



ADHERENCE OF PATIENTS RECEIVING ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY AFTER HOSPITALISATION



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Background

Vast majority of patients (73%) from the septic surgical ward were discharged with a prescribed antibiotic. Because of the specificity of infections, optimal persistence to drug therapy is essential to achieve optimal clinical outcome. Clinical pharmacists have a crucial role in patient education on hospital admittance as well as on discharge.

Purpose

Our aim was to map the factors influencing patient adherence to antibiotic treatment and to develop a patient information package based on the results.

Materials and methods

Based upon a standard, 3-part questionnaire, discharged patients were telephone-interviewed by a clinical pharmacist. The questions focused on patient's knowledge on therapy, measured the adherence and surveyed side effects. Medicines prescribed for patients were collected from the hospital's medical documentation system. Factors influencing adherence were analysed using statistical methods. Data was aggregated in Microsoft Excel and R programs.



Results I.

75 patients were discharged from the ward with antibiotic prescriptions between December 2017 – February 2018, of them, 44 patients were interviewed by phonecall and involved in the study. The most frequently prescribed antibiotics were amoxicillin-clavulanic acid (12 cases), cefuroxime (11 cases) and ciprofloxacin (8 cases).

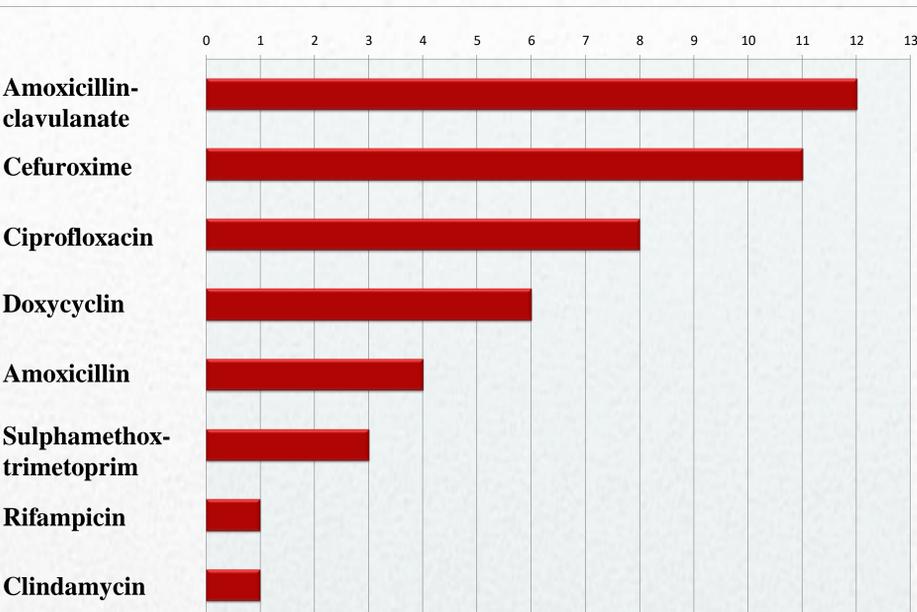


Figure 1. Frequency of prescribed antibiotics

Proportion: **70%** (Male) / **30%** (Female)
Mean age: **51.3 +/- 17.8 years** (Male) / **64.5 +/- 9.2 years** (Female)

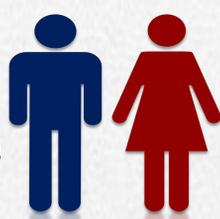
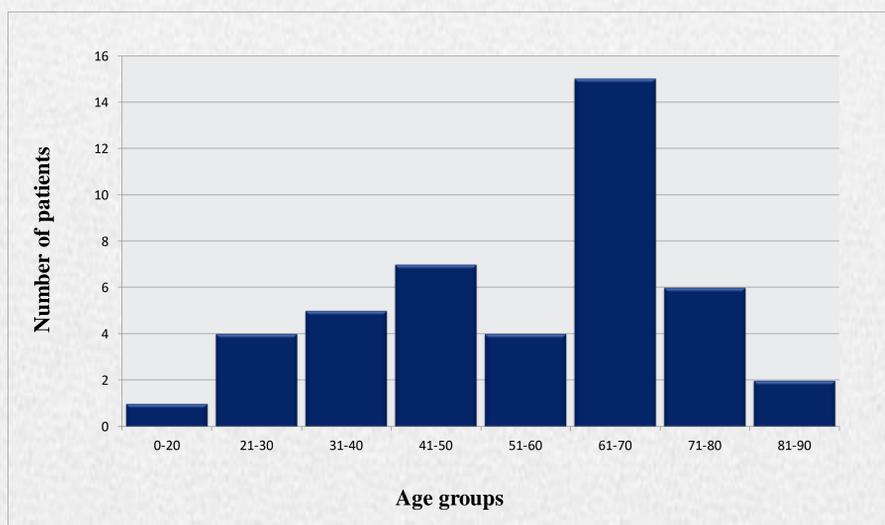


Figure 2. Demographic data



Results II.

