

〔一般論文〕

ジェネリック医薬品の使用に対する薬剤師および患者の意識調査
A Questionnaire Survey of Pharmacist and Patient Attitudes towards Generic Drugs

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Objective: In recent years, in the face of growing pressure exerted by the cost of medical care in Japan, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has actively promoted the use of generic drugs (GEs) to reduce medical costs. However, the actual consumption of GEs has not demonstrated any clear increase. The aims of this study were to assess the attitudes of patients and pharmacists towards GEs and to propose a strategy for increasing their use.

Methods: We conducted a survey of 479 hospital pharmacists and 356 community pharmacists, as well as 2483 patients in February 2008, using a self-administered questionnaire about attitudes towards GEs.

Result: Most of the pharmacists surveyed provided an affirmative response regarding the use of GEs. However, only 34% of the hospital pharmacists and 23% of the community pharmacists said they would agree to use GEs if they were patients. In addition, the recommendation rate for the use of GEs differed among pharmacists: 18% of the hospital pharmacists and 48% of the community pharmacists recommended the use of GEs to patients. Although 39% of the patients agreed to use GEs, the proportion of prescriptions for GEs was only 10%. Moreover, the recognition rate of GEs by elderly persons was low.

Conclusion: These results suggest that although patients agreed to use GEs, pharmacists showed no assertive action in switching to GEs. To promote the use of GEs, patients and pharmacists need to be better

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