Perceptions about prescription medication sharing among adults in Saudi Arabia: A qualitative study.

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Background

- Prescription medication sharing is a practice of medical and public health concern as it has been associated with numerous adverse health outcomes.¹
- Despite the risks associated with this behaviour, very little is known about prescription medication sharing in KSA.
- Successful interventions to change medication sharing practice will require understanding of how, when and why medicines are shared. Thus, this study aims to fill some of the current gaps in knowledge in this area.¹²

Aim

This study aimed at examining public perspectives regarding factors that influenced medication sharing practices.

Methods

- Qualitative study
- Eastern province-Saudi Arabia
- 18 years and older, using prescribed medicines and were able to communicate in Arabic or English
- Snowball sample
- Face-to-face or telephone interviews
- Data collection was continued until data saturation was achieved
- Interviews were audiotaped, transcribed verbatim, translated and analysed using thematic approach and NVivo 10 software

Discussion and conclusion

- This study provided insights into factors that influenced prescription medication sharing among public in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia.
- An exploration of factors influencing medication sharing behaviour among study participants revealed many similarities with evidence from the international literature,¹ although some differences were also found which may appear to be specific to the Saudi population.
- Further research is warranted in development of successful approaches or interventions to reduce harm resulting from medication sharing behaviour.

References