ABSTRACT

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES PROFILE OF ANTACIDS FOR PATIENT TAKING A TETRACYCLINE CAPSULES AT COMMUNITY PHARMACIES IN SURABAYA

To explore Surabaya pharmacy staff’s practice in assessing their patients, giving recommendations and providing medicine and other information in response to antacids requested by patients with gastric discomfort who also took tetracycline capsules. A scenario of gastric discomfort was presented by a simulated patient to 90 randomly selected pharmacies. Data about patient assessment, recommendations provided and the content of information given were recorded by simulated patients after visiting each pharmacy.

Antacids were sold in about 80 (89%) pharmacies. Information related to potential interaction between antacids and tetracycline was only provided when requested by a simulated patient in 63.3% of pharmacies. Almost all pharmacies assessed patients to identify appropriate symptoms. All pharmacies recommended medicines to treat the symptoms. Medicine information on indication, side effect, dosing, direction for use; time for use, and precautions was provided in about 83 (92.2%) pharmacies. Overall, half of the choosen pharmacies responded that antacids may interact with tetracycline when being used together.

Responses to antacid requests without a prescription remained an issue in Indonesia with staff of community pharmacies often failing to adequately assess patients. Using antacids together with tetracycline should be a concern. Society should actively seek information about medicines when taking Over-the-Counter medicines.

Keywords: antacid, self-medication, gastric discomfort, simulated patient with tetracycline.