

KNOWLEDGE, PERCEPTION, AND ATTITUDE OF PHARMACISTS, PHYSICIANS, AND PATIENTS TOWARD GENERIC DRUG IN YOGYAKARTA PROVINCE, INDONESIA



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Introduction

Generic drugs are equal in efficacy and safety with original drugs yet more affordable. However, there are still many parties who doubt the quality of generic drugs. This study aimed to determine pharmacists, physicians, and patients' knowledge, perceptions, and attitude towards generic drugs in Yogyakarta Province, Indonesia.

Methods and Materials

A cross-sectional study using convenience sampling technique

Study subject:

198 pharmacists, 102 general practitioners, and 110 patients in the Yogyakarta Province spread over 5 Regencies.

Research instrument:

a questionnaire consisted of sociodemographic and factual data, statements related to knowledge, perception, and attitude questions

Research instrument:

Aspect of knowledge, perception, and attitude: Definition, Quality, Regulation, Cost, Efficacy, Safety, Acceptability, Price, Distribution, Access.

Data analysis:

Descriptive analysis, Mann Whitney and Spearman correlation tests

Time of data collection:

January to February 2020

Results

Table 1. The level of knowledge, perceptions, and attitude of respondents towards generic drugs

	Pharmacist			Physician			Patient		
	Knowledge	Perception	Attitude	Knowledge	Perception	Attitude	Knowledge	Perception	Attitude
Mean	81.4	73.2	85.27	78.7	73.4	86.7	68.3	68.6	59.1
Median	87.5	72.7	83.33	75.0	73.9	85.7	71.4	70.0	58.0
SD	14.7	7.7	14.26	12.0	6.3	14.6	22.2	9.6	15.8

Aspects of knowledge need to improve:

- Pharmacist:
 - ✓ “Generic products that meet the bioequivalence requirements are not necessarily equivalent to the patent drug/originator”: 58% answer correctly
 - ✓ “The pharmacist should not consult the prescriber when performing a generic replacement”: 62% answer correctly
- Physician:
 - ✓ “In general, generic drugs are produced with a license from the inventor or the developer”: 37% answer correctly
 - ✓ “Generic drugs are marketed after the expiration of patents or other exclusive rights”: 54% answer correctly
- Patient:
 - ✓ “Branded drugs are more effective than generic drugs”: 48% answer correctly
 - ✓ “Generic drugs take longer to give effect”: 56% answer correctly
 - ✓ “The composition of the active substance of a generic drug is the same as that of a branded drug”: 51% answer correctly

Aspects of perception need to improve:

- Pharmacist:
 - ✓ “The price does not affect the quality of the generic drugs.”: 37% negative perception
 - ✓ “Branded drug names are easier to remember than generic drugs”: 48% negative perception
- Physician:
 - ✓ “The price does not affect the quality of the drug”: 48% negative perception
 - ✓ “Trademarked drug packaging is better than generic drugs”: 63% negative perception
- Patient:
 - ✓ “I will ask the physician or pharmacist to change the brand-name drug prescribed to a generic drug because it is cheaper.”: 60% negative perception
 - ✓ “I prefer to be prescribed generics over brand-name drugs.”: 46% negative perception
 - ✓ “I will ask the physician or pharmacist to change the generic prescribed drug to the branded drug because it works more effectively”: 41% negative perception

Attitude:

- Pharmacist:
 - ✓ 95% have changed branded drugs to generic drugs, especially for people who cannot afford them.
 - ✓ 99% I provide sufficient explanation on the reasons for choosing generic drugs for patients.
 - ✓ 93% recommend using generic drugs to other people.
 - ✓ 91% give the patients generic drugs.
- Physician:
 - ✓ 97% consider the cost of medication when prescribing medication.
 - ✓ 97% advise their family to use generic drugs.
 - ✓ 94% mainly prescribe generic drugs for their patients.
- Patient:
 - ✓ 88% state switching branded drugs to generic drugs is giving negative results for treatment (my condition is getting worse)
 - ✓ 80% don't mind when the physician or pharmacist changes their medication to a generic drug
 - ✓ 89% refused when generic drugs were prescribed
 - ✓ 84% refused when the pharmacist offered them generic drugs

There were significant relationships between some of characteristics of respondents versus either knowledge or perception or attitude of respondents toward generic drugs.

There were also significant correlations between knowledge versus perception, knowledge versus attitude, as well as perception versus attitude towards generic drug among respondents..

Conclusions

This study informs that, in general, the knowledge, perceptions, and attitude of pharmacists, physicians, and patients towards generic drugs were pretty good. However, such efforts still need to be conducted to improve the knowledge, perceptions, and attitude toward generic drugs hence increasing the use of generic drugs.

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