

THE RESEARCH OF PHARMACISTS' AWARENESS ON MEDICINAL CANNABIS IN UKRAINE

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Introduction: The problem of medicinal cannabis legalization has become one of the topical issues in Ukraine last time. At present, current Ukrainian legislation prohibits the use of cannabis for medical and scientific purposes. At the same time more than 50 countries all over the world have been legalized them, including Canada, most of the US, Uruguay, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Mexico, Argentina, Peru, etc. Recently, the World Health Organization has decided to review the level of control of cannabis compounds and recommended to amend changes to the international regulation for increasing the access of patients to the effective treatment, as cannabis and cannabinoids can reduce effectively such symptoms as chronic pain, sleep disorders, seizures causes by drug-resistant forms of epilepsy, post-traumatic stress disorder, etc.

The aim of the work is to study the level of pharmacists' awareness regarding usage of cannabis and cannabinoids for medical and scientific purposes in Ukraine.

Materials and methods: quantitative analysis (survey of pharmacists), content and system analysis.

Results. About 560 pharmacists took part in survey, most of them are women (93.8%), under 25 years (61.5%), with secondary special pharmaceutical education (70.1%) and almost half of them have work experience in pharmacies from 2 to 5 years. According to the results, about 70% of respondents sure that cannabis is a dangerous drug and all cannabinoids have psychotropic properties. It is worth noting that data about the mechanism of action of cannabis and cannabinoids, as well the functioning of the endocannabinoid system is still unknown for more than half of the respondents. Such medicines containing herbal or synthetic cannabinoids as Sativex, Cesamet, Marinol or Epidiolex have a wide range of pharmacological effects and registered in the USA, Canada, and EU countries. However, pharmacists are practically unfamiliar with the classification, range and properties of registered cannabis-based medicines that available for patients in other countries.

The results indicate that 12.5% of pharmacists fully support the legalization of cannabis and cannabinoids for medical and scientific purposes and almost half of them support this decision but concern of some risks. Meanwhile, almost 90% highlight the importance of holding the awareness-raising activities, including the development of educational programs and conducting scientific research.

Conclusions: Most pharmacists have a low level of awareness about medicinal cannabis and its compounds. As the results, more than 2 million of patients do not have the access to the effective pharmaceutical care in Ukraine. One of the reasons is the insufficient amount of reliable and up-to-date information. It is important to change the prejudiced attitude among health care professionals and our society for the improvement of life quality of patients in Ukraine.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET OF UKRAINE: DYNAMICS AND PROSPECTS

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Problem statement. Today, the manufacture of pharmaceuticals is one of the most promising industries. Over the last few years, the global pharmaceutical market has shown a steady upward trend. In general, the pharmaceutical market is a powerful industrial sector, one of the top five most profitable industries in the world.