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Lacunae between knowing and doing: Understanding and assessing the barriers for under reporting on adverse drug reaction

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Statement of the Problem: In order to improve the reporting rate, it is essential to improve the Knowledge, Attitude and the Practice (KAP) of the healthcare professionals with regard to the ADR reporting and the pharmacovigilance. Therefore, the present study is designed to evaluate the KAP of the Health Care Professionals (HCPs) in a tertiary care hospital.

Material & Methods: A cross sectional study was carried out using a pretested questionnaire. The KAP questionnaire was designed to assess the demographic details of the health care professionals, their knowledge and attitude towards pharmacovigilance and their practices on ADR reporting. The HCPs working in Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences, Puducherry, who consented to participate during the study period were included. The collected data were entered in Microsoft Excel software and analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Results: The filled-up questionnaires were collected and analyzed among the health care professionals. 60.3% health professionals were aware regarding the knowledge-based questions. 41.2% knew about attitude-based questions and 32% were aware about practice-based questions. 43.9% of participants found lack of time to report ADR as a discouraging factor.

Conclusion: Our study evaluated the KAP among health care professionals and found the need to impart awareness of pharmacovigilance to both doctors and nurses. The gap between knowing and practicing pharmacovigilance was found to be due to lack of time to report ADR on a daily basis. Therefore, it is recommended that appropriate educational interventional measures like workshops, seminars, Continuing Medical Educations (CMEs) and symposium are conducted at regular intervals to sensitize doctors, nurses and pharmacists to improve ADR reporting.

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