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A study to assess pharmacist's knowledge and attitudes toward pharmacovigilance and the reporting of adverse drug reactions of medications in Saudi Arabia

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Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are a major cause of drug related morbidity and mortality. Pharmacovigilance is useful to assure the safety of medicines and protect consumers from ADR, thus the evolution and growth of this science are critical for effective and safe clinical practice. A cross sectional study was conducted using a structured validated questionnaire. To evaluate pharmacist's knowledge, practice and attitude toward adverse drug reaction reporting, since it is the first study to compare between hospital and community pharmacists in different regions in Saudi Arabia. There was a significant difference (P 0.016) between community and hospital pharmacists regarding the awareness of pharmacovigilance concept. Most of the community pharmacists were not aware about the presence of pharmacovigilance center in Saudi Arabia compared to hospital pharmacist (p 0.000). The lack of knowledge is where we should start to deal with under-reporting especially with community pharmacists; also, they don't know from where they can get the adverse drug reaction form compared to hospital pharmacist (p 0.000). The result of our study showed that hospital pharmacists have high awareness compared to community pharmacists about pharmacovigilance system but even though the reporting rate is still very low for both of them. Educational program are required and a mobile application is developed for this purpose to ease the reporting process thus to have a positive impact on the overall patient caring process.

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Characteristics of coronary artery disease in women: An experience of Moroccan Hospital

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Introduction: The incidence of coronary artery disease is increasing due to lifestyle changes and the large number of risk factors including diabetes. The goal of this chapter is to study the particularities of coronary artery disease in Moroccan woman.

Materials & Methods: The authors report a retrospective study concerning 58 women (group 1) compared to sample of 138 men (group 2) hospitalized for coronary artery disease, all of them had clinical examination, electrocardiogram, echocardiography and coronary angiography.

Results: The average age of women was 60.19±9.5 years and 59.6±8.6 years for men. Smoking is frequent in men (75.3% versus 3.4%), hypertension, diabetes and metabolic syndrome are more common in women (respectively 65.5%, 62%, 34, 5% versus 42%, 43.5%, 12.3%). Clinically, the mode of presentation of coronary artery disease in women is stable angina of effort and/or atypical chest pain (50%), acute coronary syndromes represent 32.7% (group 1) and 60.8% (group 2). Echocardiography showed wall motion abnormalities in 24.1% in group 1 and left ventricular systolic dysfunction in 12% versus 55% and 35.5% respectively in group 2. Angiographically, the single-vessel disease is common in women (36.2% versus 12.3%), normal coronary lesions or insignificant were found in 20.6% of group 1 versus 4.3% in group 2. Three vessel disease and distribution of coronary lesions are frequent in men (46.3% versus 18, 9%). All of our patients have received conventional medical treatment with correction of cardiovascular risk factors. Coronary angioplasty with stenting is widely practiced in group 1 (37.9% versus 10.1%). On a mean follow up of 3 months (1 and 24 months), we deplored two deaths in each group. The thrust of left heart failure were respectively 5.1%, 6.8% (group 1) versus 31.8%, 42% (group 2).

Conclusion: Coronary artery disease in women is less common, and occurs with a lot of cardiovascular risk factors, integrating the metabolic syndrome. The clinical picture is very often a stable angina, a few diffused coronary lesions but prognosis is controversed.

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