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Evaluating the Knowledge of Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting Among Final Year Health Sciences Students at the University of Limpopo, South Africa

Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are one of the leading causes of death in the world. The ADRs contribute substantially to patient morbidity and hospitalisation in South Africa. This study aimed to evaluate the knowledge of ADR reporting among final year health sciences students in the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) at the University of Limpopo. This study was descriptive, quantitative and cross-sectional in nature using stratified sampling method to determine the sample (n=126). Data were collected using researcher administered questionnaire from final year students of Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy and Medicine. Data were analysed using SPSS v28.0. Descriptive statistics were expressed as frequencies and percentages and Chi-square test was used to determine the association between various FHS disciplines and understanding of their role in reporting ADRs, importance of reporting ADRs and readiness and preparedness of reporting ADRs. Significance for this study was set at $P \leq 0.05$. More than three quarters of the FHS students understand their role in reporting adverse drug reactions (79.3%) and know the importance of reporting (78.7%). However, less than half (42.8%) of the participants reported their preparedness and readiness to report ADRs. Significant differences ($P < 0.05$) in reporting between various disciplines of FHS were observed with various aspects of understanding their role in reporting ADRs, importance of reporting ADRs, and readiness and preparedness of reporting of ADRs. The study results revealed that pharmacy students had a better understanding of their role in reporting ADRs, felt it was important to report ADRs and were well prepared to report ADRs. This study findings clearly demonstrated the need for integration of pharmacovigilance activities in all the curriculums of FHS.

Keywords: adverse drug reactions, pharmacovigilance, knowledge, reporting

Biography:

Dr Rajesh Vagiri, is a senior lecturer at Department of Pharmacy lecturing pharmacology and pharmaceutical care to fourth year pharmacy students. He is a honorary research fellow at the University of Kwazulu-Natal. He worked as a manager pharmaceutical services, Department of Health for 13 years prior accepting his current position at University of Limpopo. He is currently supervising three (3) PhD students and four (4) master's students from various universities in South Africa. His areas of interest are HIV/AIDS, mental health and pharmacovigilance. He has published five (5) peer-reviewed articles and presented at various national and international conferences.