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Sources of drug informations at Libyan community and private pharmacies

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The aim of this study was to identify information resources of medicines used by the community and private pharmacists at Benghazi-Libya to update the knowledge and provide updated and effective informations to the patient and other medical professionals. There are 50 pharmacists had received a survey comprising of 21 questions. The initial questions designed to obtain demographic data concerning pharmacist utilization of various information resources. Pharmacists asked specifically about the well-recognized reference books and journals to indicate if they are readily available at their practice site. The second part comprises of questions concerning about the pharmacist's responses and general informations regarding type of advices sought by patients and how did those responses could affect the patient-pharmacist confidence. The response to all questionnaires collected and statistically analyzed with SPSS program. The internet was the most preferred and used source for drug information than the Pharmacopeia and Martindale. The information resources are limited, which are major barrier in effective counseling. The Pharmacist age, experience and level of education have strong effect on the choice of the source of drug informations. It seems likely that some pharmacists are more skilled than other pharmacists in patient counseling. Affiliation and the pharmacist income have a direct effect on the pharmacist prescription of drug substitutes. It was concluded that, the community and private pharmacists is an important source of drug informations and can play a vital role in promoting patient health care in the community. Thus, the pharmacists in the community and private should be trained in an appropriate fashion to meet such goals.

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