

Perception and Level of Awareness among Healthcare Professionals in Saudi Arabia about Pharmacoeconomics

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Short Communication

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Pharmacoeconomics (PE) is a relatively new field of study, with concepts, methods and applications that have made increasing contributions to health care. PE discipline is quite new in this region. The low in-awareness about the importance of it could affect pharmacy education and research [1,2].

To study the perception and level of awareness among healthcare professionals who attended the 2nd Saudi International Pharmacoeconomics Conference, 2014.

The survey design was conducted among participants who attended the conference. A brief questionnaire was distributed to all participants during the meeting and immediately returned to the organizer. Data were analysed descriptively i.e, frequency (%) [3,4].

One hundred and thirty six participants completed the survey. 53 (39%) participants claimed that they knew the term Pharmacoeconomics from friends, followed by 47 (35%) said they learned from the internet; 134(99%) said they agree that PE has important role in healthcare; surprisingly 77(57%) participants mentioned that PE is not applicable in KSA; 129(95%) participants agreed that PE short course and training are important to their organization; 127(93%) of them has the opinion that PE postgraduate studies are essential to be offered in Saudi Universities; 69(51%) participants believed that it is easy to find information about PE in KSA; slightly more than

half (n=73,54%) said that they have heard about ISPOR (International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcome Research); slightly more than one-third (n=52,38%) of the participants said they know about ISPOR Saudi Arabia Chapter; and 111 (82%) of the participants would like to be a member of the chapter [5-8].

Majority of health professionals believed that Pharmacoeconomics plays an important role in health care but not applicable in KSA setting. They strongly recommended short PE courses as well as postgraduate programs to be conducted in the Saudi universities. More effort is needed to promote Saudi-ISPOR (International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research) chapter among health professionals in the Kingdom.

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