Although a significant proportion of respondents (32 patients; 73%) considered it easy to comply with the therapy and believed that they had sufficient information on the prescribed antibiotic, only 23 patients met the criteria of being well-informed.

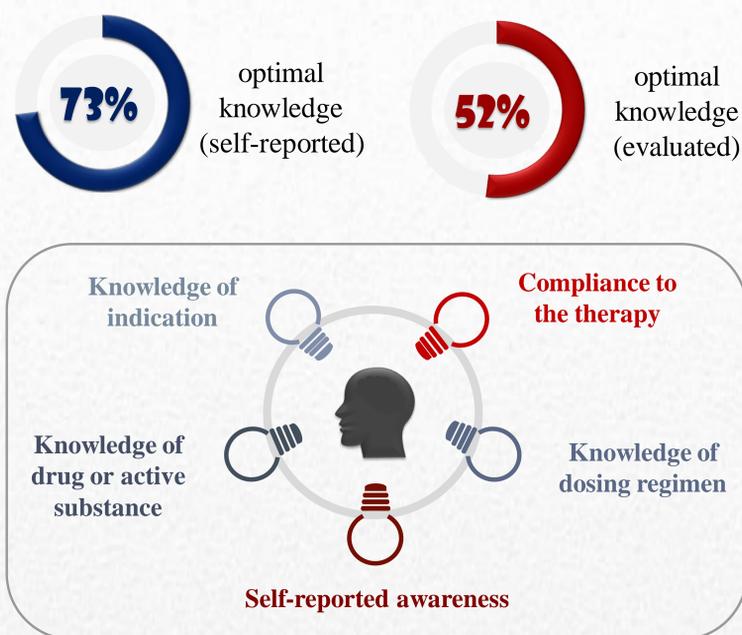


Figure 3. Criteria of optimal patient-knowledge about antibiotic therapy

Results III.

41% of respondents used the drug inappropriately in relation to the prescribed dose. 18 patients reported at least one missed dose. After discharge, 9 patients did not immediately get the prescribed antibiotics and 3 patients did not purchase the prescribed drug.

Considering optimal drug use, statistically significant difference was found between patients established well-informed and those, who were established inadequately informed (X^2 -test, p-value=0.0144).

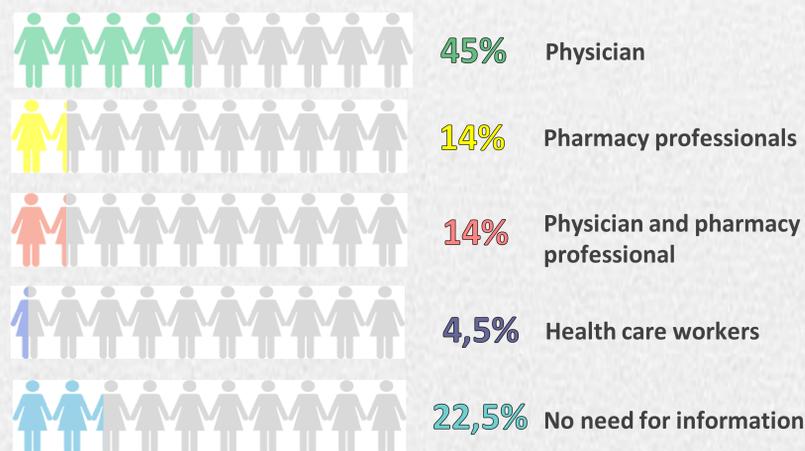


Figure 4. Main sources of informations

Conclusion

Taking into account the significant factors revealed, patients education on their therapy is critical to achieve optimal adherence. Based on the results of the survey, a patient information package was set up on the prescribed antibiotics to provide more efficient and safer medicine use in the patient's home-based therapy.

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