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Assessment of the Scope, Completeness, and Consistency of Various Drug Information Resources Related to Covid-19 Medications in Pregnancy and Lactation

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Medication safety during pregnancy and lactation is a significant concern for practicing obstetrics and neonatologists as it increases the risk to the mother and fetus. Drug information resources are essential for delivering critically evaluated, scientifically relevant, and updated information to healthcare professionals. Inconsistency in providing information among the resources will pose a significant challenge to the prescribers in optimizing drug therapy. To evaluate the various Drug Information (DI) resources for the scope, completeness, and consistency of the information related to covid-19 medications in pregnancy and lactation. Data related to covid-19 medications from various drug information resources such as text references, subscription databases, and free online tools were used for the comparison. The congregated data were analyzed for scope, completeness, and consistency using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 27. Scope scores were highest for PEPID (Portable Electronic Physician Information Database), Up-to-date, and drugs.com compared to other resources. The overall completeness scores were higher for Micromedex and drugs.com (p<0.05 compared to all other resources). The interreliability analysis for overall components by Fleiss kappa among all the resources was found to be 'slight' (k<0.20, p<0.0001). A statistically significant difference was observed for the various components among the drug information resources (p<0.05) between the older and newer drugs except for the online resource drugs.com (p>0.05). The strength of observer agreement for the various COVID-19 medications ranged from poor to fair and moderate for the various recommendation categories studied. Discrepancies have been observed among the resources related to the information on COVID-19 treatment options in pregnancy and lactation. The present study emphasizes the need for standardized, comprehensive, evidence-based, and precise information related to pharmacotherapy, which is of paramount importance to prescribers in making informed choices in pregnancy and lactation.

Recent Publications

- 1. Vijaya Rani, K.R.; Rajan, S.; Bhupathyraaj, M.; Priya, R.K.; Halligudi, N.; Al-Ghazali, M.A.; Sridhar, S.B.; Shareef, J.; Thomas, S.; Desai, S.M.; et al. The Effect of Polymers on Drug Release Kinetics in Nanoemulsion In Situ Gel Formulation. Polymers 2022, 14, 427.
- Bhupathyraaj, M.; Vijaya Rani, K.R.; Sridhar, S.B.; Shareef, J.; Thomas, S.; Halligudi, N.; Sockalingam, A.; Mohandoss, K.; Sundar, S. Effect of Polymers and Permeation Enhancers in the Release of Quetiapine Fumarate Transdermal Patch through the Dialysis Membrane. Polymers 2022, 14, 1984.
- Shareef J, Belagodu Sridhar S, Thomas S, Shariff A, Chalasani S. Potential Psychotropic and COVID-19 Drug Interactions: A Comparison of Integrated Evidence From Six Database Programs. Cureus. 2021 Dec 10;13 (12): e20319.

Biography

Javedh Shareef completed his graduation from The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University in 2001 and post-graduation from Manipal University in 2005. He holds his PhD degree in Pharmacy Practice under the faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences from Nitte University in 2016. Currently working as Assistant Professor at Ras Al Khaimah College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates. He worked as Pharmacist in Al Baraha Hospital, Dubai, UAE and also as Adjunct Clinical Lecturer in College of Pharmacy, University of Sharjah, UAE from 2006 - 2012. He has vast experience of more than 10 years as clinical pharmacist, Academic teaching



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and research experience and has several research publications to his credit. He has guided several postgraduate M Pharm (Pharmacy Practice) and Pharm D students. He has attended and presented papers at several conferences. He has also been a speaker in continuous medical education programs in UAE. He is on the editorial panel of several scientific journals and also serving as reviewer for many national and international pharmacy journals.

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