Objectives

1) Check out the drug supply problems.
2) Analyse the drug shortage characteristics.
3) Assess their impact on a medium-sized hospital.

Methods

- Retrospective study of issues of drug supply
- Over a period of 3 years (2012-2014)
- All data were exported from the website of the Drug National Agency.
- Drug purchases were gathered from a drug management application, Farmatools®.

Results

- 172 drugs were in shortage
- The drugs belonged
  - The digestive and metabolic group (A): 23,25%
  - The nervous system group (N): 19,77%
  - The anti-infective group (J): 18,02%
  - The cardiovascular system group (C): 16,86%
  - The hormones group (H): 11,05%
  - Other Groups: 11,05%

- There were others with the same drug but marketed by another laboratory
- Could be requested through others drugs in special conditions
- The option was to look for a therapeutic alternative

Conclusions

- The increasing frequency of drug shortages comes up with many difficulties and have a profound impact on patient safety and clinicians.
- Although it is impossible to predict for every drug shortage, establishing clear procedures and guidelines for managing drug shortages can enhance patient safety, help prevent medicines errors and improve quality of care.

Conflict of interest: Nothing to disclose