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Medication prescribing errors in the medical intensive care unit of Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Background: Medication errors (MEs) are important problems in all hospitalized populations, especially in intensive care unit (ICU). Little is known about the prevalence of medication prescribing errors in the ICUs of hospitals in Ethiopia.

Aim: To assess medication prescribing errors in the ICU of Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital using a retrospective cross-sectional analysis of patient cards and medication charts.

Results: About 220 patient charts were reviewed with a total of 1311 patient-days, and 882 prescription episodes. 359 MEs were detected with prevalence of 40 per 100 orders. Common prescribing errors were omission errors 154 (42.89%), 101 (28.13%) wrong combinations, 48 (13.37%) wrong abbreviations, 30 (8.36%) wrong dosage, wrong frequency 18 (5.01%) and wrong indications 8 (2.23%).

Conclusions: The present study shows that medication errors are common in medical ICU of Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital. These results suggest future targets of prevention strategies to reduce the rate of medication error.

Recent Publications

1. Oumer S, Addisu M and Workineh S (2015) Medication prescribing errors in the medical intensive care unit of Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital, Ethiopia. *BMC*. 8:448.
2. Assen M and Oumer S (2015) Assessment of prescribing pattern in Boru Meda Hospital, North East Ethiopia. *International Journal of Pharma Sciences and Research*. 6(9).
3. Muhammed O S (2015) Drug use evaluation of ciprofloxacin in the outpatient department of Dessie Referral Hospital (DRH), North East Ethiopia. *Austin Emerg Med*. 1(1):1001.
4. Seid A, Mersha A and Sada O (2015) Assessment of ophthalmic drug use at Boru Hospital (BH), Dessie, North East Ethiopia. *Int J Life Sci Rev*. 1(9):284-90.
5. Sada O, Tefera W and Demewz A (2015) Assessment of drug use by using WHO's prescribing and health facility indicators in Kombolcha Health Centers, North East Ethiopia. *Int J Life Sci Rev*. 1(10):302-07.

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