

This is the pre-peer reviewed version of the following article: Micallef, Ricarda, Shamoon, Juanne and Kayyali, Reem (2017) A survey to determine if pharmacists are equipped to deal with the growing problem of dementia, *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice*, 25(S2), pp11., which has been published in final form at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/ijpp.12417>. This article may be used for non-commercial purposes in accordance with Wiley Terms and Conditions for Self-Archiving.

A survey to determine if pharmacists are equipped to deal with the growing Problem of Dementia

Shamoon, J. Micallef, R. Kayyali, R.

Introduction

Introduction

Dementia is a convoluted condition affecting the patient directly and also affecting the people around the patient such as family members and carers.¹ Due to the continuing increasing prevalence of dementia and the progressive characteristic associated with it, early disease management and treatment is of utmost importance. Pharmacists can support both patients and carers. Training programmes are available to pharmacists, including Dementia Friends, Dementia Champions and programmes run by the Centre for Pharmacy postgraduate Education (CPPE) to help improve the care of dementia patients.

Focal points

- To identify current training, confidence and knowledge of dementia by pharmacists.
- Although confident with dealing with dementia patients and their carers, few pharmacists had participated in training.
- Dementia training needs to be further developed and encouraged for pharmacists.

Aims

This study aimed to understand the current role pharmacists play in dementia care.

Objectives

The study objectives were to identify training completed along with confidence and knowledge relating to dementia.

Methods

A cross sectional survey aimed at community pharmacists practising in West London pharmacies was conducted, with a sample size of 135 pharmacies. The Survey consists of four different segments, consisting mostly of tick box questions and two open questions. The lead researcher manually handed out and collected the surveys along with a participation letter. The data was analysed using Microsoft Excel.

Ethics Statement

Ethics committee approval was granted for this study.

Results

Low response rate (33.3%, n=45/135) was attained. Surprisingly, less than half of pharmacists (42.2%, n=19/45) had received dementia training. The majority of pharmacists that had received training had undertaken CPPE training (47.4%, n=9/19) and Dementia Friends (52.6%, n=10/19), with only a small fraction of pharmacists (26.3%, n=5/19) undertaking Dementia champions level of training. This is unfortunate, as the majority of pharmacists (80%, n=4/5) that have undertaken the programme found it "useful." Over half of the pharmacists (64.4%, n=29) felt "confident to a certain extent" in advising carers regarding support of dementia patients and over two third of pharmacists (71.1%, n= 32) rated themselves as "mostly confident" to a certain extent at counselling dementia patients. Frailty was the most commonly (55.5%, n= 25) recognised co-morbidity of dementia, while only one pharmacist (2.2%, n=1) recognised seizures. Finally, a high number of pharmacists (77.7%, n= 35) claimed to be aware of the anticholinergic burden. However, this was untrue as antihistamines (cetirizine and chlorpromazine) were only recognised by just over one fifth of pharmacists (22.2%, n=10) as having an anti- cholinergic burden.

Discussion

This study has shown that, although it exists, dementia training needs to be further developed as pharmacists displayed a lack of knowledge about medication induced dementia and the co-morbidities associated with dementia. The most substantial limitation in this research is the poor response rate thus results cannot be generalised. Further work includes increasing the sample size.

References

1. Van der Flier, W M. "Epidemiology And Risk Factors Of Dementia". *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & psychiatry*. N.p., 2016. Web. 2 Dec. 2016.

Keywords: Disease screening, Prevention