



Unused and Expired Medicines: Investigating the Knowledge and Practice of General Community

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SUMMARY. In this study, we assessed the general population's medicines disposal practices in Telangana, India. A cross-sectional survey was conducted using a structured self-administered questionnaire over a 3-month in 2019. A total of 163 individuals took the survey. Of them, two-thirds were male (65.4%). The majority (84.3%) reported they purchased medicines using prescriptions. Approximately, 82%, 66.5%, and 8.1% of the respondents used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, antibiotics. Further, most respondents (88.2%) checked the expiry dates of medicines before purchasing. The majority (57.5%) kept unused medicines at home until expiry, and approximately two-thirds (74.35%) disposed expired medicines in the household garbage. Our study shows that the majority of the people surveyed kept unused medicines at home. Therefore, there is a need to create awareness about safe drug disposal and the public health and environmental risks associated with inadequate drug disposal methods.

RESUMEN. En este estudio evaluamos las prácticas de desecho de medicamentos por la población en Telangana, India. Se realizó una encuesta transversal utilizando un cuestionario estructurado autoadministrado durante 3 meses en 2019. Un total de 163 personas respondieron la encuesta. De ellos, dos tercios eran hombres (65.4%). La mayoría (84.3%) informaron que compraron medicamentos con receta. Aproximadamente, 82%, 66.5% y 8.1% de los encuestados usaron medicamentos antiinflamatorios no esteroideos, antibióticos. Además, la mayoría de los encuestados (88.2%) verificaron las fechas de vencimiento de los medicamentos antes de comprarlos. La mayoría (57.5%) mantuvo los medicamentos no utilizados en el hogar hasta el vencimiento, y aproximadamente dos tercios (74.35%) desecharon los medicamentos vencidos en la basura doméstica. Nuestro estudio muestra que la mayoría de las personas encuestadas tenían medicamentos no utilizados en el hogar. Por lo tanto, existe la necesidad de crear conciencia sobre la eliminación segura de drogas y los riesgos ambientales y de salud pública asociados con los métodos inadecuados de eliminación de drogas.

KEY WORDS: community, disposal practice, drug, expired medicine, India.

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