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Generic substitution: additional challenge for adherence in hypertensive patients?

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Pages 2515-2521 | Accepted 20 Jul 2009, Published online: 26 Aug 2009

 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1185/03007990903192223>

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antihypertensive drugs for more than 10 years. One in four found it difficult to remember to take their medication every day. One in three said generic substitution made keeping track of their medications more demanding. Twenty-nine percent were anxious when they started to use a generically substituted drug. Eight percent felt that the effect of the drug had changed, and 15% reported having new or more side-effects. A negative attitude towards generics was significantly associated with low educational attainment, increasing number of drugs, having general concerns about medicine use, and having received insufficient information regarding generic substitution. Five percent of the patients had been using more than one equivalent generic drug at the same time. These were among those who used several different drugs and also among those who got their medications from more than one pharmacy. Five percent is a too small number to draw general conclusions; however, there is no reason to suspect that these mistakes do not occur from time to time.

Conclusions:

This study shows that generic substitution can be an additional factor in poor drug adherence in hypertensive patients and contributes to concerns and confusion among the patients. Although generic substitution is an important measure of cost containment, health personnel should approach each patient individually. Clearly, many patients feel insecure about substituting their medication and demand more information.

Keywords

Adherence

Patient satisfaction



Transparency

Declaration

The authors

(Norway)

Practice

Declaration of financial/other relationships

All of the authors have disclosed that they have no relevant financial relationships.

Peer reviewers may receive funding from CMRO for their review work. Both peer reviewers on this article have disclosed that they have no relevant financial relationships.

Acknowledgements

The authors have disclosed that they had no outside editorial assistance in preparing this manuscript.

Descriptive results from this study were presented at the 15th International Social Pharmacy Workshop in New Zealand (8–11 July 2008) and the 12th European Symposium on Patient Adherence, Compliance and Persistence in Switzerland (5 September 2008). Abstracts have been published nationally in the Norwegian Pharmaceutical Journal (September 2008).

Notes

*The 90% AUC and bibliographic for more publication



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