

THE SIMILAR NAMES OF OTC-DRUGS IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL CARE PRACTICE

Mazai A. A.

Scientific supervisor: ass. prof. Propisnova V.V.
National University of Pharmacy, Kharkiv, Ukraine
vvp70@i.ua

Introduction. One of the main task of pharmaceutical care is the patient's counseling about the rational choice of the over-the-counter drugs in case of responsible self-medication. Therefore, the competence of the pharmacist and his ability to navigate in the names of medicines is very important and relevant. Essential problems are drugs that have similar names.

Aim. Identification of drugs with similar names among non-prescription drugs registered in Ukrainian pharmaceutical market and recommended for self-medication.

Materials and methods. The study has been carried out by studying the nomenclature of OTC-drugs included in the order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No. 283 of May 18, 2015, using the State Form of Ukraine of the 8th edition, the reference book "Compendium 2016 medicinal preparations" and information about drug's registration at the electronic resource <http://www.drlz.com.ua/>.

Results and discussion. A group of OTC drugs in which similar names were found most often was identified. This group was laxatives. The main similarity of the names of the preparations was the combination of the letters "lax", which is undoubtedly useful in determining what pharmacological group does medicine belong. However, in some cases, similar trade names denoted the drugs not only of different active substances, but also with different mechanisms of action, which have indications for different types of constipation and, accordingly, exclude each other. For example, Laxarin (lactulose) and Laxigal (sodium picosulfate), Agiolax (plantain) and Alax (bark buckthorn). A survey of pharmacy visitors showed that 75% of patients don't pay attention to the composition of laxatives and don't know about the difference between senna-based drugs (Regulax) and sodium picosulphate (Regulax pico), considering them the same drug.

Conclusions. There are problems with similar names among non-prescription drugs. This phenomenon significantly increases the risk of improper selection and use of medicines by the patient during self-treatment. In addition, it complicates the process of pharmaceutical care by a pharmacist. To prevent these phenomena, it is recommended that the pharmacist, when advising the patient, be guided first and foremost by the international non-proprietary name of the drug. When teaching pharmacists, attention should be paid to medicines with similar names, to emphasize their composition and application features.