they agree with GS.

**Conclusions:** Representative results were obtained, which can be extrapolated to the entire group of Czech pharmacists. Most pharmacists agree with GS and considers generic drugs as safe.