

一般用医薬品に関する薬剤師の意識調査

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Survey of the Pharmacist Perception of Over The Counter Drug

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Abstract :

Objective: It is desirable to avoid side effects early on by having pharmacists provide appropriate instruction and familiarize themselves with the available literature on side effects. We surveyed the present situation of OTC drug sales to develop pointers for their more effective use.

Methods: Questionnaires were distributed to the 1,962 members of the Chiba Association of Pharmacists equipped with fax, and responses were recovered by fax transmission. The questionnaires elicited information on the professional awareness of pharmacists toward OTC drug sales, as well as on the present situation of this business.

Results: Responses were received from 539 pharmacists (response rate: 27.5%), of whom 90.6% sold OTC drugs in some form. Medications were categorized on the basis of medicinal effects, with antipyretic analgesics (87.8%), cold medicines (87.6%), etc., cited as most requiring consultation regarding effects. Information provided at the time of sale most often concerned "side effects / interactions" (83.1%), "use during pregnancy or lactation" (73.5%), and "dosage and administration" (73.5%). Reports of probable cases of OTC drug side effects were received from 134 establishments (24.9%). Many of the 24.9% of patients experiencing side effects had been taking combination cold remedies (21.0%) or antipyretic analgesics (20.0%).

Conclusion: We concluded that pharmacists need to exercise special care in instructing patients purchasing such OTC drugs on possible side effects and drug interactions, use by pregnant or nursing mothers, and proper dosage and administration. Case reports revealed frequently occurring side effects that pharmacists should take steps to avoid through appropriate monitoring of patients in early stages of treatment.

Keywords : over the counter drugs, instruction on the use of drugs, Adverse reaction, pharmacist