TREATMENT OF ASTHMA AND CHRONIC OBSTRUCTION PULMONARY DISEASE (COPD): ARE OUR HOSPITAL NURSES AND PHYSICIANS READY TO TREAT AND EDUCATE IN-PATIENTS?

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BACKGROUND

In the treatment of asthma/COPD, misuse of inhalation devices is common with a higher risk of treatment inefficacy, side effects or acute exacerbations, leading to more hospitalizations. At hospital nurses and doctors are expected to (re)assess patients’ knowledge and ability to use their treatments for those hospitalized with severe asthma/COPD, particularly among our population of elderly.

OBJECTIVE

Appraise hospital nurses and doctors knowledge and current practices concerning asthma and COPD

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Observationnal study in 12 care units (adults/geriatrics without respiratory specialization)

1. Two distinct questionnaires based on literature review were elaborated by a multidisciplinary group: 1 for nurses and 1 for doctors including 3 similar parts:
   - Knowledge about physiopathology and treatments
   - Practices and self-confidence to educate patients
   - Professional training needs

2. Interviews:
   - Nurses were individually interviewed by a pharmacy resident or a pharmacist
   - Doctors answered to an individual online-questionnaire (Google form)

RESULTS

37 nurses were interviewed 14/27 doctors answered to the questionnaire

Knowledge about physiopathology and treatments:

✓ 49% of nurses don’t know the distinctive symptoms of asthma
✓ 46% of nurses consider budesonide as a bronchodilator
✓ 14% of doctors know that there are non-validated combinations of nebulization drugs

Practices and self confidence to educate patients:

✓ 60% of nurses say to patient to rince the mouth after corticoids inhalation
✓ No nurse was able to respond properly how and where nebulization equipment is stored in the patient room

63% of doctors have already had to counsel a patient to use her/his inhaler devices following an asthma or a COPD exacerbation

24% of nurses are confident about patients education

Training needs:

✓ 84% of nurses and 93% of doctors are interested in a specific training
✓ 95% of nurses would like training in the form of workshops

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

Our results show a lack of knowledge of both nurses and prescribers regarding some aspects of asthma/COPD despite nurses’ self-confidence. Among our in-patients, few are assessed at the admission about their abilities to use their device(s) properly, with the risk that their treatment(s) may not be optimized. To improve professionals’ knowledge and standardise our practices, we aim to offer training and formalize a procedure for eligible patients’ assessment/education at admission thus ensuring better care.

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