

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS DIGITAL PHARMACY OF PHARMACISTS IN SERBIA

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Pandemic COVID caused significant increase in digital healthcare technologies (DHT) utilisation (1). Since a potential hindrance to their further adoption may be the healthcare professionals' receptivity (2), pharmacists' knowledge and attitudes towards the technologies were investigated in Serbia. Cross sectional study was conducted through a purposefully created and voluntarily and anonymously self-reported online survey. Out of 119 participants, 87% were pharmacists working in a pharmacy, 7% in teaching, science and other branches, while 6% were pharmaceutical technicians. Uninformed or incorrect was on average 86% of the participants about digital medicines and 90% about digital therapeutics. "Natural cycles" was recognized by 25% of the participants. However, the average of 66% thought DHT could help healthcare professionals and patients in health preservation, diagnosis and therapy, while 25% were undecided. This could indicate a lack of pharmacists' exposure to information, rather than the previously described mistrust towards DHT (2). Only 13% of the participants were uninterested to learn more about the various aspects of digital pharmacy, which may support the hypothesis. A significantly higher number of participants, 66%, was familiar with telemedicine. Despite its expansion caused by the pandemic (1), 74% of the participants labelled direct contact with patients as "very important". This may impede telemedicine application to pharmaceutical healthcare, notwithstanding that 47% wanted to learn more about telemedicine. The results indicated potential openness towards the utilisation, as well as the lack of education on DHT, with the exception of telemedicine.

References

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ZNANJA I STAVOVI FARMACEUTA U SRBIJI O DIGITALNOJ FARMACIJI

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Upotreba digitalnih zdravstvenih tehnologija (DZT) je značajno porasla u toku pandemije Kovid (1). Jedna od potencijalnih prepreka daljoj implementaciji u zdravstvu predstavlja prihvatanje od strane zdravstvenih radnika (2). Stoga su ispitivani znanja i stavovi farmaceuta prema digitalnoj farmaciji u Srbiji. Studija preseka izvršena je putem namenski kreiranog na volonterskoj bazi anonimno samoadministriranog onlajn upitnika. Od ukupno 119 ispitanika, 87% činili su magistri farmacije zaposleni u apoteci, 7% u nastavi, nauci i ostalim granama, dok su 6% činili farmaceutski tehničari. O digitalnim lekovima u proseku 86%, a digitalnim terapeutima 90% ispitanika nije bilo poznato ili je imalo pogrešne informacije. „Natural cycles“ prepoznalo je 25% ispitanika. Međutim, u proseku 66% je smatralo da DZT mogu pomoći zdravstvenim radnicima i pacijentima u očuvanju zdravlja, dijagnozi i terapiji, dok je 25% neodlučno. Ovo bi pre ukazalo na manjak izloženosti farmaceuta informacijama, nego na prethodno opisano nepoverenje prema DZT (2). Pretpostavku može potvrditi rezultat da samo 13% ispitanika ne bi želelo da nauči više o nekoj od grana digitalne farmacije. Značajno više ispitanika, 60%, bilo je upoznato sa pojmom telemedicine. Ipak je 74% smatralo neposredni kontakt sa pacijentom „veoma važnim“, uprkos ekspanziji lečenja na daljinu za vreme pandemije Kovid (1). Ovo sugeriše potencijalnu barijeru za primenu *tele-* pristupa farmaceutskoj zdravstvenoj zaštiti, nasuprot iskazanoj želji 47% ispitanika da nauči više o telemedicini. Sprovedeno istraživanje je ukazalo na moguću spremnost za korišćenje, ali i nedostatak edukacije o DZT, izuzev telemedicine.

Literatura

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