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ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL DRUG–DRUG INTERACTIONS THROUGH PRESCRIPTION ANALYSIS AT THE CARDIAC CLINIC, TEACHING HOSPITAL JAFFNA

Praveena P, A.*, Ajeetha, J., Kumuthini, S.
Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
*praveenaveena540@gmail.com

Drug-drug interactions occur when a concurrent medication alters the effects of one drug which continues to be an important cause of adverse effects, especially with cardiovascular medications. This study aimed to assess the occurrence and frequency of potential drug-drug interactions in cardiac clinics at Teaching Hospital, Jaffna.An institutional-based descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted from July 2024 to January 2025 among clinic medication records of the patients visiting the cardiac clinics at Teaching Hospital Jaffna during data collection period. A sample size of 385 clinic medication records was systematically selected and a data extraction sheet was used to extract data. Potential drug-drug interactions were detected and categorized using the DDI database system (Micromedex x2.0) and the British National Formulary. All the statistical analysis was carried out using SPSS version 25, considering P <0.05 statistically significant.A study of 386 cardiac prescriptions found that 60.9% were male with an age ≥60 years (68.1%). Majority of patients had coronary heart diseases (70. 7%), <5 years of clinic follow-ups (53.6%) and noted with polypharmacy (81.9%). A total number of 3134 pDDIs with 378 interacting drug combinations were identified. The mean number of pDDIs was 08 per prescription. Almost all (n=382, 99%) prescriptions were identified with at least one pDDI. Number of major, moderate and minor pDDIs were 435,2383 and 317 respectively. Drugs most commonly involved in pDDIs were aspirin and clopidogrel.The study highlights the importance of screening cardiovascular patients' prescriptions for potential DDIs.

Keywords: Drug interaction, Jaffna, Cardiac, Clinic, Prescription, Potential