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**Original article**

**A survey on knowledge, attitude and awareness of pharma covigilance among medical students in a teaching hospital, Puducherry**

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**Abstract**

**Introduction:** Adverse drug reactions (ADR) represent major concern on the health care system which causes morbidity and mortality. Under reporting of ADR in India could be due to inadequacies in knowledge and awareness about Pharmacovigilance (PV) and ADR reporting among the health care providers. This study was aimed at suggesting possible ways for improving ADR reporting.

**Methods:** A cross sectional questionnaire (24 questions)based studysuitable for assessing the basic knowledge, attitude and awareness of Pharmacovigilance was designed and distributed among 415 undergraduate medical students (Final year part 1& 2) and Interns of Sri Manakula Vinayagar Medical College and hospital, Puducherry. Data were analysed using Epi info software 7.0 and the values were expressed in descriptive stastistics.

**Observation and** **results:** Among 81% of the respondents who were aware of the term Pharmacovigilance, only 53% had better knowledge regarding PV. 33% of the students were aware of various government ADR Centres in India. Common reasons observed in the study for failure in implementing PV in India were lack of awareness (42%) and lack of enough research on ADRs (23%). 80% of students felt that there is a need for intensive training about PV in the undergraduate curriculum. **Conclusion:** An alarmingly inadequate level of knowledge and awareness towards PV was observed in this study. Efforts are needed to develop a curriculum that incorporates all important aspects of PV in the undergraduate and internship training periods.

**Keywords:** Pharmacovigilance, Knowledge, Awareness, Attitude