

PHARMACOVIGILANCE TEACHING IN THE EUROPEAN FACULTIES OF PHARMACY

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The pharmacovigilance (PV) is the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse reactions to drugs (ADRs) or any other possible drug-related problem. Moreover the PV is the process of identifying, and then responding to, safety issues about marketed drugs. Among the health professionals pharmacists have been found to have a role in ADR reporting and constitute a potentially valuable source for spontaneous ADR reports, but their participation in national spontaneous reporting systems for ADRs is poor probably because of an inadequate education. The aim of this study was to collect, among the European Faculties of Pharmacy, information concerning the PV teaching. To this aim a questionnaire was sent, by e-mail, to the Faculties of Pharmacy of 25 European countries, whose address was found on the web site "farmaonline.it". At the end of the survey, we could get information from the 56% of the countries to whom the survey was addressed. Moreover in each country the number of Faculties who replied was different and varies from 100% for Denmark, Netherlands, Norway and Republic of Macedonia to 11% for France and Spain mainly depending on the number of Faculties contacted. The results of the survey show that the situation is very different from country to country. Half of the Faculties who replied to our survey declared to have a PV course such as French, German, Dutch, Norwegian, Polish, Romanian and Swiss Faculties. In other countries the PV teaching is included in other courses (20%) such as Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacy, this is the case of Belgium, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom. In Denmark, Germany, Greece, Republic of Macedonia and United Kingdom the PV teaching is not included among the Pharmacy courses (30%). Three of these Faculties (Germany, Greece and Republic of Macedonia) have a plan for the future to include the PV teaching among Pharmacy courses. With regard to the number of credits as well as to the background needed to be admitted to the PV course it must be underlined that it was really difficult to make a comparison because of the different education programmes. The same was for the topics covered. In conclusion although most of the countries contacted have since many years a formal PV system and pharmacists are among health professionals authorized to report, PV is not sufficiently considered as pertinent subject in the Syllabus of the Faculties of Pharmacy.