

PS1.221

Use of OTC drugs in patients in health care center mostar

Gordana Pivic(1), M Pivic(1), A Zalihic(1), S Saks(2), A Zalihic Pita(3)

(1) Department of Family Medicine, Health Care Center Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina

(2) Department of Family Medicine, Health Care Center Capljina, Bosnia & Herzegovina

(3) Department of Gynecology, Health Care Center Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Corresponding author: Dr Gordana Pivic, Health Care Center Mostar, Family Medicine, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. E-mail: gordana_pivic@hotmail.com

Background: Medicines sold directly to a consumer without a prescription are called OTC or „Over the counter“ medicines. If used properly, these drugs have wide therapeutic range, low toxicity and interactions are reduced to a minimum. OTC drugs are intended for conditions which can be easily recognized and don't require essential medical supervision. Pharmacist should have the biggest role in informing patients about OTC medicines. OTC drugs are an important component of Health Care Systems in developed countries. Most residents of EU countries are actively pursuing self-medication. The leading place is occupied by the UK with 87%. The use of OTC drugs reduces the costs in HCS.

Aim: The main goal was to investigate the frequency of OTC drugs use and the pharmacist's role in the distribution of OTC drugs.

Method: The study included 200 patients in HCC Mostar older than 18 who filled out a questionnaire of 10 questions. Including parameters were: age, gender, educational level and economic status. The study was conducted in the period of 2 months.

Results: 68,5% respondents use OTC drugs. 43,7% of respondents identified the physician as the main source of information. The most commonly used OTC medicines are analgesics (44,8%). Only 19,7% of respondents stated that pharmacists never ask about medical history and 20,3% that pharmacists don't give information on drug specifications. 45,3% of respondents answered that pharmacist has never refused to issue the OTC drug. 52,1% of respondents inform their doctor about OTC drug use. Significantly 69,5% of respondents told that the use of OTC drugs eases solving of their health problems. Patients older than 65, chronic patients, those with higher educational level and middle economic status commonly use OTC drugs.

Conclusion: OTC drugs are frequently used, especially analgesics. Pharmacist has the most important role in advising the patient on OTC drug specifications considering his health condition.