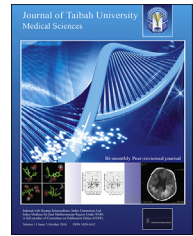




Taibah University

Journal of Taibah University Medical Sciences

www.sciencedirect.com



Original Article

The public purchase of aphrodisiac products without prescriptions in the Alahsa region of KSA



Amal K. Suleiman, PhD^{a,*}, Tahir M. Khan, PhD^b, Promise M. Emeka, PhD^c,
Sohail Ahmad, PhD^d and Sarab M. Mansoor, PhD^e

^a Department of Pharmaceutical Science, Princess Nora University, Riyadh, KSA

^b School of Pharmacy, Monash University, Bandar Sunway Selangor, Malaysia

^c College of Clinical Pharmacy, King Faisal University, Alahsa, KSA

^d Faculty of Pharmacy, University Technology Mara, Punchak Alam, Malaysia

^e Faculty of Pharmacy, The University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Received 6 April 2016; revised 11 May 2016; accepted 15 May 2016; Available online 11 June 2016

المخلص

أهداف البحث: للتحقيق في الطلبات على أهم المنتجات المثيرة للريفة الجنسية التي تُصرف بوصفة طبية فقط، عبر الصيدليات المجتمعية في منطقة الأحساء من المملكة العربية السعودية.

طرق البحث: أجريت دراسة مقطعية بين الصيدليات المنتقاة في الجزء الشرقي من منطقة الأحساء، من المملكة العربية السعودية. وزعت استبيانات ذاتية التقييم على ٧٣ من صيدليات المجتمع الموافقة. وشُفرت الاستبيانات المكتملة، وروجعت للتأكد من صحتها، ثم أُدخلت في قاعدة بيانات تم دراستها باستخدام النسخة ١٩ من برنامج الحزمة الإحصائية للعلوم الاجتماعية. وتم تحليل البيانات باستخدام التحليل الوصفي.

النتائج: كانت نسبة الاستجابة للاستطلاع ٧٢.٦٪. وأجاب غالبية الصيدليات بتوفر كلا من الفياجرا والسياليس في صيدلياتهم. وكانت أكثر المضاعفات الصحية للرجال التي سجلها الصيدلاء: اختلال الانتصاب (٢٢.٦٠١٪)، يتبعه الدفق المُبْتَسَر (٧.٥٠٤٪)، وانخفاض الرغبة الجنسية (١.٩٠١٪). كما أجاب عدد من الصيدليات (١٦.٩٠٩٪) بأن الفياجرا والسياليس هما الأكثر شعبية لعلاج الدفق المُبْتَسَر. واقترح حوالي ٣٢ من الصيدليات (٦٠.٣٪) البخاخات الموجهة كعلاج أولي، بينما اعتبر ١٣ منهم (٢٤.٥٪) مضادات الاكتئاب الاختيار الأول لحالات الدفق المُبْتَسَر.

الاستنتاجات: إن صرف أدوية تحتاج إلى وصفة طبية، بلا وصفة طبية، بما في ذلك منتجات التحفيز الجنسي، واسع الانتشار في المملكة العربية السعودية. ولازال غالبية الصيدليات يخالفون قوانين الصيدلة دون علم بالأضرار المحتملة على المجتمع في المملكة العربية السعودية. ينبغي على أصحاب القرار التخطيط للتدريب وإعطاء الشهادات لضمان إدراك الصيدلة والتزامهم بالقوانين الوطنية للصناعة. كما ينبغي على تلك الوكالات التأكد من أن الممارسات في الصيدليات آمنة وأخلاقية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: حكيمة؛ صيدلية المجتمع؛ المملكة العربية السعودية؛ الأدوية التي تُصرف بوصفة؛ فياجرا

Abstract

Objectives: To investigate requests for common prescription-only aphrodisiacs across community pharmacies in the Alahsa region of KSA.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted among conveniently selected pharmacies in the eastern region of Alahsa, KSA. Self-administered questionnaires were directly distributed to 73 consenting community pharmacies. Completed questionnaires were coded, reviewed for accuracy and entered into a database in Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (Version 19.0; IBM Corporation, Somers, NY). The data were analysed using descriptive analysis.

Results: The survey response rate was 72.60%. With respect to the availability of aphrodisiacs and sexual supplements, most of the pharmacists disclosed that they had stocks of Viagra and Cialis. The most common men's health complication reported by pharmacists was erectile dysfunction ($n = 12$, 22.6%), followed by premature ejaculation ($n = 4$, 7.5%) and low sexual desire ($n = 1$, 1.9%). Less than half of pharmacists ($n = 9$, 16.9%) cited Viagra and Cialis as preferred drugs for treating premature ejaculation. Approximately 32 (60.3%) proposed delayed sprays as the first line of action, while 13 (24.5%) considered antidepressants as their first-choice drug.

