



ABSTRACTS: VOLUME 6, SPECIAL ISSUE

ABSTRACT

Beyond Medications: Understanding the Perspectives of Community Pharmacists on Non-pharmaceutical Products in Palestine.

Rafeef Jamal Al-Thwaib, Tasnim Yousef Mujahed, Rania Ghanem, Maher Khmour

Palestine, Al-Quds University, Faculty of Pharmacy, Pharmacy.

Background: Non-pharmaceutical NP products are not classified as pharmaceuticals or medical devices, neither they include over-the-counter nor prescription drugs. Despite being highly consumable preparations intended for internal or external use by humans, NP products are found to be rapidly growing and distributed in pharmacies such as; skincare, hair care, oral, dental care and baby care products etc.

Objectives: This study aimed to determine the knowledge, attitude and practice of the Palestinian community pharmacists toward non-pharmaceutical products.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was designed. The data were collected via a self-administered online questionnaire as well as a paper based questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of five sections: Socio-demographic information, bestselling and the top selling non-pharmaceutical products, assessment of the pharmacists' knowledge about NP, Pharmacists' attitude and pharmacists' practice toward these NP preparations.

Results: A total of 401 community pharmacists participated in this study. Female accounted for (68.1%). The mainly sold products in pharmacies were pharmaceutical preparations (86.8%), where NP products were sold in about (13.2%). Among these NP products, skin care and mother-baby products were the bestsellers (83.5%), (74.8%) respectively. However, oral care products and cosmetic products were found to be the least sold agents (47.4%), (25.2%) respectively. Pharmacists showed good mean



knowledge 3.44, mean positive attitude 3.25 and mean positive practice 3.73. All scales had a Cronbach alpha coefficient >0.7 , indicating inter-item reliability. Female had better knowledge than male (3.52 vs. 3.26, $P < 0.001$), working experience 5-15 years had more positive attitude (3.4, $F=9.78$, $P < 0.001$) and being age 31-40 years was more practice of selling non-pharmaceutical products (3.8, $F=3.46$, $P < 0.01$) and showed responsibility for providing patient counseling on non-pharmaceutical products.

Conclusions: Community pharmacists showed positive knowledge, attitude and practice toward non-pharmaceutical products. Furthermore, they demonstrated social accountability by taking on the duty of offering patient counseling regarding non-pharmaceutical products.

Keywords: Community pharmacist, Community pharmacy, non-pharmaceutical products, knowledge, attitude, practice, role of pharmacists