

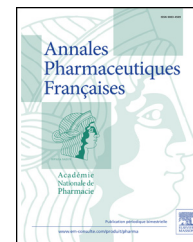


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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Publications presenting negative impacts of pharmacists[☆]



Publications comportant des retombées négatives de l'activité de pharmacie clinique

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Received 20 November 2015; received in revised form 9 May 2016; accepted 11 May 2016
Available online 27 July 2016

KEYWORDS

Negative impact;
Pharmacists;
Publication;
Review;
Outcomes

Summary

Objectives. – The main objective was to evaluate the rate of publications with at least one indicator of the negative impact of clinical pharmaceuticals activity.

Methods. – This is a descriptive and retrospective literature review. A literature search was conducted using Pubmed. Articles published between 2009–2014 that described the role and impacts of pharmacists were included. We calculated the rate of publication containing at least one negative indicator. We collected the indicators with negative results.

Results. – A total of 203 articles were included. Nine articles (4%) that had at least one indicator of negative impact were identified. A total of 66% (6/9) were conducted in the United States. The study designs of the articles included were a meta-analysis ($n=1$), a systematic review ($n=1$), randomized studies ($n=2$), pre-post studies ($n=3$), a cohort study ($n=1$) and a survey ($n=1$). Nine indicators of negative impact were identified.

Conclusion. – There were nine publications with at least one negative indicator of the impact of clinical pharmacy activity. While there are a large number of studies about the positive impact of clinical pharmacy activities; the publication of negative results should be encouraged.

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[☆] This article was the subject of a communication in Toronto, 31 January–4 February 2015, at the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacy – CSHP's 46th Professional Practice Conference (PPC).

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MOTS CLÉS

Impact négatif ;
Pharmaciens ;
Publication ;
Revue ;
Indicateurs

Résumé

Objectifs. – L'objectif principal était d'évaluer le taux de publications comportant des retombées négatives de l'activité de pharmacie clinique.

Méthode. – Revue de la littérature descriptive et rétrospective. Une revue de littérature a été réalisée sur Pubmed. Les articles publiés entre 2009 et 2014 décrivant le rôle et l'impact du pharmacien ont été inclus. Le taux des publications contenant au moins un indicateur négatif a été calculé et les indicateurs négatifs ont été collectés.

Résultats. – Un total de 203 articles ont été inclus. Neuf articles (4%) contenant au moins un indicateur négatif de l'activité pharmaceutique ont été identifiés. Un total de 66% (6/9) des études étaient menées aux États-Unis. Les articles inclus étaient des méta-analyses ($n=1$), revues systématiques ($n=1$), études randomisées contrôlées ($n=2$), études pré-post ($n=3$), étude de cohorte ($n=1$) et une enquête ($n=1$). Neuf indicateurs d'impact ont été identifiés.

Conclusion. – Neuf publications avec au moins un indicateur négatif de l'activité de pharmacie clinique ont été recensées. Bien qu'il y ait un nombre important de publications positive sur l'impact du pharmacien, la publication négative de résultats demeure limitée et doit être encouragée.

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Introduction

There is a tendency to publish mainly studies with positive results. This publication bias impedes the advancement of knowledge. The publication of studies with negative results does not have a scientific value and need to be published in order not to skew research findings [1,2]. There are journals specifically dedicated to negative results such as *The Journal of Negative Results in Biomedicine*. Also, the creation of databases to register clinical research studies before they start can improve the transparency of research methods and help reduce bias [3].

Pharmacy practice research is a type of research aimed at measuring the impact of various models of pharmacy practice (e.g. retail, hospital, academic, wholesale). Therefore, pharmacists may describe their roles, their activities and their impacts on patients' health outcomes, health costs, safe healthcare delivery, etc. While the importance of clinical research has been acknowledged for many decades, interest in evaluating professional practice is more recent, though there are many hundreds of publications that show the positive impact of pharmacists. To our best knowledge, there are no studies evaluating negative results in professional practice research.

Aware of the growing interest of pharmacy practice research, our research team has created a website that gathers evidence that describes the roles and impact of pharmacists [4]. Over the course of this project, we found publications with at least one negative result of the impact of pharmacists [5,6]. This project led to a wider examination of the negative impact of pharmacists' activities.

Methods

This is a descriptive and retrospective literature review. The main objective was to evaluate the rate of publications with at least one indicator of the negative impact of clinical pharmacy activity. The secondary objective was to provide an

overview of the articles that reported the negative impact of clinical pharmacy activity.

Literature search

A literature search strategy was defined by the research team (i.e. AG; AL; DL and JFB) based on the articles we know as containing negative indicators of pharmacists' activities on our website [4]. The search strategy was adopted through consensus of the research team (i.e. AG; AL; DL and JFB). The literature search was conducted by a research assistant (AG) on Pubmed on August 28th, 2014 with the following search strategy: ("pharmacists"[MeSH terms] or "pharmacists"[all fields] and "intervention"[all fields]) and impact [all fields] and ("2009/08/28"[PDat]: "2014/08/26"[PDat]). Articles that described the role and impact of pharmacists were included. All references were screened by two independent research assistants (AG and AL). If any discrepancies in inclusion or exclusion occurred, another researcher was consulted (JFB). Study selection was accomplished through three phases of screening. During the first phase, titles were reviewed for relevance. During the second phase, abstracts were reviewed for relevance and finally in the last phase full-text articles were reviewed.

We then searched for articles with at least one indicator of the negative impact of clinical pharmacy activity. An impact of clinical pharmacy activity was considered negative if the authors presented at least one indicator for which the negative impact of the clinical pharmacy activity on at least one outcome was statistically significant (i.e. $P < 0.05$).

Rate of publications with at least one negative indicator

A rate of publications was calculated by dividing the number of articles with at least one indicator of the negative impact

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