Role of clinical, patient-reported outcome and medico-economic studies in the public hospital drug formulary decision-making process: results of a European survey

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Abstract

Context: Over the past 20 years, drug information has grown rapidly, but little is known of its actual use in hospital decision-making.

Objective: To describe the role of clinical studies (CS), patient-reported outcome studies (PROS) and medico-economic studies (MES) in public hospital drug formulary decision-making.

Methods: A postal survey was conducted in 400 randomly selected public hospitals stratified by country (France, Germany, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom) and profession (doctor or pharmacist).

Results: The participation rate was 78% (143 doctors and 169 pharmacists), and the response rate 44%. Responders were generally interested in CS (86%), PROS (71%) and MES (71%). They reported high but unmet expectations concerning information available on PROS and MES, the methodology of these studies and interpretation of the results.

Conclusions: To increase the impact of PROS and MES, we suggest training decision-makers in the study methodology and provide them with support of health and economic experts.

Keywords: Drug formulary; Decision-making; Medico-economics; Patient-reported outcome studies; Clinical studies

1. Introduction

All European Union member states except The Netherlands have compulsory health insurance covering over 85% of the population. Since the 1970s,