

Awareness Survey on Pharmacovigilance:

Design of an online program for Argentinean health care professionals

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Introduction and aims of the study

Introduction:

Argentinean National Regulatory Health Authority became official member of the WHO Program for International Drug Monitoring in 1994. However, the number of adverse drugs reactions (ADRs) reported is still very low. Programs in healthcare professionals (HCP) in other countries showed that after surveys the knowledge and awareness about pharmacovigilance reporting improved, and the number of reports increased (1-4).

Aim:

The aim of this study was to investigate the level of knowledge about pharmacovigilance and the activity of reporting an adverse event among local HCP, including dentists. At the same time, the survey will be used as an awareness tool. We hereby report on the study design.

Methods

A cross-sectional survey was being planned, using a validated self-administered questionnaire. The questionnaires were distributed to ~18.000 HCP from an own database, including general practitioners, pharmacists and dentists. The survey consists of 15 questions related to adverse drug reactions and the reporting behavior of health care professionals (HCP) in ordinary practice. Questions were chosen based on daily practice situations and relaxed responses.

The survey form was distributed by on-line responsive tool. The collected data was analyzed descriptively and the results were presented as percentage of total answers. The survey had two sections, first one collected the number of respondents, and the second one clustered the answered questions. The statistical analysis included chi square and z tests.

Results

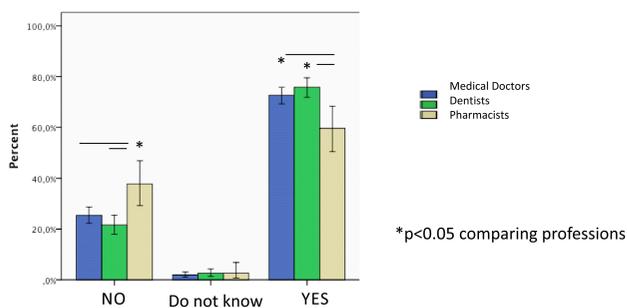
A form with a set of 15 questions and their correspondent multiple choice options for answering was designed. Basically, question focus on daily practice load, reporting situations, reporting behaviors, and to whom the ADRs are usually reported were chosen for this survey. The on-line form allows easy answering, estimated in 3-5 minutes.

A total of 713 medical doctors, 468 dentists, and 114 pharmacist, responded the survey.

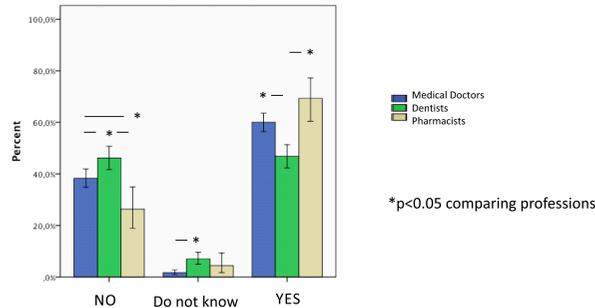
The percentage of answers to the main questions by medical doctors, dentists and pharmacists are resumed in Graphics 1-6.

After reporting opinions, the participants will receive a feedback about their reporting role in practice. These materials will be exposed to allow discussions.

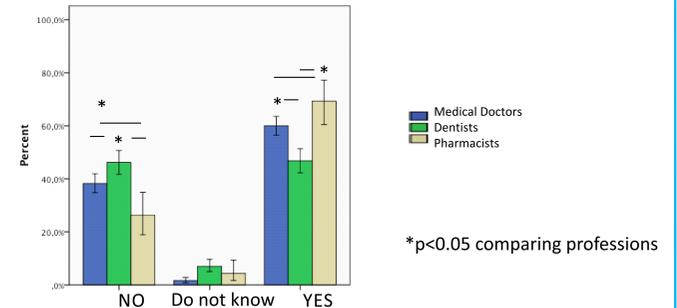
Graphic 1. Question number 3. Do you consider that you have enough time to mention about cautions, warnings and adverse events of the medication that you prescribe during the consult of the patient?



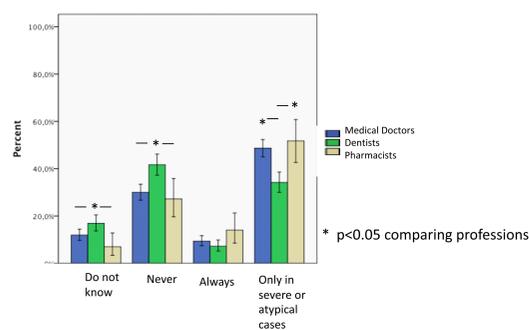
Graphic 2. Question number 4. Do you consider that the mention of an adverse event to the patient may affect patient adherence to the treatment?



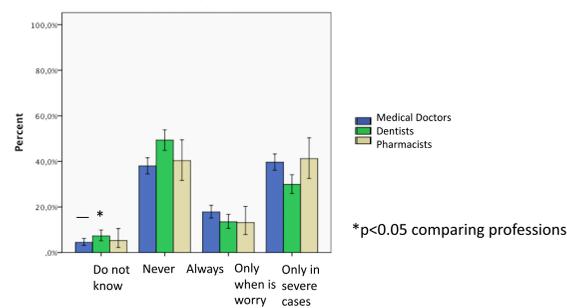
Graphic 3. Question number 8. Do you happen to know where do you must report an adverse event?



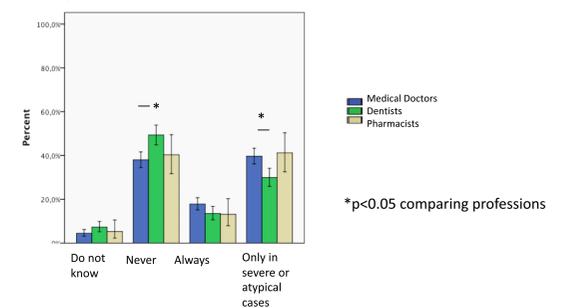
Graphic 4. Question number 10. Do you notify adverse events to your regulatory authorities?



Graphic 5. Question number 11. Do you inform an adverse event to your responsible colleague of the area and/or institutional department at your work?



Graphic 6. Question number 14. Do you inform the lack of efficacy to the developer laboratory or to the responsible person at your work?



Conclusions

These preliminary results of this survey showed the need to work on the awareness of Argentinean health professionals responsible for primary care. Also, this survey helped to

demonstrate to health professionals their important role in the ADRs report and how this contribute with the safety of the products and the patients.

References

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