

# **ABSTRACT**

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**Title of the Thesis:** Rules for drugs using – Leaflet

## **Backgrounds:**

The aim of this thesis was to study the situation regarding use of pharmaceuticals. It focuses on exploring how general public orientate themselves in this topic – their awareness, opinion, experience, knowledge of drugs and their combinations, the correct use and especially their access to information leaflets.

## **Methods:**

The basis of the research was voluntary, anonymous questionnaire containing 38 questions, carried out among patients in public pharmacies in Brno and Liberec. The data were collected from March 2013 to September 2013.

In total, 302 questionnaires were evaluated, answered by 193 women and 109 men. The age range of the respondents was between 15 and 65 years, the average age was 36 years.

Data were statistically and graphically processed using Microsoft Excel 2010.

## **Results:**

Nearly half of respondents (45.6%) read a leaflet carefully before using the drugs, 12.7 % of respondents don't read a leaflet at all and 41.7 % of respondents read it sometimes.

In total, 53.3% of respondents keep leaflet throughout the use of drug, 11.5% throw it away and 35.2% deal with it based on the kind of medicinal product.

In general, leaflets are perceived as comprehensible, where 40.7% of respondents state that leaflet is clear, 53.0% have a problem with understanding in some cases, while only 6.3% find the leaflet completely incomprehensible. The most common reason is the obscurity of important information in the text (62.5%) and too many technical terms (60.3%).

The last part of the questionnaire deals with the knowledge of technical terms. For 16 terms of 25, the answer of respondents was “I don’t know this term and I could not explain it”.

## **Conclusion:**

Understanding and correct interpretation of the instructions and information to the patient should be the main goal for not only for producers of pharmaceuticals and nutritional supplements, but also for pharmacists dispensing individual products.

It is necessary to consider whether the patient understands the meaning of communicated instructions or warnings. One way to improve this situation is to use more understandable terms. As a result, we could increase the general awareness and better cooperation of patients.

We can also improve awareness by writing important information straight on the box. Shelf life or time of use could remain in patients memory.

If the patient understands the instructions communicated by us and will be able to understand the leaflet, it could increase the success rate of treatment and hopefully reduce the enormous amount of unused medicines for disposal.

## **Key words:**

leaflet, proper use , medication use