IMPACT OF MEDICINE SHORTAGES
ON AN OUTPATIENT CLINIC OF A GENERAL HOSPITAL
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BACKGROUND
The incidence of medicine shortages (MS) has increased in the last few years, causing difficulties for clinicians, patients and regulators. MS can occur for many reasons including manufacturing and quality problems, regulatory issues and business decisions. The role of pharmacist is essential in their management.

OBJECTIVES
To analyse the MS that have affected to the outpatient clinic (OC) between January 2018- September 2019 and to evaluate their economic impact and effect on the daily work of a hospital pharmacist in a general hospital (280 beds).

MATERIAL AND METHODS
A descriptive, observational and retrospective study was carried out analysing data between January 2018 and September 2019. Data were retrieved from email received official notifications, the Spanish Medicines Agency (AEMPS) online platform and Farmatools® program. Variables collected were: drugs with shortage problems, medicines available through the application for management of medicines in special situations (AGMSE) of the AEMPS, MS e-mails received, foreign medicines orders and dispensations, time dedicated to manage MS.

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drugs with shortage problems (n)</th>
<th>Emails received about MS (n)</th>
<th>New outpatients tended (n)</th>
<th>Time devoted to MS (h)</th>
<th>Medicine orders (n)</th>
<th>Dispensations (n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DATA</td>
<td>1162</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>212.7</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per month</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>13.33</td>
<td>10.13</td>
<td>5.80</td>
<td>35.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MS are very time-consuming and mean a significant increase in the hospital pharmacist activity mainly focused on administrative responsabilities, adding new drugs in formulary and planning for strategies to maintain the medication supply. Furthermore, this problem implies a higher number of patients tended in OC to collect their medication.

CONCLUSIONS