DRUG INFORMATION RESEARCH CENTER – PROMOTING THE RATIONAL USE OF MEDICINES FROM 2004

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Abstract. *Research and new medical knowledge in past decades had lead to uncommon increase of the quantitative and qualitative information on pharmacotherapy. There are new modern therapies and a vast number of drug products available on the market. It is not humanly possible to remember the vast information on drugs. There has also been a great explosion in the number of biomedical journals published each year. In this context, one of the most important prerequisites concerning the selection of drugs for rational pharmacotherapy is the availability and easy access to independent, objective, unbiased information about drugs.*

Keywords: drug information, rational drug use, drug safety.

Introduction

The concept of evaluating published research is not new, but the concept of evidence-based medicine expands to include the use of best-practice guidelines and databases in order to make healthcare decisions. Accordingly to US Pharmacopeia, it is an approach to 'practicing medicine in which the clinician is aware of the evidence in support of clinical practice and the strength of that clinical evidence'. "Evidence-based" is a term often used to describe medically-related reference resources. Unfortunately, sometimes it is used indiscriminately and without merit. For a clinical reference resource to truly be called evidence-based, conclusions must be based on the best available evidence. This can happen only if the evidence is consistently and systematically identified, evaluated and selected.

The provision of accurate and timely drug information to healthcare professionals is an important mechanism to promote safe and effective drug therapy. The term 'drug information' was coined in the early sixties and the first drug information center was opened at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in 1962 [1].

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