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Prescription audit with special emphasis on drug-drug interactions: Study in a tertiary care teaching hospital

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Drug–drug interactions (DDIs) may be defined as when two or more drugs interacting in such a manner that the effectiveness or toxicity of one or more drugs is altered. DDI in patients receiving multidrug therapy is a major concern. Although drug-drug interaction constitute only small portion of adverse drug reactions, they are often predictable and therefore avoidable or manageable. The aim of the present study was to assess the incidence and severity of DDIs in patients admitted in a tertiary care teaching hospital. A prospective, observational study was carried out for a period of 6 months (Jan–June 2013). During the study period, a total of 300 prescriptions were analyzed and was found that 242 prescriptions had DDI. The average number of drugs in each prescription was eight. Regarding the severity of clinical results, the interaction was classified as minor (114), moderate (447), major (40) from the 242 prescriptions. The 40 major DDIs were reported from 32 prescriptions that led to increased hospitalization and health care cost of the patients. Drug-drug interaction was identified by using Micromedex, Stockley’s drug interaction book and other reputed journals. Many physicians were unaware of various drug-drug interactions. Hence, education, computerized prescribing system and drug information along with collaborative drug selection, and pharmaceutical care are strongly encouraged for physicians and pharmacists to avoid such incidences.

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