

6th Global Diabetes

Summit and Medicare Expo

November 02-04, 2015 Dubai, UAE

Pharmacists' role and attitude toward diabetes management in Kuwait

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Background & Aim: Diabetes care clinics in primary and secondary care facilities in Kuwait have doubled in numbers in the last ten years in order to accommodate for the increase in prevalence of this disease. The management of drug therapy for diabetes has become more complex and diverse with many new medications entering the market each year. This highlights the importance of a collaborative practice for the management of diabetes, and pharmacists are perfectly positioned to provide diabetes management. The aim of this study was to identify pharmacy services provided to patients with diabetes in primary and secondary care clinics in Kuwait and to measure pharmacists' attitude toward diabetes.

Method: A cross-sectional, comparative, study was conducted. Diabetes related attitudes were measured using the third version of the Diabetes Attitudes Scale (DAS-3). A list of diabetes related services was adapted from previous studies. The questionnaire was distributed to all pharmacists working in primary and secondary care facilities in Hawalli Health Region, Kuwait (n=198). A total number of 168 pharmacists completed the questionnaire.

Results: Respondents had an overall positive attitude toward diabetes. However, diabetes related services provided to patients with diabetes were limited. There was a negative correlation between the positive overall diabetes related attitudes and pharmacists' involvement in providing the following diabetes related services: glucose monitoring, comorbid disease management and healthy living choices ($p<0.01$).

Conclusion: The role of pharmacists in the management of diabetes is limited despite their positive attitude toward diabetes.

Biography

Asmaa A Al Haqan earned her degree from Kuwait University in 2004. She has completed her MSc in Clinical Pharmacy, International Practice and Policy from University College London (UCL) in 2013. She is currently a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, Faculty of Pharmacy, Kuwait University. Her main research interest is pharmacy education.

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