Conclusion: The non-prescription dispensing of prescription-only medicines, including sexual enhancement products, is common in KSA. The majority of pharmacists continue to violate pharmaceutical laws

* Corresponding address: Department of Pharmaceutical Science, School of Pharmacy, Princess Nora University, Riyadh, KSA.

E-mail: albarqok@yahoo.com (A.K. Suleiman)

Peer review under responsibility of Taibah University.



Production and hosting by Elsevier

without recognizing the potential harm they are causing their communities. Stakeholders should organize training and certification initiatives to ensure that pharmacists are aware of and comply with national pharmaceutical laws. These agencies should also ensure that pharmacies maintain safe and ethical practices.

Keywords: Aphoristic; Community pharmacy; KSA; Prescription-only medicines; Viagra

© 2016 The Authors.

Production and hosting by Elsevier Ltd on behalf of Taibah University. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Introduction

The over-the-counter or consumer-directed sale of aphrodisiac medicine is an emerging problem in KSA. Scientifically proven aphrodisiacs should only be prescribed and dispensed by legal, authorized medical personnel.¹ Currently, however, the non-prescription request and patient-directed use of medicines remains a major challenge, as non-prescription sale is a frequent practice in pharmacies in KSA.² Most community pharmacies may primarily be driven by profits, meaning that the desire to meet monthly sales targets compels the pharmacist to dispense medicine without a prescription.^{3–5}

Men's health issues, including the problem of premature ejaculation (PE), are a major issue affecting 30–40% of sexually active men.⁶ In a study conducted in KSA,⁷ the prevalence of PE was found to be 32.4% among patients below 50 years of age, compared to 67.6% among patients over 50 years of age. The incidence of PE was found to be significant among patients with cardiovascular disease and diabetes mellitus.⁷ Interestingly, various observational studies have reported the beneficial effects of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) among patients with PE.^{8,9} In addition to PE, erectile dysfunction (ED) is another main challenge to men's sexual health and is considered a major cause of poor relations and sexual satisfaction among young and middle-aged men.⁸ Phosphodiesterase 5 (PDE5) inhibitors are currently the first choice treatment for erectile dysfunction (ED) among a wide variety of patients.¹⁰ Given the presence of social marketing programs and the affordable price of PDE5-inhibitor drugs such as sildenafil, erectile dysfunction has remained in the public eye.¹¹ Researchers¹² found that Saudi men frequently submitted requests for oral anti-erectile dysfunction drugs (AEDD) without a prescription.¹² While¹³ reported prevalence of ED of greater than 40.0% among Arab men. Common risk factors associated with ED include diabetes mellitus, hypertension, smoking, alcohol consumption and drug addiction.¹⁴

However, little is currently known about non-prescription requests for aphrodisiacs in KSA. Not enough data are available to meaningfully discuss the situation in rural areas of the eastern province (Alahsa) of KSA. Previous studies of Alahsa have reported the frequent non-prescription sale of

antibiotics.^{4–6} However, it is not known how severe this situation is in regards to aphrodisiacs. Many questions need to be answered, such as the following: Which age groups visit pharmacies frequently? What products do they request, and how do pharmacists respond? This study was conducted to address this gap by investigating requests for common non-prescribed aphrodisiacs in community pharmacies in Alahsa, KSA.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional study was performed among conveniently selected pharmacies in the eastern region of Alahsa, KSA. A self-administered questionnaire was developed to meet the objectives of the study. Data collection took place from 1 July 2014 through 31 September 2014.

Study design

In this cross-sectional study, self-administered questionnaires were disseminated directly to 73 consenting community pharmacies in Alahsa, KSA. The researchers distributed the questionnaires to the community pharmacies with an explanatory cover letter and prepaid return envelope. After explaining the objective of the study, the researchers requested that the pharmacists complete a consent form to participate in this study.

The instrument

The questionnaire comprises three sections. The **first section** consists of five questions about respondents' demographics, including nationality, age, qualification level, experience and pharmacy type. **Section two** focuses on the availability of medicines that improve or enhance sexual performance. This section consists of five questions that include the types of sexual drugs/products available, the frequency of patients' requests, common complications, the age groups of those making these requests and the availability of female sexual drugs/products. The **third section** of the questionnaire contains four questions focussing on the frequency of male customers complaining of common sexual problems, the frequency of complaints about premature ejaculation, the frequency of complaints about premature ejaculation in different age groups and pharmacists' first-, second- and third-choice recommendations for sexual drugs/products. The reliability of the tool was assessed using Cronbach's alpha, and the tool was found to be reliable with an alpha value of 0.70.

Data analysis and ethical approval

Completed questionnaires were coded, reviewed for accuracy, entered into a database in Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (Version 19.0; IBM Corporation, Somers, NY) and analysed using descriptive analysis. Descriptive statistics were applied and results were presented as numbers and percentages. The study protocol was approved by the dean of scientific research of King Faisal University.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5680210>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5680210>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)