The impact of clinical pharmacist driven interventions on patient safety in hospitalised patients: preliminary results of a point prevalence study

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OBJECTIVE
To identify potential drug-related problems after implementation of hospital wide pharmacists driven medication reviews

BACKGROUND
• Hospitalised patients are at risk for medication errors.
• Traditionally hospital pharmacists use clinical decision support systems (CDSSs) and clinical rules in order to prevent medication-related problems.
• It has been shown that the involvement of a clinical pharmacist integrated in the medical team on the ward has a beneficial effect on the reduction of drug-related problems. Therefore, there is a shift from the traditional way of practice to a clinical pharmacist on the ward. However, the impact of hospital-wide integration of clinical pharmacists on patient safety is not clear.

CONCLUSION
• Structured medication reviews by clinical pharmacists, besides using CDSSs, contribute to detection and resolution of DRPs, mainly by reducing overtreatment.
• A hospital-wide integration of clinical pharmacists as part of the multidisciplinary team can improve medication safety and optimize pharmaceutical care.

RESULTS

6/16 wards were included
250 medication reviews
417 potential drug-related problems (pDRP)

In 60.4% of the reviews a pDRP was detected
8.6 minutes per review (range 2-30 minutes)

MATERIAL AND METHODS
An observational point prevalence study. During 5 consecutive working days pDRPs (on top of the interventions based on clinical rules or CDSSs) were registered.

Setting: clinical pharmacists work on every ward and are performing medication reviews
Inclusion: Patients admitted to the Erasmus University Medical Center for more than 24 hours
Recorded endpoints: type of intervention, reason for intervention, severity of the underlying drug-related problem (using the NCC MERP index scale), proportion of interventions accepted by the physician, communication route and time investment.

REFERENCES