

## Medication Error: A Study

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### ABSTRACT

Medication errors are too common in medical practice; they are arising as a result of the market flooded with such a huge number of drug products and irrational drug usage. The study of medication error was conducted in a community pharmacy attached to a tertiary care referral hospital with teaching institution. The study was conducted for a short span of 4 months with the help of a data collection form the required data for the study was collected. About 3000 prescriptions were collected, in these prescriptions 305(10%) found to have some sort of errors, of which 49 cases (16%) were major errors and 256 (84%) cases were minor errors. Sex distributions among errors were identified 59% of males and 42% of females. Maximum error was noticed in the paediatric group (29%), secondary in age group above 60 year (21%), age group with minimum error was 20-30 year. Medication errors are a significant and growing problem with in the health care community that result in a tragic loss of life and higher costs to the system.

**Keywords:** Medication errors, Prescription errors.

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### INTRODUCTION

A medication error is an episode associated with the use of medication that should be preventable through effective control systems medication errors are too common in medical practice, they are arising as a result of the market flooded with such a huge number of drug products and irrational drug usage.

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of the study conducted was to find out the frequency of medication error occurring in a hospital setup and to evaluate the role of community pharmacist in medication error reporting and prevention.

### METHODOLOGY

The study of medication error was conducted in a community pharmacy attached to a tertiary care referral hospital with teaching institution. The hospital is one of the largest hospitals with a variety of modern therapeutic facilities. It is a 1500 bedded hospital with fully established various medical departments. The study was conducted for a short span of 4 months with the help of a data collection form and the required data for the study was collected. A perspective analysis of all prescriptions was conducted. Each prescription were scrutinised

individually and necessary details entered in the format proper counselling was also given to improve the compliance of the patient.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Data collection was carried out over 4 month period rightly from June – September. About 3000 prescriptions were collected, in these prescriptions 305(10%) found to have some sort of errors of which 49 cases (16%) were major errors and 256 (84%) cases were minor errors (Fig-1). Sex distributions among errors were identified 58% of males and 42% of females (Fig-2). Maximum error was noticed in the paediatric group (29%) and age group with minimum error was 20 – 30 year. As observed in table medication errors are somewhat frequently encountered in a health care system. The study reveals the frequency of medication errors, type of medication errors, age group among which medication error more common and reasons for medication errors. Also shown the category of drug for which medication error encountered frequently. They are the frequently prescribed market leaders – antibiotics. The study also put light on the importance of patient counselling for drug compliance.

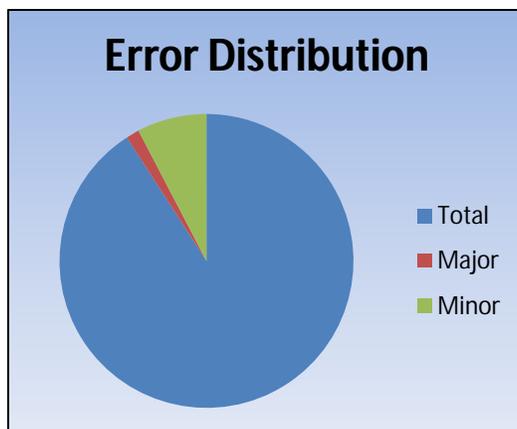


Fig. 1: Error distribution

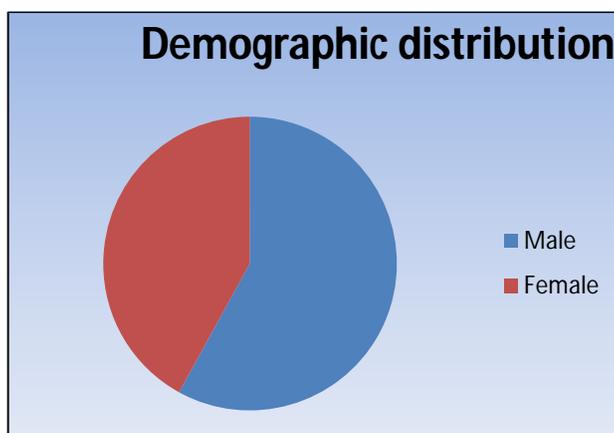


Fig. 2: Demographic Distribution

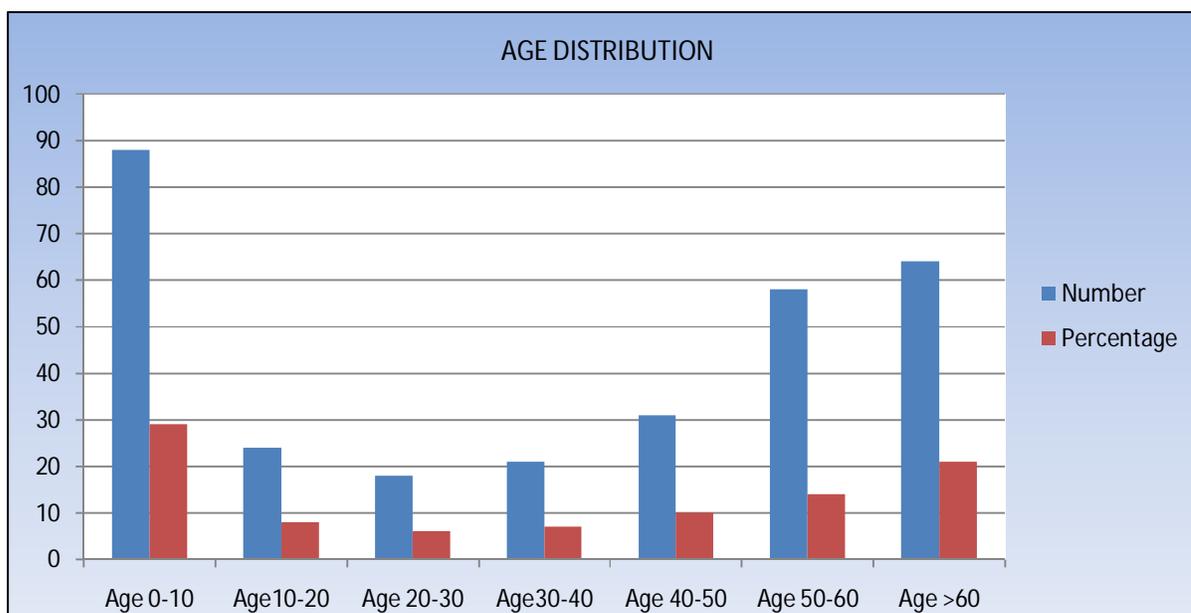


Fig. 3: Age Distribution

**CONCLUSION**

Medications errors can be reduced and prevented to a very good extent by suitable intervention by community pharmacist. Patient counselling plays a wonderful roll in the achievement of drug compliance and therapeutic goal. Medication errors are an unfortunate part of the healthcare delivery system. Medication error reduction programs are necessary to achieve improvement in patient care and to satisfy the public demand for a safer healthcare system.

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