



EDITORIAL

Important of Pharmacovigilance in Clinical Practice: Bangladesh Perspective

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World Health Organization (WHO) defines pharmacovigilance as the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding, and prevention of ADRs or any other medicine-related problem¹. Pharmacovigilance is particularly concerned with adverse drug reactions. The detection of significant drug–drug interactions between new products and co therapy with agents already established on the market, which may only be detected during widespread use. In a word it is said that the aim of pharmacovigilance is to improve patient’s care and safety, public health, assessment of benefit, harm, effectiveness and risk of medicines, promotes understanding, education and clinical training². Pharmacovigilance is an effective tool for discovering and responding to the risk-benefit issues originating from the newly marketed medicine³. The principal objectives of pharmacovigilance include long term supervision of medicines that are prescribed in clinical practice for ARDs; detection of changes in ADRs profile; critical appraisal of risk and benefits of drugs; taking necessary steps if required; conveying the selective information to users for ensuring the safety and the best use of medicines and monitoring the outcome of action previously undertaken². Developing a medicine takes 9.5 to 15.5 years and costs 1 to 5 billion US dollars per drug⁴⁻⁵.

The industries will try to recover the cost with profit. The safety and efficacy of medicine are reasonably well defined before introduction to the market. However, premarketing trials are not an efficient tool for the detection of all ADRs that occur less frequently in the fixed and protected laboratory environment of clinical trials Many ADRs which were previously not observed may come forth during scribing patterns and reporting rates⁶.

Communication and sharing of information with stakeholders and staff are critical in specifying the purpose and strategy of the quality initiative ensuring that patients and families were appropriately included in the dialogue. This ensures that everyone involved felt that he or she was an integral part of the health care team and was responsible for patient safety⁷. Professionalism is a broad concept; a burning issue worldwide. Medical professionalism forms the bridge between doctors and society. Conserving and maintaining professionalism is obligatory for physicians’ curriculum. Integration of pharmacology in the medical curriculum in all clinical phases and ethical aspects of medicine in terms of ensuring ethical practices of medicine as well as rational prescribing should be given supreme priority⁸.

Individual variation in drug response is a major problem in clinical practice and drug development, which ranges from therapeutic failure to ADRs as well as drug interaction in multidrug therapy. Currently, pharmacogenetic testing is performed for only a few drugs like mercaptopurine, thioguanine, azathioprine, and tacrine, and the facility is only available in a limited number of teaching hospitals in a specific country. The days are not so far, when it may be considered as unethical if pharmacogenetics test is not done routinely before prescribing a drug to a patient throughout the world including Bangladesh⁹.

Bangladesh is an underdeveloped country. But it has a vast population. However, the history of pharmaceutical export from Bangladesh dates back to the late ’80s. Therefore, far we have exported our pharmaceuticals to 55 countries. We are exporting a wide range of products covering all major therapeutic classes & dosage forms along with

high-tech products like Inhalers, Nasal sprays, Suppositories, IV fluids, Injectable, etc. On the other hand, most of the people of Bangladesh are ignorant. They have only a few ideas about their health. They face much serious health hazards like several drug-induced diseases like- kidney damage, liver disease and so on. Above these reasons, pharmacovigilance study is must be required for the safety of the country's people.

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