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The Contribution of Pharmaceutical Compounding to Improving Drug Compliance

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Introduction

It is underutilized how pharmaceutical compounding can encourage drug adherence. While implementation and perseverance may also be encouraged in a pharmacy context, customization may serve as a positive reinforcement of the start of the treatment. There aren't many studies in the literature, nevertheless, that explore the role of compounding in promoting adherence. Such studies' findings might be used to support health policies like a suitable regulatory framework, pharmacist education, and information for medical professionals. With a rate of 50% of non-adherent individuals that can rise to 75%, as described for psoriasis patients utilising topical therapies, several studies have demonstrated that adherence to pharmacological treatment is far from expected. Adherence to a therapy can be affected by a number of therapy-related variables, including medication product properties like swallowability, packaging, dosing schedule, container closure mechanism, and type of dose form. Orodispersible dosage forms, for instance, have the benefits of being simple to swallow without drinking or chewing, and they don't require water for patient administration [1]. In general, patient adherence is higher than with traditional solid dosage forms. An illustration of this is the administration of olanzapine as an orodispersible tablet instead of a regular tablet.

Disease-related differences in patient preferences for a particular vehicle are also possible. A recent study found that tretinoin lotion was favoured above cream for acne patients, whereas creams, ointments, and foams were chosen as the preferable dosage forms for psoriasis patients. Recently, a sample of psoriasis patients underwent an objective evaluation to determine the effect of the vehicle in treatment adherence. When the lesions affected a large area of the body, patients' adherence was noticeably higher when utilising gels and creams rather than ointments. These results, which were influenced by dose form, highlight the need for good pharmaceutical formulation design to address the public health issue of non-adherence and open the way for pharmaceutical compounds to play a more important role in treatment. Pharmaceutical compounding entails the creation of specialised medications to address patient demands that cannot be satisfied by pharmaceutical industry-provided, commercially available medications. In accordance with the doctor-patient-pharmacist connection, this is an age-old process in which pharmacists combine, mix, or modify substances to make distinctive compounded medicines [2]. Today, compounding is a crucial component of pharmacy practice and the delivery of healthcare.

Description

The current COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the value of compounding, allowing pharmacists all over the world to quickly prepare

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hand sanitizers and surface disinfectants, as well as oral liquids and capsules containing drugs like hydroxychloroquine sulphates, dexamethasone, and reformulations that were prescribed off-label. Compound medications are thought to account up 1% to 3% of all pharmaceutical prescriptions, and their use is on the rise. Numerous factors, including limited dosage forms, dosages/strengths, limited orphan prescription drugs, the need for alternative raw materials and organoleptic characteristics, shortages of commercially available medications, and discontinued medicines, seem to be likely to be contributing factors to the rising demand for compounded medications [3]. All areas of medicine can benefit from compounding, but pediatric and adult specialties-which the pharmaceutical industry frequently neglects-have a particular need for it. Despite the fact that composed medicines do not need regulatory approval, national or state boards of pharmacists retain jurisdiction over the technique of pharmaceutical compounding. Standards of practise, compounding settings, and terminology differ widely across the United States of America and the European nations as a result of the legal regime being not globally harmonised. To provide compounded medicines with the necessary quality, safety, and efficacy, strict compliance with the legal regime is necessary. While mistakes in pharmaceutical compounding should be avoided, stories of inadvertent mistakes that have seriously harmed people have unhappily been reported on a global scale. Microbiological contamination caused this specific error, but other error types have the potential to be just as destructive. Administration of medications that were formulated with the improper components or dosage levels. Patients frequently rationally choose not to take their medication as directed for a variety of reasons, especially those specific to the paediatric and geriatric special populations. Pediatric patients frequently struggle with medication adherence because they are unable unwilling to take solid dosage forms like tablets and capsules. In addition, children are extremely sensitive to the taste and odour of pharmaceuticals, thus it is highly possible that the prescription will be rejected if the patient's preferences are not taken into consideration [4]. When medications were missing, treatments are endangered and parents and caregivers often struggle to administer the medication to children. Because physical, emotional, and social factors affect the elderly's decision-making, medication adherence in geriatrics is much more complicated.

Additionally, many geriatric health issues are chronic rather than acute, necessitating a lifetime of pharmaceutical use. It is extremely likely that dosages will once again be missed and treatments will be impaired if patients are not completely satisfied with the prescribed medications. When there is a breakdown in communication, physicians may unnecessarily up the dosage of the prescription to attain the intended efficacy, thereby harming the patient and increasing expenditures overall. Tackling pharmaceutical nonadherence is deemed a priority in today's health given that the ageing population is growing and that average lifespan is increasing. In order to address these age-related difficulties and guarantee treatment adherence, pharmaceutical compounding may be essential. In order to treat each ailment individually, the elderly frequently have many health conditions. This might result in a significant drug intake on a regular basis [5]. By offering unique drug combinations that combine many commercial medications in a single dosage form, pharmaceutical compounding may lessen the complexity of prescription regimens. Among the medical specialities that profit the most from medication combinations are oncology and pain management. In order to prevent or treat infections, these mouthwashes typically include diphenhydramine, aluminummagnesium antacids, lidocaine, and antibiotics such as nystatin or tetracycline. Corticosteroids may also be added to help with mucosal inflammation in immunocompromised patients.

Conclusion

Despite the fact that studies have shown that pharmaceutical compounding is not practiced widely, it remains a significant aspect of pharmacy practice. In modern health care systems, its importance to patient and public safety could be increased. To systematize the formulation of compounding medications with the goal of enhancing medication adherence, we suggest a physician compounding design methodology. However, the potential role of compounding in encouraging drug adherence has not yet been studied. Such studies' findings might be used to assist healthcare policies like a suitable regulatory framework, pharmacy education, and information for medical professionals.

Conflict of Interest

None.

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