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## Pharmacovigilance Knowledge and Risk Perception among Patients with Diabetes

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Diabetes mellitus requires lifelong pharmacotherapy and often involves multiple medications, increasing the risk of adverse drug reactions (ADRs). Pharmacovigilance systems aim to detect and prevent such reactions; however, patient awareness and participation in ADR reporting remain limited, particularly in developing countries.

**Objective:** To assess the knowledge, attitude, risk perception, experiences, and reporting practices related to pharmacovigilance and adverse drug reactions among patients with diabetes.

**Methods:** A multicentre, cross-sectional, questionnaire-based study was conducted among 100 diabetic patients attending community health centres, diabetic clinics, and pharmacies in Kannur district, Kerala. A structured and pre-validated questionnaire assessed demographic characteristics, knowledge of ADRs and pharmacovigilance, ADR experiences, risk perception, and reporting practices. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics.

**Results:** Although 62% of participants were aware that medicines can cause adverse drug reactions, only 19% were aware of the national ADR reporting system and 17% knew that patients themselves could report ADRs. About 27% reported experiencing an ADR, most commonly hypoglycaemia. Despite positive attitudes toward medication safety and a strong desire for information, formal ADR

reporting practices were minimal. Many patients relied solely on physicians for information and delayed reporting adverse events.

**Conclusion:** Diabetic patients demonstrated partial awareness of ADRs and pharmacovigilance but had limited knowledge of reporting systems and low reporting practices. Strengthening patient education, improving healthcare provider–patient communication, and simplifying ADR reporting mechanisms may enhance patient participation in pharmacovigilance and promote safer diabetes management.

**Keywords:** Pharmacovigilance; Adverse drug reactions; Diabetes mellitus; Knowledge; Risk perception; Patient safety.

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