IMPACT of hospital pharmacist integration on PATIENT SAFETY in a general surgery service and the related direct financial savings

BACKGROUND:
In the last years, patients’ security has become a Health-care Systems’ priority.

An expert panel established the presence of Hospital Pharmacist in the patients environment and its direct collaboration with nurses and doctors as a head measure in medication use security(*)

PURPOSE:
We want to study the impact that this integration has over patients security and moreover if there is related direct economics savings.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:
During two months a pharmacist worked full-time focus on the General Surgery service.

The pharmacist was part of the daily activity of the service in clinical sessions, patients’ visits, drug monitoring advice, discharge information, home medication reconciliation, among others.

- All activity carried out by the pharmacist was collected.
- Cost saving derived from “sequential therapy” and “non necessary drugs” stopped by pharmacist’s indication were calculated.

RESULTS:
166 patients were admitted in Surgery Service during this period.

In 56% of these patients the Pharmacist performed at least one treatment recommendation which ended in a treatment change or a drug monitoring by doctors.

About treatment reconciliation results, see Figure 1

Sequential therapy were made in 37 drugs, and were stopped 19 unnecessary medications by pharmacist indication:

- Direct costs saving derived from that sequential therapy and non necessary drugs were in total 1.372 Euros (686Euros/month).

CONCLUSIONS:
Hospital pharmacists play an important role as part of multidisciplinary teams, enhancing medical care and increasing treatments security.

Also direct cost savings are related to pharmacist clinical practice.