



Knowledge, Attitude and Practice on the Use of Over-the-Counter Medicines (OTC) Among Community Residents in Pasay City: A Descriptive - Comparative Study

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Background & Objectives



The use of over-the-counter (OTC) medicines with a high risk of self-medication is prevalent worldwide. Thus, the purpose of this study was to determine if the community residents of Pasay City acquire poor knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding over-the-counter medication use considering their age, sex, and economic status.

Methods

Using cluster sampling with random sampling techniques, a descriptive-comparative study was conducted on Pasay City barangay residents. Ninety respondents completed a modified, structured questionnaire regarding their knowledge, attitudes, and practice with over-the-counter medicines. In addition, demographic data such as age, sex, and economic status were gathered to determine if these factors influenced the participants' understanding and behavior regarding self-medication. Descriptive analysis, one-way ANOVA, and an independent T-test were used to examine the respondents' sociodemographic, knowledge, attitude, and practice levels. Statistical significance was determined using a P value less than 0.05. To ensure that ethical considerations were met, informed consent was sought from all participants prior to data collection.

Results & Discussion

The study's findings exhibit above-average knowledge (7.86 ± 3.172), a positive attitude (30.23 ± 4.490), and good practice (62.84 ± 10.224) in the use of over-the-counter medicines. There was no significant difference in the respondents' knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding the use of OTC medicines in terms of age, sex, or employment status.



Conclusion

This study highlights the importance of education campaigns on proper medication and the potential risks associated with OTC medicines, as well as the need for a collaborative effort between healthcare providers, regulatory agencies, and the public to ensure the safe and effective use of OTC medicines, thus resulting in better knowledge, attitude, and practice.

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Introduction



The use of over-the-counter (OTC) medicines with a high risk of self-medication is prevalent worldwide. Its accessibility helped consumers in treating several conditions that did not need medical attention and guidance of healthcare experts. Considering our research gap, the study highlights the importance of education campaigns on proper medication and the potential risks associated with OTC medicines, as well as the need for a collaborative effort between healthcare providers, regulatory agencies, and the public to ensure the safe and effective use of OTC medicines, thus resulting in better knowledge, attitude, and practice.

Objective

This study determined the community residents of Pasay City current knowledge, attitude, and practice on the use of over-the-counter medicine.

Summary

KNOWLEDGE

With high scores:

- Which population needs caution when taking OTC medicines
- Response to an adverse effect
- If OTC medicines are approved by the FDA
- Safety of OTC medicines when combined with prescription medicines

With low scores:

- Which medication belongs to OTC medicines
- Whether all OTC medicines are safe and effective

ATTITUDE

With positive attitude:

- Not all OTC medicines are safe during pregnancy
- Safety of OTC for self-medication
- OTC medicines are cheaper and convenient

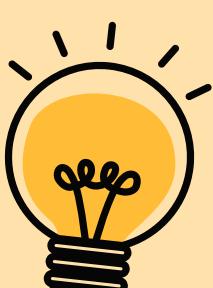
With moderate attitude:

- Corrosive effects of painkillers
- Effect of environmental conditions on OTC medicines
- Effect of OTC medicines on the effectiveness of other medications
- Use of liquid medicines/ear/eyedrop after one month of opening.

PRACTICE

With good practice:

- Checking of expiry dates
- Reading of medicine instructions/leaflets before use
- Discarding of OTC medicines
- Consulting a doctor or pharmacist prior to OTC use
- Going to a health facility if OTC medicines do not have effect.



With bad practice:

- Browsing the internet for drug information before OTC medicine use

Conclusion

The findings revealed that respondents' knowledge of the use of over-the-counter medicines was above average; they cultivate a positive attitude and exhibit good practices. Lastly, there were no significant differences between knowledge, attitude, and practice when the respondents were divided into groups based on their age, sex, or employment status.

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