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A Cross-Sectional Study on Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Pharmacovigilance among Healthcare Professionals

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ABSTRACT

Background: Pharmacovigilance is fundamental to patient safety by supporting the identification and prevention of adverse drug reactions (ADRs). However, ADR reporting remains inadequate in many healthcare settings, often due to limited awareness and suboptimal reporting practices among healthcare professionals.

Objective: To evaluate the knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) related to pharmacovigilance among healthcare professionals and to determine barriers to ADR reporting.

Methods: A multicenter, cross-sectional study was carried out among healthcare professionals in selected tertiary care hospitals in Kerala, India. Data were collected using a structured and validated KAP questionnaire addressing pharmacovigilance awareness, perceptions toward ADR reporting, reporting behavior, and perceived challenges. Descriptive statistical analysis was performed.

Results: Participants showed positive perceptions toward pharmacovigilance and acknowledged the importance of ADR reporting. Nevertheless, gaps were evident in practical knowledge and routine reporting behavior. Major barriers identified included limited familiarity with reporting procedures, difficulty in recognizing ADRs, and time-related constraints.

Conclusion: Despite favorable attitudes, deficiencies in knowledge and reporting practice indicate the need for focused training and improved institutional support. Strengthening pharmacovigilance education and simplifying reporting systems may promote ADR reporting and enhance medication safety.

Keywords: Pharmacovigilance; Adverse drug reactions; Knowledge; Attitude; Practice; Healthcare professionals.