IMPACT OF DRUG SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS IN A TEACHING HOSPITAL: ONE YEAR ANALYSIS

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BACKGROUND
The drug supply shortages are not uncommon and their frequency and duration are increasing essentially because of production's issues. The absence of advanced warning from drug manufacturers may impact the delivery of patient care.

PURPOSE
The drug supply shortages have several consequences on pharmacy department and by the way on care services. The aim of this analysis is to quantify these disruptions and their impact in our hospital.

MATERIAL AND METHODS
The drug supply shortages are regularly followed in pharmacy department using data collection with the following items:
* the drug
* the manufacturer
* the source of disruption's information
* dates of beginning and end
* the substitute therapy
This data collection was analyzed between September 1st, 2013 on August 30th, 2014.

RESULTS
One hundred and seventeen drug shortages were registered:
48% of injectable drugs
43% of oral drugs
9% of external medicines

On average, five drugs per week (range, 1-13) are in supply shortage, and the drug shortage lasted 65 days (range, 3-329).

The main impact of drug shortages on pharmacy services is the amount of time spent by staff repeatedly managing this problem:
- choice and creation of substitute therapy
- order processing purchases for account
- information to the physicians

In addition, on care services, changing therapy or the use of a less familiar alternative drug therapy may raise patient safety issues.

CONCLUSION
The drug supply shortages have a public-health problem. The suppliers need to be more aware of anticipating those issues.
It would be interesting to estimate the economic impact at the origin of the staff workload.

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