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Role of pharmacovigilance in medication error

Introduction: Pharmacovigilance plays an important role in protecting patients from serious adverse drug reactions independent of the root cause. The medication error may lead to harm to the patient that could be minor, moderate, or severe.

Objective: The objective of this research work was to find out different strategies to protect the patient from an adverse event that may arise because of medication errors.

Methods: Regulatory guidelines such as ICH E2BR3, EMA/762563/2014, and USFDA guidelines were studied in detail. The strategies provided by different physicians, researchers were reviewed to find out the possible ways to avoid adverse events because of medication error.

Results: The following strategies were found to be effective such as training to the physician, patient, and all health care professionals. The correct diagnosis, correct patient, correct prescription, correct dispensing, correct administration, and correct follow-up are the primary areas that could be considered. The patient should read the prescription and cross-check with the drug product label. The patient should read the patient information sheet, leaflet, or summary of product characteristics before taking the drugs. The information such as contraindication, dose calculation, method of administration, maximum daily dose, warnings, precautions, information on adverse drug reactions, drug interactions, drug-food interactions must be well understood by the patient before using any drug.

Conclusion: The patient could be protected from harm or adverse events if all the corrective measures were taken during the administration of the drugs. Though it cannot be 100 % effective it could minimize the number of adverse events to a great extent.