

Evaluation of Prescriptions Drug-Drug Interactions in a Public Hospital in Al-Kharj, Saudi Arabia

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SUMMARY. Drug-drug interactions (DDIs) are one of the most considerable problems in drug prescriptions, the consequences of these interactions range from no harmful effect to drug associated morbidity and mortality. The aim of the present study is to determine the prevalence of potential DDIs in one public hospital in Al-Kharj. The data were collected from patients' medical records in one public hospital. After that, the data were analyzed for the potential drug interactions using Drug-Reax®. Out of the 800 prescriptions, 290 have at least 1 drug-drug interaction (36.25 %). The majority of the DDIs in our study were of moderate severity. The prevalence of potential DDIs is high among patients in the outpatient settings. Therefore, we recommend that the physicians and pharmacists have to use software that detects the DDIs to avoid harmful interactions and also pharmacists should check for drug interactions before dispensing the prescriptions.

RESUMEN. Las interacciones farmacológicas (DDI) son uno de los problemas más considerables en la prescripción de medicamentos; las consecuencias de estas interacciones van desde ningún efecto nocivo hasta la morbilidad y mortalidad asociadas al fármaco. El objetivo del presente estudio es determinar la prevalencia de DDI potenciales en un hospital público en Al-Kharj. Los datos se obtuvieron de los registros médicos de los pacientes en un hospital público. Después de eso, los datos se analizaron por posibles interacciones farmacológicas con Drug-Reax®. De las 800 recetas, 290 tienen al menos 1 interacción fármaco-fármaco (36.25%). La mayoría de los DDI en nuestro estudio fueron de gravedad moderada. La prevalencia de DDI potenciales es alta entre los pacientes ambulatorios. Por lo tanto, recomendamos que los médicos y farmacéuticos tengan que usar un software que detecte los DDI para evitar interacciones dañinas y también los farmacéuticos deben verificar las interacciones entre medicamentos antes de dispensar las recetas.

KEY WORDS: drug-drug interactions, evaluation, prescriptions, public hospital.

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