

Abstract

Generic drugs and generic substitution from the patient perspective II.

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Introduction and aim: Generic drugs and generic substitution are an integral part of the healthcare systems of many countries. The aim of this thesis was to carry out a research which was focused on attitudes, opinions and experiences of patients (general public) regarding generic drugs and generic substitution and to analyze extracted results.

Methodology: Data were collected since February to June 2016 in a workplace practitioner in Jičín. We asked all patients who came to the doctor's office during that period. Data were collected through printing anonymous questionnaire. The questionnaire was piloted. Patients got a cover letter with questionnaire together. Respondents were categorized based on the cover letter and the questionnaire was filled out by the respondents who the survey was focused on. The questionnaire included 36 questions (26 closed, 7 open and 3 half-open). The first part of the questionnaire (first 10 questions) was focused on socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. The rest of the questionnaire detected patient's knowledge of generic drugs and generic substitution, respondent's personal experiences and opinions on generic drugs and generic substitution. The data obtained were evaluated using descriptive statistics.

Results: 523 visitors of workplace practitioner in Jičín were interviewed. 356 of them agreed with a participation in the survey and 258 satisfied conditions to complete the questionnaire. The questionnaire completed 155 (60 %) women and 103 (40 %) men, their average age was 56,6. More than half of respondents agreed that drug substitution usually reduces costs for the patient and swapped drug must have the same composition and must be equally effective and safe as the prescribed drug. Almost 1/4 of respondents didn't agree that if swapped drug is cheaper, it can be less quality.

Discussion and conclusion: Although generic substitution is in law and in practical use for 8 years in Czech republic, 40 % respondents did not know about this opportunity. Even pharmacists were not active enough in offering generic drugs. One of the possibilities how to change this situation, is to appeal to pharmacists, doctors and other healthcare workers to talk with the patients and explain them what generic substitution is.

Keywords: generic drugs, generic substitution, opinions and personal experiences of patients, observational survey