

Background

Chemotherapy is high risk medicines. Medication errors in prescribing, preparation and administration may cause serious consequences morbidity and mortality. Pharmacists are able to improve quality of drug therapy, minimize medication errors, and have a central role in assuring patient safety. The contribution of pharmacists needs to be evaluated cancer treatment to assure the quality of service and provide a better use of financial resources.

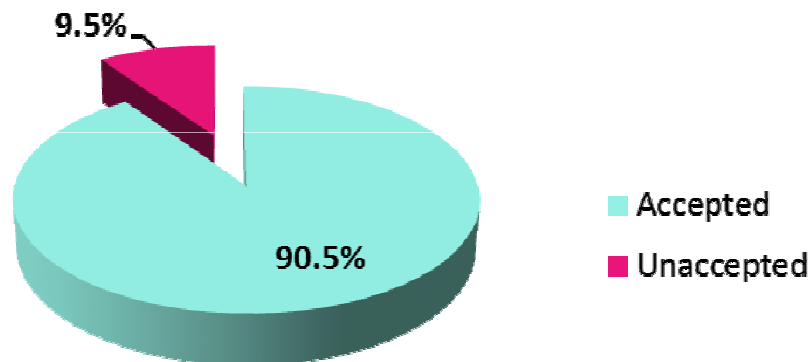
Objective

To evaluate clinical pharmacists' interventions and improve therapeutic outcomes.

Method

A prospective study. The study was conducted at Horizon Cancer Center in Bumrungrad International Hospital, a private hospital located in Bangkok, Thailand during November 2010 to October 2011. Clinical interventions made by six pharmacists were collected from the hospital's computer program (Amalga®) and pharmacy intervention program. Pharmacist detected drug related problems and medication.

Accepted Interventions VS Unaccepted Interventions



Result

A total of 189 clinical interventions on 1,855 prescriptions were documented within 12 months. Pharmacist's interventions were accepted by the oncologists 90.5% (N = 171/189). The impact of clinical interventions on patient care was rated to be significant, followed by very significant, minor significant and potential lifesaving. The four most frequent of interventions were incorrect dosing or failure of dose adjustment (42%), Drug formulations and preparations (17%), frequency and duration of administration (13%), and administration (9%). The cost saving from pharmacist's interventions were approximate 59,851\$ per day and 61,202\$ per cycle.

Conclusion

Pharmacist's interventions can improve the quality of patient care, reduce risk and prevent major toxicity. Clinical pharmacists can be beneficial to a multidisciplinary team in oncology and can potentially lead to decrease in healthcare costs.

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