HAZARDOUS DRUGS DISPENSED TO OUTPATIENTS AND PROPOSALS FOR SAFE HANDLING

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OBJECTIVES

- Identification of hazardous drugs dispensed to outpatients from a hospital pharmacy service.
- Propose measures to improve safety during drug handling.

METHODS

- Retrospective study of medications dispensed to outpatients between 2013 and 2016.

RESULTS

76 different drugs dispensed to outpatients
* Figure 1

- Up to 38 (50%) drugs classified as hazardous
- 38 (50%) drugs did NOT appear in NIOSH or TSD lists
- 38 hazardous drugs according to TSD list
- 36 hazardous drugs according to NIOSH list
- 17 (45%) drugs had notified effects of carcinogenesis, mutagenesis and/or malignancies side effects
- 26 (68%) drugs had documented impairment in fertility and pregnancy disorders
- 6 (16%) drugs had no toxic effects or no studies were available

Figure 1. Type of drugs dispensed to outpatients (according to the anatomical therapeutic chemical classification)

Figure 2. Hazardous drugs classification according to NIOSH and STD lists.

CONCLUSION

- A high proportion of drugs (50%) dispensed to outpatients lacked of classification in the hazardous drug lists (NIOSH and STD) and therefore the risk of incorrect handling increased.
- It would be advisable to identify potential hazardous drugs (70 in this study) and to instruct patients and healthcare workers on safe drug handling.


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