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Drug Safety for Human Health and Environment

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Abstract

Pharmacovigilance is a practice done to detect drug safety in biological system and determine adverse drug reactions which crosses the line of drug efficacy during the post marketing phase of drug's life cycle. The main role of pharmacovigilance is to analyze that which adverse effect are worth the risk of patients and how effective the drug is in treating the particular disease. Main cause of concern is under reporting of adverse effects which ultimately is a threat to the pharmacovigilance systems. Other than this the major problem among the population is lack of awareness and education about drug safety, safe use and disposal of drugs, etc. This review focuses on the major problems related to incorrect usage and incorrect disposal of drugs affecting human health care and environment and possible steps that can be taken to improve these problems. Hence, there is a strong need to step up for some programs that may educate and aware the population about ADR of a drug and its hazardous effect on environment when disposed incorrectly, and also organize some training programs for health professionals, clinicians, pharmacists to improve their perceptions towards recognizing and reporting the ADRs, to strictly prohibit the selling of Schedule H and Schedule X drugs without prescription. Involvement of nurses, other medical staff as well as consumers is also a greater measure to improve the situation in reporting the ADRs and hence making the process easier. Providing a momentum to the pharmacovigilance system and ensuring a robust reporting process is a challenge but proper planning, feasible solutions and focused efforts can help bring about the change ensuring patient safety.

Keywords: Pharmacovigilance, Drug safety, Health care, Adverse drug reactions.

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