

PATTERN OF DRUG USE AND THEIR SAFETY PROFILE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE IN A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

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Background:

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a global health concern and the fourth leading cause of death worldwide. Treatment of COPD poses a challenge to the treating physician as treatment requires specific combination of drugs, thereby increasing the risk of adverse drug events (ADEs) proportionally. Therefore, it is paramount to maintain a balance between the number of medications prescribed and achieving treatment goals with minimal adverse effects. In this respect, drug utilization studies have become a plausible means in evaluating the healthcare systems.

Aims and objectives:

To evaluate pattern of drug use and study the safety profile of drugs used in the management of COPD.

Materials and Methods:

A prospective cross sectional observational study was undertaken from January 2017 to January 2018 in a teaching hospital. Standard case record form

was used to collect the information regarding demographic data, clinical data, drug use and adverse drug reactions. Drug use indicators were assessed according to WHO guidelines. Descriptive statistics was used for data analysis.

Results:

Totally 150 patients who attended General Medicine OPD were included in the study. These include 85 men and 65 women. The average age of the patient was 58.28 years. The average number of drugs prescribed per patient was 4.33. Beta-2 agonist was the most commonly used class of drug (40.38%). The maximum ADRs observed were possible according to WHO causality assessment

Conclusion:

Patients were prescribed a combination of drugs of various classes for the management of COPD. Over all, polypharmacy was noticed when compared to the WHO standards.

Key words:

COPD, Drug utilization, ADR, Beta-2 agonist