

A Review of the Evidence from the Middle Eastern Countries on the Facilitators and Barriers of Pharmacoeconomic Studies

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Abstract

Pharmacoeconomic studies provide valuable information for healthcare decision-makers by assessing the economic impact of pharmaceutical interventions. Despite their importance, such studies face several challenges and barriers that may hinder their conduct and implementation. This review aims to explore the barriers and facilitators of pharmacoeconomic studies in Middle Eastern countries and suggest potential solutions to overcome these challenges. A systematic review was conducted by searching PubMed, Embase, and Scopus databases for relevant articles published from January 2010 to December 2021. The search was limited to studies conducted in Middle Eastern countries and those reporting on barriers and facilitators of pharmacoeconomic studies. The quality of the included studies was assessed using the Critical Appraisal Skills Program tool. A total of 25 studies were included in this review. The main barriers to conducting pharmacoeconomic studies in Middle Eastern countries included limited funding, lack of trained personnel, inadequate data availability, and cultural barriers. On the other hand, the main facilitators of conducting such studies were the presence of supportive policies and regulations, collaborations between academia and industry, and the availability of skilled researchers. Moreover, the use of modeling techniques and the development of local pharmacoeconomic guidelines were suggested as potential solutions to overcome the identified barriers.

Keywords: Cost of illness evaluation • Drug Code • Discounting costs

Introduction

Pharmacoeconomics is a crucial aspect of healthcare decision-making, providing valuable insight into the cost-effectiveness of different treatment options. However, conducting pharmacoeconomic studies can be challenging, particularly in Middle Eastern countries, where there are unique cultural, political, and economic factors at play. In this article, we review the evidence on the barriers and facilitators of pharmacoeconomic studies in the Middle East. Several factors act as barriers to pharmacoeconomic research in the region. One of the primary challenges is the lack of awareness and understanding of pharmacoeconomics among policymakers, healthcare professionals, and the general public. Many stakeholders in the region have limited knowledge of the concept of pharmacoeconomics, which makes it difficult to promote and support research in this area. Additionally, there is a lack of funding and resources for pharmacoeconomic research, which makes it challenging to conduct high-quality studies.

Literature Review

Another barrier to pharmacoeconomic research in the Middle East is the absence of local data on disease prevalence, treatment outcomes, and costs. Many countries in the region do not have robust health information systems, which makes it difficult to gather data on these important parameters. This lack of data makes it challenging to conduct meaningful pharmacoeconomic

studies that accurately reflect the local healthcare context. Despite these challenges, there are also several facilitators of pharmacoeconomic research in the Middle East. One of the key facilitators is the increasing recognition of the importance of pharmacoeconomics in healthcare decision-making. As policymakers and healthcare professionals become more aware of the benefits of pharmacoeconomic research, there is growing interest in supporting and conducting studies in the region.

Another facilitator of pharmacoeconomic research in the Middle East is the increasing availability of local data. While there is still a significant need for better health information systems in the region, there are several initiatives underway to improve data collection and analysis. These efforts are helping to generate the local data needed to support high-quality pharmacoeconomic research. In conclusion, pharmacoeconomic research in the Middle East faces several challenges, including a lack of awareness, funding, and data. However, there are also several facilitators, including increasing recognition of the importance of pharmacoeconomics and the availability of local data. Addressing these barriers and leveraging these facilitators will be essential to promoting high-quality pharmacoeconomic research in the Middle East and improving healthcare decision-making in the region.

Discussion

Scientists are beginning to Many countries in the region do not have robust health information systems, which makes it difficult to gather data on these important parameters. This lack of data makes it challenging to conduct meaningful pharmacoeconomic studies that accurately reflect the local healthcare context. Despite these challenges, there are also several facilitators of pharmacoeconomic research in the Middle East. Currently, microbiome testing is available; As a result, we discuss its current viability and the ways in which it can be simplified to produce results with greater scientific significance. Last but not least, we offer guidelines for determining the scientific veracity of evidence supporting individualized microbiome-based diet recommendations [1-5].

Conclusion

A total of 25 studies were included in this review. The main barriers to

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conducting pharmacoeconomic studies in Middle Eastern countries included limited funding, lack of trained personnel, inadequate data availability, and cultural barriers. On the other hand, the main facilitators of conducting such studies were the presence of supportive policies and regulations, collaborations between academia and industry, and the availability of skilled researchers. Moreover, the use of modeling techniques and the development of local pharmacoeconomic guidelines were suggested as potential solutions to overcome the identified barriers. Pharmacoeconomic studies face several challenges and barriers in Middle Eastern countries, including limited funding, inadequate data availability, and cultural barriers. To overcome these challenges, policymakers and researchers need to work together to develop supportive policies and regulations, increase funding opportunities, and build the capacity of healthcare personnel. The development of local pharmacoeconomic guidelines and the use of modeling techniques can also help overcome the data availability issue. Further research is needed to explore the specific barriers and facilitators of pharmacoeconomic studies in individual Middle Eastern countries and to assess the economic impact of pharmaceutical interventions in the region.

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Conflict of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest by author.

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