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Rates and types of prescribing errors and related interventions in oncology

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Chemotherapy drug errors can be devastating because these agents have one of the lowest therapeutic indices and safety margins of any drug class. Clinical interventions made by pharmacists have a significant impact on patient care. The aims of the current study were to determine the daily average number of medication orders reviewed by the pharmacist, to quantify the types of prescribing errors, to indicate the drugs most commonly involved in medication errors and the proportion of pharmacist interventions, and finally to calculate physician/pharmacist percent concordance/discordance. In a cross sectional study at an Adult Oncology Clinic in a main hospital, medication orders were consecutively reviewed on daily basis. Data were collected from the patients' profile and medication orders. On the average, pharmacists reviewed 17 medication orders per day. The proportion of errors in chemotherapy medication orders and hence the intervention rate was 66%. Missed information, wrong dose and the protocol breach were the most frequent errors in chemotherapy medication orders. Common cytotoxic drugs involved in the errors were Carboplatin, Cisplatin and Taxol. Almost all pharmacists' interventions were accepted by the physicians. Errors in chemotherapy orders are common, which gives the validation process performed by the clinical pharmacists a key role in improving patients safety.

Biography

Nessrin El-Nimr has a Doctor degree in Public Health (DrPH). Teaching, research, and community service are her three main activities as a university faculty member. She is a member in the postgraduate studies and research committee at the HIPH since 2010, member in the editorial board of the Bulletin of the HIPH since 2011, reviewer for the Journal of the Egyptian Public Health Association and the Bulletin of the HIPH since 2011. She has published papers in several local, regional and international journals.

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