Advances in Pharmacoepidemiology & Drug Safety

Editor's Note Open Access

Keeping track of adverse drug reactions in remote areas of the world is essential for the improvement of the quality of life at a global scale

***Loai Aljerf**

Department of Basic Sciences, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Damascus University, Damascus, Syria

***Corresponding author:** Loai Aljerf, Department of Basic Sciences, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Damascus University, Damascus, Syria, Email: envirochrom@hotmail.com

Received September 28, 2018; **Accepted** November 02, 2018; **Published** November 16, 2018

Citation: Aljerf L (2019) Keeping track of adverse drug reactions in remote areas of the world is essential for the improvement of the quality of life at a global scale. Adv Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf 7: e144. doi: 10.4172/2167-1052.1000e144

Pharmacoepidemiology not only deals with the design and analysis of the pharmaceuticals or biological, but also includes post-marketing surveillance, patient safety, comparative effectiveness of drugs, and pattern of drug utilization as well as regulatory aspects. Pharmacoepidemiology is important for formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes to improve safe and effective medication in population. Advances in Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety Journal provides a scientific platform for exchange of the latest knowledge and expert opinions in this discipline and aspires to provide authoritative and insightful coverage of the advancements in pharmacoepidemiology for the scientific community, medical professionals and also for general public. It was estimated that nearly 5 to 6% of all hospitalizations are drug-related, with the additional hospitalisation costs estimated at USD 2284 to 5640 per patient exclusive of indirect and outpatient costs. In this context, it becomes essential to make health professionals aware of the possible adverse events associated with prescription medications in order to avoid complications in patients. It was only after thalidomide disaster in the year 1961, organized International endeavours to address drug safety was initiated. In recognition of the need for greater dissemination of information regarding adverse drug reactions, World Health Organization (WHO) International drug monitoring was established in 1968 to develop a system for detecting adverse events of medicines. The cumulative number of adverse events reported either directly or through pharmaceutical companies to US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was 422930 in the year 2004 which increased by 24% by the year 2008. Several drugs were withdrawn owing to the safety concerns. Rational usage of drugs and monitoring safety of the drugs is particularly important and challenging in developing countries due to prevalence of specific diseases and the need for better facilities. The current issue focusses on important aspects of drug safety, mainly the adverse events associated with inappropriate drug usage in the context of developing countries. Early reporting of drug adverse reactions allows for evaluation of the drug performance, investigation of the issues, and identification of specific problems that are to be rectified. This is particularly relevant for healthcare professionals practicing medicine in remote areas where the problems associated with the availability, accessibility and affordability of effective medicines need to be addressed. For instance in Bhutan, Pharmacovigilance is slowly gaining momentum. The Drug Regulatory Authority (DRA) was established in the year 2004 with the objective of regulating and ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of drugs. The National Pharmacovigilance Center (NPC) was instituted at the DRA which attained official membership of WHO International Drug Monitoring Program in the year 2014. The current issue would be of significance in developing better drug safety monitoring and prevention of adverse drug events in developing countries.